

## Moon Hall College and Burys Court

### Terms & Conditions

#### A INTRODUCTION

- 1 **These Terms and Conditions** reflect the custom and practice of independent schools for many generations and they form the basis of a legal contract for educational services. The terms and conditions are intended to promote the education and welfare of each pupil and the stability, forward-planning, proper resourcing and development of the School.
- 2 **Our prospectus** and website are not contractual documents. Please see **Section J** for further information.
- 3 **Fees & Notice:** The rules concerning fees and notice are of particular importance and are set out at **Sections H & I** below.
- 4 **Managing Change:** This School, as any other, is likely to undergo a number of changes during the time your child is a pupil here. Please see **Section J** for further details of the changes that may be made and the consultation and notice procedures that will apply.
- 5 **Documents referred to:** Before accepting the offer of a place, parents and pupils will have an opportunity, on request, to see any of the other documents referred to in these Terms and Conditions. Please now refer to **Section J**.

#### B TERMINOLOGY

- 6 **"The School" "the Schools"/ "Moon Hall College", "Burys Court School"/"We"/"Us"** means Moon Hall Schools Educational Trust the schools it operates and in particular Moon Hall College (the Senior School at Burys Court) and its Junior School, Burys Court. Moon Hall Schools Educational Trust is a Registered Charity and a Company Limited by Guarantee, not having a share capital. It was incorporated on the 26<sup>th</sup> March 1990.
- 7 **"Governing Body"/"Board of Governors"/"Governor/s"** means the Governors of Moon Hall Schools Educational Trust who are appointed from time to time under the terms of its Articles of Association and who are responsible for governance of the Schools.
- 8 **"The Headmistress"** is responsible for the overall management and operation of Moon Hall Schools, including Moon Hall College and Burys Court.
- 9 **"The Headmistress"** is responsible for the day-to-day running of Moon Hall College and Burys

Court and that expression includes The Headmistress and those to whom any duties of the Head or of the Governing Body have been delegated.

- 10 **"The Parents"/"You"** means any person who has signed the Acceptance Form and/or who has accepted responsibility for a child's attendance at this School. Parents are legally responsible, individually and jointly, for complying with their obligations under these terms and conditions. Those who have "parental responsibility" (i.e. legal responsibility for the child) are entitled to receive relevant information concerning the child unless a court order has been made to the contrary, or there are other reasons which justify withholding information to safeguard the interests and welfare and best interests of the child.
- 11 **"The Pupil"** is the child named on the Acceptance Form. The age of the Pupil will be calculated in accordance with UK custom.

#### C ADMISSION AND ENTRY TO THE SCHOOL

- 12 **Registration and Admission:** Applicants will be considered as candidates for admission and entry to the School when the Registration Form has been completed and returned to us. Admission will be subject to the availability of a place and the Pupil and Parents satisfying the admission requirements at the time. **"Admission"** occurs when Parents accept the offer of a place. **"Entry"** is the date when a pupil attends the School for the first time under this contract.
- 13 **Equal Treatment:** The Schools have a broadly Christian ethos and welcome staff and children from many different ethnic groups, backgrounds and creeds. Human rights and freedoms are respected. At present, our physical facilities for the disabled are limited but we will do all that is reasonable to ensure that the Schools' culture, policies and procedures are made accessible to children who have disabilities and to comply with our legal and moral responsibilities under the *Special Educational Needs & Disability Act 2001* in order to accommodate the needs of applicants, pupils and members of the staff who have disabilities for which, after reasonable adjustments, we can cater adequately.
- 14 **Offer of a Place and Deposit:** A deposit (**"Acceptance Deposit"**) as shown on the Fees

List for the relevant year will be payable when Parents accept the offer of a place. Subject to the provisions in Section G, the deposit will be repaid without interest at the end of the Pupil's final term by cheque or by means of a credit against any sums due to the School on leaving. Until credited, the deposit will form part of the general funds of the School.

## **D PASTORAL CARE**

15 **Meaning:** Pastoral care is a thread that runs throughout all aspects of life at this School and is directed towards the happiness, success, safety and welfare of each pupil and the integrity of the school community.

16 **Our Commitment:** We will do all that is reasonable to safeguard and promote your child's welfare and to provide pastoral care to at least the standard required by law in the particular circumstances and often to a much higher standard. We will respect your child's human rights and freedoms which must, however, be balanced with the lawful needs and rules of our school community and the rights and freedoms of others.

17 **Complaints:** Any question, concern or complaint about the pastoral care or safety of a pupil must be made in accordance with the School's complaints procedure. A copy of the School's current Complaints Procedure will be supplied on request.

18 **Pupil's Rights:** A pupil of sufficient maturity and understanding has certain legal rights which the School must observe. These include the right to give or withhold consent in a variety of circumstances and certain rights of confidentiality and, usually, the right to have contact with both natural or adoptive parents. If a conflict of interests arises between a Parent and a Pupil, the rights of, and duties owed to, the Pupil will in most cases take precedence over the rights of, and duties owed to, the Parent.

19 **Head's Authority:** The Parents authorise the Head to take and/or authorise in good faith all decisions which the Head considers on proper grounds will safeguard and promote the Pupil's welfare.

20 **Ethos:** The ethos of this School must be such as to foster good relationships between members of the staff, the pupils themselves and between members of the staff and pupils. Bullying, harassment, victimisation and discrimination will not be tolerated. The School and its staff will act fairly in relation to the pupils and parents and we expect the same of pupils and parents in relation to the School.

21 **Physical Contact:** Parents give their consent to such physical contact as may accord with good practice and be appropriate and proper for teaching and instruction and for providing comfort to a pupil in distress or to maintain safety and good order, or in connection with the Pupil's health and welfare.

22 **Disclosures:** Parents must, as soon as possible, disclose to the School in confidence any known medical condition, health problem or allergy affecting the Pupil, any history of a learning difficulty on the part of the Pupil or any member of his/her immediate family, or any family circumstances or court order which might affect the Pupil's welfare or happiness, or any concerns about the Pupil's safety. If applicable, parents must disclose any Educational Psychologist's report.

23 **Confidentiality:** The Parents authorise the Head to override their own and (so far as they are entitled to do so) a pupil's rights of confidentiality, and to impart confidential information on a "need-to-know" basis where necessary to safeguard or promote a pupil's welfare or to avert a perceived risk of serious harm to the Pupil or to another person at the School. In some cases, teachers and other employees of the School (including any teachers or others engaged by the School as independent contractors) may need to be informed of any particular vulnerability the Pupil may have. The School reserves the right to monitor the Pupil's e-mail communications and internet use.

24 **Leaving School Premises:** The School is unable to prevent a pupil leaving school premises in breach of School Rules and Regulations.

25 **Residence during Term Time:** It is assumed that pupils are living with a parent or legal guardian during term time, and all pupils are required at weekends and half term, to live with a parent or legal guardian. The Head must be notified in writing immediately if a pupil will be residing during term time under the care of someone other than a parent.

26 **Photographs:** It is the custom and practice of most independent schools, and of this School, to include some photographs or images of pupils in the School's promotional material such as the prospectus and website. We would not disclose the name or home address of a child without the Parents' consent. Parents who do not want their child's photograph or image to appear in any of the School's promotional material must make sure their child knows this and must write immediately to the School Office requesting an acknowledgement of their letter.

27 **Transport:** The Parents consent to the Pupil travelling by any form of public transport and/or in a motor vehicle driven by a responsible adult who is duly licensed and insured to drive a vehicle of that type.

28 **Pupil's Personal Property:** Pupils are responsible for the security and safe use of all their personal property including money, mobile phones (where permitted), locker keys, watches, computers, calculators, musical instruments and sports equipment, and for property lent to them by the School.

29 **Insurance:** Parents are responsible for insurance of the Pupil's personal property whilst at school or on the way to and from school or any school-sponsored activity away from school premises. From time to time the School can, via its insurance brokers, offer other forms of insurance such as personal accident benefits or fee remission insurance, and in the case of accident insurance may make this a requirement of attendance, but the School does not accept a contractual duty to do so. Parents may obtain further information on application to the Bursar.

30 **Liability:** Unless negligent or guilty of some other wrongdoing causing injury, loss or damage, the School does not accept responsibility for accidental injury or other loss caused to the Pupil or Parents or for loss or damage to property.

#### **E HEALTH & MEDICAL MATTERS**

31 **Medical Declaration:** Parents will be asked to complete a form of medical declaration concerning the Pupil's health and must inform the Head in writing if the Pupil develops any known medical condition, health problem or allergy, or will be unable to take part in games or sporting activities, or has been in contact with infectious diseases.

32 **Medical Care:** Parents must comply with the acting Matron's quarantine regulations as varied from time to time.

33 **Pupil's Health:** The Head may at any time require a medical opinion or certificate as to the Pupil's general health. A pupil of sufficient age and maturity is entitled to insist on confidentiality.

34 **Medical Information:** Throughout a Pupil's time as a member of the School, the Head shall have the right to disclose confidential information about the Pupil if considered to be in the Pupil's own interests or necessary for the protection of other members of the school community. Such information will be given and received on a confidential, "need-to-know" basis.

35 **Emergency Medical Treatment:** The Parents authorise the Head to consent on behalf of the Parents to the Pupil receiving emergency medical treatment including blood transfusions within the United Kingdom, general anaesthetic and operations under the National Health Service or at a private hospital where certified by an appropriately qualified person necessary for the Pupil's welfare and if the Parents cannot be contacted in time.

#### **F EDUCATIONAL MATTERS**

36 **Our Commitment:** Within the published range of the School's provision from time to time, we will do all that is reasonable to provide an educational environment and teaching of a range, standard and quality which is suitable for each Pupil and to provide education to at least the standard required by law in the particular circumstances, and often to a much higher standard.

37 **Organisation:** We must reserve the right to organise the curriculum and its delivery in a way which, in the professional judgement of the Head, is most appropriate to the school community as a whole. Our policy on streaming, setting, class sizes and combinations may change from year to year and from time to time and will depend mainly on the mixture of abilities and aptitudes among the pupils and may take into account management of friendship groups. Any parent who has specific requirements or concerns about any aspect of their child's education or progress should contact their child's class teacher, tutor, or any other appropriate member of staff, as soon as possible, or contact the Head in the case of a grave concern.

38 **Progress Reports:** The School monitors the progress of each Pupil and reports regularly to Parents by means of full written reports.

39 **Sex Education:** All pupils will receive health and life skills education appropriate to their age in accordance with the curriculum from time to time unless the Parents have given formal notice in writing that they do not wish their child to take part in this aspect of the curriculum.

40 **Public Examinations:** The Head may, after consultation with a parent, decline to enter a pupil's name for a public examination if, in the exercise of professional judgement, the Head considers that by doing so the Pupil's prospects in other examinations would be impaired and/or if the Pupil has not prepared for the examination with sufficient diligence, for example, because the Pupil has not worked or revised in accordance with advice or instruction from the staff.

41 **Reports and References:** Information supplied to Parents and others concerning the progress and character of a pupil, and about examinations, further education and career prospects, and any references will be given conscientiously and with all due care and skill but otherwise without liability on the part of the School.

42 **Learning Difficulties:** In the case of applications in respect of pupils who are believed to be dyslexic, the School makes an initial assessment of the extent of the Pupil's learning difficulties and of its ability to help the Pupil. This is based on the Educational Psychiatrist's report, the Questionnaire completed by the Parents and the interview and assessments carried out prior to admission.

43 Whilst our staff have a qualification to identify and remediate difficulties of a dyslexic nature, they are not qualified to make a medical diagnosis of associated conditions or other learning difficulties. Parents must notify the Head in writing if they are aware or suspect that the Pupil (or anyone in his or her immediate family) has any learning difficulty other than dyslexia. The Parents must provide the School with copies of all written reports and other relevant information relating to this.

44 Screening tests available to schools are indicative only. They are not infallible. Parents will be notified if any screening test indicates that the Pupil may have a learning difficulty in addition to dyslexia or medical condition which has not previously been identified. In such rare circumstances or where experienced staff feel there is need for investigation, the School will give what assistance it can to direct Parents to professionals or support agencies where they may obtain an additional formal assessment at the Parents' expense. This is a service the School will provide as a good will gesture where it can: it is not a duty on the part of the School.

45 If in the professional judgement of the Head and after consultation with the Parents and with the Pupil (where appropriate) the School comes to the conclusion that it cannot provide adequately for the Pupil's special educational needs or that to try to do so would be unreasonably disruptive to the education of other pupils, the School reserves the right to ask the Parents to withdraw the Pupil, without being charged Fees in lieu of notice. In such event, the School will work with the Parents to try to find a more suitable school for the Pupil.

46 **Additional therapy:** The initial assessments prior to admission or subsequent assessments

after admission in respect of pupils with learning difficulties may recommend further speech and language therapy or occupational therapy. In such case the recommended therapy will be provided by the School, subject to the Parents' consent, as part of the Pupil's educational program and will be charged as an extra.

47 **Moving up the School:** It is assumed that each Pupil who satisfies the relevant criteria at the time will progress through the School and will ultimately complete Year 11. Although it is not the School's policy to be selective, Parents will be consulted before the end of the Lent Term if there appears to be any reason why the pupil may be refused a place on site from the beginning of the next academic year. **Parents must give a term's notice in writing (i.e. before the end of the Spring Term) in accordance with the Provisions about Notice (in section H) if they do not intend their child to proceed to the next stage of the School, or a term's Fees in lieu of notice will be payable.**

48 **School's Intellectual Property:** The School reserves all rights and interest in any copyright, design right, registered design, patent or trademark ("intellectual property") arising as a result of the actions or work of a pupil in conjunction with any member of staff and/or other pupils at the School for a purpose associated with the School. The School will acknowledge and allow to be acknowledged the Pupil's role in creation/development of intellectual property.

49 **Pupil's Original Work:** Copyright in the Pupil's original work, such as classroom work, prep or homework, projects, internal examination scripts, paintings and computer generated material, belongs to the Pupil. Most of such work (but not examination scripts) will be returned to the Pupil when it is no longer required for purposes of assessment or display. The Parents consent for themselves and (so far as they are entitled to do so) on behalf of the Pupil, to our retaining such work at school premises until, in our professional judgement, it is appropriate to release the work to the Pupil and to reproducing copies in promotional or other material recording the activities of the School. Certain coursework may have to be retained for longer than other work in order to reduce the risk of cheating. We will take reasonable care to preserve the Pupil's work undamaged but cannot accept liability for loss or damage caused to this or any other property of the Pupil by factors outside the direct control of the Head and staff.

50 **School Trips:** A variety of school trips will be provided for your child while a pupil at the

School. The cost of some school trips will be charged as an extra and added to the bill. **Parents' prior consent will be sought for a trip costing more than £50.** School trips abroad or those in the United Kingdom involving an overnight stay will be the subject of a separate agreement with Parents. The cost of the trip will be payable in advance. The Pupil is subject to school discipline in all respects whilst engaged in a school trip. All additional costs of special measures (such as medical costs, taxis, air fares, or professional advice) necessary to protect the Pupil's safety and welfare, or to respond to breaches of discipline, will be added to the bill.

## **G BEHAVIOUR AND DISCIPLINE**

51 **School Regime:** The Parents accept that the School will be run in accordance with the authorities delegated by the School's Governing Body to the Head. The Head is entitled to exercise a wide discretion in relation to the School's policies, rules and regime and will exercise those discretions in a reasonable and lawful manner and with procedural fairness when the status of a pupil is at issue.

52 **Conduct and Attendance:** We attach importance to courtesy, integrity, good manners, good discipline and respect for the needs of others. Parents warrant that the Pupil will take a full part in the activities of the School, will attend each school day, will be punctual, will work hard, will be well-behaved and will comply with the School's rules about the wearing of uniform.

53 **School Rules:** The School Rules and Regulations which apply are set out in the Parents' Handbook and other documents published from time to time. Parents and pupils have an opportunity on request to see the current rules and regulations before they accept the offer of a place.

54 **School Discipline:** The Parents hereby confirm that they accept the authority of the Head and of other members of staff on the Heads' behalf to take all reasonable disciplinary or preventative action necessary to safeguard and promote the welfare of each Pupil and the school community as a whole. The School's disciplinary policies which are current at the time apply to all pupils when they are on school premises, or in the care of the School, or wearing school uniform, or otherwise representing or associated with the School. A copy of the School's policy on behaviour and discipline is available in the Parents' Handbook.

55 **Investigative Action:** A complaint or rumour of misconduct will be investigated. A pupil may be questioned and his/her belongings may

be searched in appropriate circumstances. All reasonable care will be taken to protect the Pupil's human rights and freedoms and to ensure that his/her Parents are informed as soon as reasonably practicable after it becomes clear that the Pupil may face formal disciplinary action, and also to make arrangements for the Pupil to be accompanied and assisted by a parent or a teacher of the Pupil's choice.

56 **Procedural Fairness:** Investigation of a complaint which could lead to expulsion, removal or withdrawal of the Pupil in any of the circumstances explained below shall be carried out in a fair and unbiased manner. All reasonable efforts will be made to notify the Parents or education guardian so that they can attend a meeting with the Head before a decision is taken in such a case. In the absence of a parent or an education guardian, the Pupil will be assisted by an adult (usually a teacher) of his/her choice.

57 **Divulging Information:** Except as required by law, the School and its staff shall not be required to divulge to Parents or others any confidential information or the identities of pupils or others who have given information which has led to the complaint or which the Head has acquired during an investigation.

58 **Drugs & Alcohol:** A pupil may be given the opportunity to provide a urine sample under medical supervision if involvement with drugs is suspected, or a sample of breath to test for alcohol consumed in breach of school discipline. A sample or test in these circumstances will not form part of the Pupil's permanent medical record.

59 **Terminology:** In these Terms and Conditions "*Suspension*" means that a pupil has been sent or released home for a limited period either as a disciplinary sanction or pending the outcome of an investigation or a Governors' Review. "*Withdrawal*" means that the Parents have withdrawn the Pupil from the School. "*Expulsion*" and "*Removal*" mean that the Pupil has been required to leave ("*asked to leave*") the School permanently in the circumstances described below. "*Exclusion*" means that the Pupil may not return to School until arrears of Fees have been paid. "Exclusion" may also be used as a general expression covering any or all of the other expressions defined in this clause.

60 **Sanctions:** The School's current policies on sanctions are available to Parents before they accept the offer of a place. These policies may undergo reasonable change from time to time but will not authorise any form of unlawful activity. Sanctions may include a requirement

to undertake menial but not degrading tasks on behalf of the school or external community, detention for a reasonable period, withdrawal of privileges, gating, rustication or suspension, or alternatively being removed or expelled.

61 **Expulsion:** A pupil may be formally expelled from the School if it is proved on the balance of probabilities that the Pupil has committed a very grave breach of school discipline or a serious criminal offence. Expulsion is reserved for the most serious breaches. The Head shall act with procedural fairness in all such cases. Parents will be given a copy of the review procedure current at the time. The Head's decision shall be subject to a Governors Review if requested by a Parent. The Pupil shall remain away from school pending the outcome of the Review (see "Governors Review" below).

62 **Fees after Expulsion:** If the Pupil is expelled, there will be no refund of the Acceptance Deposit or of Fees for the current or past terms, but the unspent balance of any lump sum prepayment will be refunded without interest. There will be no charge to fees in lieu of notice but all arrears of Fees and any other sum due to the School will be payable.

63 **Removal in other Circumstances:** Parents may be required, during or at the end of a term, to remove the Pupil, temporarily or permanently from the School if, after consultation with a pupil and/or parent, the Head is of the opinion that by reason of the Pupil's conduct or progress, the Pupil is unwilling or unable to benefit sufficiently from the educational opportunities offered by the School, or if a parent has treated the School or members of its staff unreasonably. In these circumstances, Parents may be permitted to withdraw the Pupil as an alternative to removal being required. The Head shall act with procedural fairness in all such cases, and shall have regard to the interests of the Pupil and Parents as well as those of the School (see "Governors' Review" below).

64 **Fees Following Removal:** If the Pupil is removed in the circumstances described above, the rules relating to Fees and Deposit shall be the same as for expulsion save that the Deposit will be refunded in full without interest.

65 **Leaving Status:** The expression "leaving status" has reference to whether the Pupil has been expelled, removed or withdrawn, and to the record which will be entered in to the Pupil's file as to the reason for leaving, and the Pupil's status as a leaver, and the transfer of the Pupil's work to another educational establishment and to the nature of the reference which will be given in respect of the Pupil, and also to the financial aspects of the Pupil's leaving. These

and any other relevant matters of leaving status will be discussed by the Head, with the Parents and, where appropriate with the Pupil, at the time of the Head's decision.

66 **Governors' Review:** Parents may ask for a Governors' Review of a decision to expel or require the removal of a pupil from the School (but not a decision to suspend a pupil unless the suspension is for 11 school days or more, or would prevent the Pupil taking a public examination). **The request must be made as soon as possible and in any event within seven days of the decision being notified to the Parents.** Parents will be entitled to know the names of the Governors who make up the Review Panel and may ask for the appointment of an independent panel member nominated by the School and approved by the parent (approval not to be unreasonably withheld).

67 **Review Procedure:** The Head will advise the Parents of the procedure (current at that time) under which such a review will be conducted by a panel of up to three Governors. If Parents request a Governors' Review, the Pupil will be suspended from School until the decision to expel or remove has been set aside or upheld. While suspended, the Pupil shall remain away from School and will have no right to enter school premises during that time without written permission from the Head.

#### **H PROVISIONS ABOUT NOTICE - see also [section F "Moving up the School" and] section G.**

68 **Notice to be given by Parents** means (unless the contrary is stated in these terms and conditions) **a written notice addressed to and actually received by the Bursar or the Head personally before the end of the penultimate term.** It is expected that parents will consult with the Head before giving notice to withdraw a pupil.

69 **Provisional notice** is valid only for the term in which it is given (or the terms on which accepted if shorter) and only when written and accepted in writing by the Head personally or the Head's deputy duly authorised for this purpose.

70 **Fees in lieu of notice** means Fees in full for the term of notice at the rate that would have applied had the Pupil attended and not limited to the parental contribution in the case of a bursary or other award or concession.

71 **"A term's notice"** to be given by Parents means notice given before the last day of the previous term and expiring at the end of the term following the term in which notice was given. A term's notice must be given **in writing**

if the Parents **wish to cancel a place** which they have accepted, or if Parents **wish to withdraw a pupil** who has entered the School; or **the Pupil wishes to discontinue extra tuition.**

72 **Cancelling Acceptance:** The cancellation of a place which has been accepted is normally a breach of contract which can cause long term loss to the School if it occurs after other families have taken their decisions about schooling for their children. If the Parents cancel their acceptance of a place less than a term before the entry date or the Pupil does not join the School after a place has been accepted and not cancelled, a term's Fees will be payable and the deposit will be credited to the account. Parents who cancel acceptance on more than a full term's notice before entry will not be required to pay Fees in lieu of notice but the deposit will be retained by the School. Cases of serious illness or genuine hardship may receive special consideration on written request.

73 **Withdrawal by Parents:** If a pupil is withdrawn on less than a term's notice, or excluded for more than twenty-eight days for non-payment of Fees, Fees in lieu of notice will be immediately due and payable as a debt at the rate applicable to the term in question unless the place is filled immediately and without loss to the School. The charge of a term's Fees represents a genuine pre-estimate of the School's loss in these circumstances, and sometimes the actual loss to the School will be much greater. This rule is necessary to promote stability and the School's ability to plan its staffing and other resources.

74 **Prior Consultation:** It is expected that a parent will in every case consult personally with the Head or with the Head's authorised Deputy before notice of withdrawal is given.

75 **Withdrawal by Pupil:** The Pupil's decision to withdraw from the School shall, for these purposes, be treated as a withdrawal by the Parents.

76 **Discontinuing Extras:** A term's written notice is required to discontinue extra tuition or a term's Fees for the extra tuition will be immediately payable in lieu as a debt.

77 **Termination by the School:** The School may terminate this agreement **on one term's written notice sent by ordinary post or on less than one term's notice in a case involving expulsion or required removal.** The School would not terminate the contract without good cause and full consultation with Parents and also the Pupil (if of sufficient maturity and understanding), and would offer the Parents a Governors' Review of a decision to terminate. The deposit would be refunded without interest

less any outstanding balance of the account.

## I FEES

78 **Meaning:** "Fee" and "Fees" where used in these terms and conditions include each of the following charges where applicable: **Registration Fee; Acceptance Deposit; Tuition Fees; Fees for extra tuition; other extras** such as clothing and equipment, photographs and other items ordered by the parent or the Pupil and **charges arising in respect of school trips**, and **damage** where a pupil alone or with others has caused wilful loss or damage to school property or the property of any other person (fair wear and tear excluded) and **late payment charges** if incurred.

79 **Payment:** The Parents undertake to pay the Fees applicable in each school year. The fees for the first term are payable no later than one month before the beginning of that term. Thereafter, fees are due and payable before the commencement of the school term to which they relate. If one or more items on the bill are under query, the balance of the bill must be paid.

80 **Refund/Waiver:** Fees will not be refunded or waived for absence through sickness; or if a term is shortened or a vacation extended; or for any cause other than exceptionally and at the sole discretion of the Head in a case of genuine hardship or where there is a legal liability under a court order or under the provisions of this contract to make a refund. This rule is necessary so that the School can properly budget for its own expenditure and to ensure that the cost of individual default does not fall on other Parents. Separate rules (set out in **Section G** above) apply when a pupil is expelled or removed, i.e. asked to leave.

81 **Exclusion for Non-Payment:** The right is reserved on 3 days written notice to exclude a pupil while Fees are unpaid. Exclusion on these grounds is not a disciplinary matter and the right to a Governors' Review will not normally arise but the Chairman of Governors has discretion if thought fit to authorise a review of the documentary evidence with or without a formal meeting with the Parents. The School may also withhold any information, character references or property while Fees are unpaid but will not do so in a way that would cause direct, identifiable and unfair prejudice to the legitimate rights and interests of the pupil. **A pupil who has been excluded at any time when fees are unpaid will be deemed withdrawn without notice** twenty-eight days after exclusion. (Then a term's Fees in lieu of notice will be payable in accordance with the

**Provisions about Notice in Section H.)**

82 **Late Payment:** The right is reserved to the School to charge a late payment surcharge of £10 per week to any fees which remain unpaid on or after the first day of term. Simple interest may also be charged on a day-to-day basis on Fees which are unpaid. The rate of interest charged will be 2% per annum above the School's bankers' base rate (currently Barclays Bank base rate). This is a genuine pre-estimate of the cost to the School of a default. Cheques and other instruments delivered at any time after the first day of term will be presented immediately and will not be considered as payment until cleared.

83 **Part Payment:** Any sum tendered that is less than the sum due and owing may be accepted by the School on account only. Late payment charges will be applied to any unpaid balance of Fees.

84 **Appropriation:** The Parents agree that a payment made in respect of one child may be appropriated by the School to the unpaid account of any other child of those Parents.

85 **Payment of Fees by a Third Party:** An agreement with a third party (such as a grandparent) to pay the Fees or any other sum due to the School does not release the Parents from liability if the third party defaults and does not affect the operation of any other of these terms and conditions unless an express release has been given in writing, signed by the Bursar. The School reserves the right to refuse a payment from a third party.

86 **Instalment Arrangements:** An agreement by the School to accept payment of current and/or past Fees by instalments is concessionary and will cease automatically in the event of any default. On ceasing, the full amount of Fees then due shall be payable forthwith as a debt and interest will start to accrue at the rate for Late Payment (see above). Fees received under an instalment arrangement shall be deemed to have been paid in ten instalments appropriated as to four instalments for the Autumn Term, three instalments for the Spring Term and three instalments for the Summer Term.

87 **Composition Schemes** under which a lump sum prepayment for between one and five years is made by or on behalf of the Parents will be the subject of a separate contract which will provide, among other conditions, for a refund of the unused part of the prepayment in the event of the Pupil's leaving earlier than expected. Fees in lieu of notice (where applicable) and any other sum due and owing to the School at that time will be deducted from the sum to be refunded.

88 **Fee Increases:** Fees are reviewed annually and are subject to increase from time to time. If less than a term's notice is given of a fee increase notice of withdrawal given within 21 days after notice of the increase was received will not incur a term's fees in lieu of notice.

89 **Money Laundering:** Legislation requires the School, in some circumstances, to obtain satisfactory evidence (such as sight of a passport) of the identity of a person who is paying Fees.

**J GENERAL CONTRACTUAL MATTERS**

90 **Management:** It is our intention that the terms and conditions will always be operated so as to achieve a balance of fairness between the rights and needs of parents and pupils, and those of the school community as a whole. We aim to ensure that the School, its culture, ethos and resources are properly managed so that the School, its services and facilities can develop. We aim also to promote good order and discipline throughout our school community and to ensure compliance with the law.

91 **Legal Contract:** The offer of a place and its acceptance by the Parents give rise to a legally binding contract on the terms of these Terms and Conditions between the Parents, the School.

92 **Change:** This School, as any other, is likely to undergo a number of changes during the time your child is here. For example, there may be changes in the staff, and in the premises, facilities and their use, in the curriculum and the size and composition of classes, and in the School Rules and Regulations, the disciplinary framework, and the length of school terms. Fee levels will be reviewed each year and there will be reasonable increases from time to time.

93 **Consultation:** It is not practicable to consult with parents and pupils over every change that may take place. Whenever practicable, however, parents will be consulted and given at least a term's notice of a change of policy or a change in any physical aspect of the School which would have a significant effect on their child's education or pastoral care. For example, notice would be given of a proposal to remove a subject from the curriculum other than where a foreign language is taught, usually orally, as an "extra". It should be assumed that full-time dyslexic pupils do not take a foreign language as the "norm".

94 **Representations:** The School's prospectus website and Parents' Handbook describe the broad principles on which the School is presently run and gives an indication of its history and ethos. Although believed correct at the time of printing, the prospectus is not part of

any agreement between the Parents and the School. **Parents wishing to place specific reliance on a matter contained in the prospectus or a statement made by a member of staff or a pupil during the course of a conducted tour of the School or a related meeting should seek written confirmation of that matter before entering this agreement.**

95 **Third Party Rights:** Only the School and the Parents are parties to this contract. The Pupil is not a party to it. The acts and omissions of Parents are binding on the Pupil and vice versa as to any matter of behaviour, discipline and Fees. All requests and authorities by the Parents are treated as being made on behalf of the Pupil and vice versa.

96 **Notices to Parents:** Notices given by the School to parents under these terms and

conditions shall be in writing and sent by first class post to the address notified to the School by the parents. A notice shall be deemed to be given at the expiration of 48 hours after the envelope containing it was posted.

97 **Interpretation:** These terms and conditions supersede those previously in force and will be construed as a whole and headings, unless required to make sense of the immediate context, are for ease of reading only and are not otherwise part of the terms and conditions. Examples given in these terms and conditions are by way of illustration only and are not exhaustive.

98 **Jurisdiction:** This contract was made at the School and is governed exclusively by English law