



# Learning Contract Between Inner Peace Forest School and Parents of Pupils Using the Home-School Support System

August 2024

## Purpose

This Learning Contract outlines the expectations, responsibilities, and consequences regarding the behaviour and conduct of students enrolled in the Inner Peace Forest Home-school Support System. The contract aims to ensure a safe, respectful, and effective learning environment for all students.

## Student Code of Conduct

1. **Punctuality:** Students must arrive at school and class on time.
2. **Attendance:** Students should strive to be present on every prescribed school day. If a student is absent, parents must call the school in the morning and notify the teacher in writing upon the student's return.
3. **School Boundaries:** Students must remain within school boundaries at all times.

## Admission School Rules

Students are expected to adhere to the following rules:

- **No Smoking:** Smoking is strictly prohibited.
- **No Alcohol:** Consumption or possession of alcohol is not allowed.
- **No Unauthorized Fires:** Lighting fires without authorization is forbidden.
- **No Unauthorized Weapons:** Carrying knives or other weapons without authorization is prohibited.
- **No Stealing:** Theft will not be tolerated.
- **No Sexual Conduct:** Sexual conduct is strictly prohibited.

- **No Verbal Abuse:** Verbal abuse, including swearing, rude gestures, and cruel teasing, is not allowed.
- **No Buying/Selling:** Buying, selling, or trading personal items is prohibited unless authorized.

### **Classroom Rules of Behaviour**

1. **Preparedness:** Students must be in their assigned seats/locations and ready to work when the lesson starts.
2. **Respectful Communication:** No verbal abuse, including swearing, rude gestures, or cruel teasing.
3. **No Physical Abuse:** Physical abuse is strictly prohibited.
4. **Follow Instructions:** Students must follow the teacher's instructions at all times.
5. **Respect:** Students must respect each other and avoid interrupting when someone else is speaking.
6. **No Disruptions:** Disrupting the class is not allowed.
7. **No Unauthorized Cell Phone Use:** Cell phones are not allowed without the teacher's permission.
8. **Property Respect:** Students must not damage school property and should respect the property rights of others.

### **Physical Contact Rules**

- The school does not permit corporal punishment. Teachers, assistants, or volunteers are not allowed to use physical force to reprimand students.
- Teachers may provide appropriate physical comfort if necessary.
- All instances of aggressive physical contact between pupil must be reported to the head teacher and recorded in the school log.
- In extreme circumstances, students displaying highly emotional and aggressive behaviour may be restrained using non-violent techniques by trained personnel. Verbal communication must be exhausted before any physical restraint is applied.
- Guidelines for physical contact are taken from traditional martial arts and yoga contact rules that ensure no first physical attacks are ever allowed and there are clear rules for physical contact based on the relevant activity.

### **The Issue of 'Bullying'**

It is important to differentiate between playful teasing, hurtful teasing, and bullying. **Playful teasing** occurs when all parties involved find the interaction fun and harmless; it often strengthens friendships and is done in a spirit of mutual respect. **Teasing to hurt** crosses a line when it targets an individual's vulnerabilities, causing discomfort, fear, or pain—this type of teasing is harmful and unacceptable. **Bullying** is a sustained pattern of hurtful behavior, whether physical, mental, or emotional, intended to exert power and control over another person. While playful teasing can be part of healthy interactions, any behavior that causes harm or distress will be treated seriously and addressed according to our anti-bullying policy.

The dynamics of the family and the school bring children together from a diverse set of backgrounds, ages and abilities. In the course of individual development, interaction between peers can follow classical patterns of cooperation and conflict, love and hate, friendship and indifference, etc ... in the course of work and play. The school policy on bullying identifies the issue of physical, mental and emotional oppression of an individual by others and will not tolerate this behaviour.

### **Consequences for Breach of Rules**

1. **First Warning:** A verbal warning will be given.
2. **Second Warning:** Parents will be informed via phone or email.
3. **Third Warning:** The student may face suspension.
4. **Severe Offenses:** For serious offenses, the head teacher reserves the right to suspend or expel the student immediately.

## **Anti-Racism Policy of the Inner Peace Forest School Support System**

### **Purpose**

The Inner Peace Forest School Support System is dedicated to fostering an educational environment rooted in the principles of peace, justice, and equality. This Anti-Racism Policy outlines our commitment to promoting moral standards and humane values, ensuring that every student understands and upholds these principles.

### **Core Principles**

1. **Promotion of Peace and Justice:** The foundation of our school's philosophy is the promotion of peace and justice. We believe that every student has the right to learn in an environment free from discrimination, bias, and prejudice.
2. **Equality and Non-Discrimination:** Our school upholds the principle of equality, rejecting all forms of racism, including antisemitism, apartheid, Islamophobia, and Zionism. We

are committed to ensuring that every member of our school community is treated with respect and dignity, regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, or cultural background.

3. **Active Advocacy Against Injustice:** Our pedagogy actively encourages students to speak out against injustice, lies, coercion, and oppression. We teach our students to advocate for the protection of individual and group liberties, to stand up for free speech, and to ensure that the strong protect the weak.

### **Prohibited Conduct**

The following behaviours are strictly prohibited within our school community:

- **Racism:** Any form of racial discrimination, including but not limited to, derogatory remarks, exclusion based on race, and unequal treatment.
- **Antisemitism:** Hostility, prejudice, or discrimination against Jewish people.
- **Apartheid:** Advocacy for or support of policies that promote racial segregation and discrimination.
- **Islamophobia:** Prejudice, hatred, or fear of Islam or Muslims.
- **Zionism:** Any expression or support of discriminatory ideologies that advocate for the superiority of one group over another.

### **Educational Commitment**

1. **Proactive Teaching:** We are committed to proactively teaching our students about the importance of standing against injustice and advocating for the rights of others. Our curriculum includes discussions on historical and contemporary issues related to racism, discrimination, and social justice.
2. **Empowerment of Students:** We empower our students to use their voices to speak out against any form of injustice or oppression. We teach them the importance of protecting the vulnerable and advocating for those who cannot speak for themselves.
3. **Support Systems:** We provide support to any student who experiences or witnesses racism or discrimination. Our school offers counselling, mediation, and a safe space for discussing issues related to race, equality, and justice.

### **Consequences for Violations**

Violations of this policy will be taken seriously and addressed promptly. Consequences may include:

1. **Warning:** A formal warning and a discussion with the student and their parents/guardians.
2. **Education and Reflection:** Participation in educational sessions on racism and social justice.

3. **Disciplinary Action:** Depending on the severity of the violation, disciplinary actions may include suspension or expulsion from the school.

## **Reporting and Resolution**

- **Reporting:** Any incidents of racism, discrimination, or violation of this policy should be reported immediately to a teacher, counsellor, or school administrator.
- **Investigation:** All reports will be investigated thoroughly, and appropriate action will be taken to address the situation and prevent future occurrences.
- **Support:** We offer support to both the victims and those accused of discrimination, ensuring that every incident is handled with care, fairness, and confidentiality.

## **Commitment to Continuous Improvement**

Our school is committed to continuously reviewing and improving our Anti-Racism Policy. We will regularly assess our practices, curriculum, and community engagement efforts to ensure that we are effectively promoting a culture of peace, justice, and equality. To this end the school asks for parental and student cooperation in the various projects it conducts to actively promote these values.

## **School Photo Disclaimer**

### **Purpose**

The Inner Peace Forest School Support System may take photographs and images of students during school-related activities to promote the school, celebrate achievements, and document educational activities. This disclaimer outlines how these images will be used and the rights of parents, guardians, and students in accordance with EU and UK privacy laws, including the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

### **Consent**

- **Parental/Guardian Consent:** By enrolling your child in the Inner Peace Forest School Support System, you will be asked to provide explicit consent for the school to take and use photographs of your child for promotional purposes, educational materials, and school assignments. This consent is voluntary and can be granted or withheld for different types of uses.
- **Withdrawal of Consent:** You have the right to withdraw your consent at any time by notifying the school in writing. Upon withdrawal, the school will cease using your child's image in future materials, although previously published materials may not be retracted.

- **Student Consent:** For students aged 13 and above, the school will also seek the student's consent in addition to parental consent before using recognisable images of themselves.

### **Use of Photographs**

- Photographs may be used in printed materials, on the school's website, and on social media platforms for the purpose of promoting the school and its activities and for use in school educational programmes.
- Images may be used in classroom displays, presentations, and student portfolios as part of the educational process.
- The school will not use images of students for purposes other than those specified without obtaining additional consent.

### **Data Protection and Privacy**

- The school is committed to protecting the privacy and personal data of all students. Images will be handled and stored securely, with access limited to authorized personnel.
- Full names or other identifying information will not be used alongside images without explicit consent.
- The school will take appropriate measures to ensure that the use of photographs does not infringe on the rights and privacy of students.

### **Rights of Access**

- Parents/guardians and students have the right to request access to photographs held by the school. Requests will be fulfilled within a reasonable timeframe, in accordance with GDPR requirements.

### **External Media**

- In cases where external media outlets request to use student images, the school will seek specific consent from parents/guardians before any images are shared or published.

### **Review and Changes**

- This disclaimer and the associated photo use policy are reviewed regularly to ensure compliance with current EU and UK privacy laws. Parents/guardians will be informed of any significant changes.

By providing consent, you acknowledge that you understand and agree to the terms outlined in this disclaimer regarding the use of photographs of your child by the Inner Peace Forest School Support System.

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### **Acknowledgment**

We, the undersigned, have read, understood, and agree to abide by the rules, expectations, and consequences outlined in this Learning Contract.

**Parent/Guardian Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**School Representative Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**For more information, please contact:**

**Stella Rose**

**Inner Peace Forest Home-school Support System**

**Atividades de Serviços de Apoio á Educação (Support to educational activities)**

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