



Winterton Community Academy

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Headteacher – Mr K Rowlands

Ref: KR/ AW/ May 26

6th May, 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

On the whole, behaviour in school is really positive. The vast majority of our students conduct themselves immaculately and are a credit to you and themselves. Visitors always comment on how calm and positive the school feels and we are very proud of the general culture and ethos that we have developed and of course, we are very proud of our students.

However, there are a couple of areas for concern and I feel it is important that I communicate with you so that we are transparent in how we intend to respond.

Firstly, we have a very small number of students who have on occasions taken the decision to truant their lesson and usually, to lock themselves in a toilet cubicle.

I have communicated with our students today to advise them that under no circumstances is this an acceptable thing to do. We have an extensive range of support options available for our students should they feel that they need additional help and it is important that they understand they must act responsibly. We pride ourselves on taking such an inclusive approach and our staff are hugely supportive and empathetic.

Students have been told that if they choose to be absent without permission from any lesson, then this will be considered as an act of defiance and they will be suspended.

We have a responsibility to hold them to account and to help them develop their resilience, it is not an acceptable response to choose not to attend whenever they perceive they are faced with a challenge.

Secondly, I have recently become aware of some significant instances of anti-social and illegal activities within the community involving our students.

This includes groups of young people raiding the shops in masks and balaclavas and targeted attacks on the homes of some residents and regrettably, also a racially aggravated assault. I have visited the shops and spoken to the owners / managers to advise them that we will support them and we are not powerless to address this. We are also working in liaison with the police and will in all instances support to identify those involved. In the instance of the racially aggravated assault, a permanent exclusion has been put in place.

Our students have been made aware that the DfE guidance states that schools have the power to sanction pupils for misbehaviour outside of the school premises ... this includes online conduct and conduct outside of school that might be considered to adversely affect the reputation of the school. If our students are involved in such high levels of antisocial behaviour in our community, then we will hold them to account and their place at this school may be placed in jeopardy.

On a positive note, I am proud of the high number of students that came forward to report such negative behaviours and to help identify those responsible. That is what Winterton represents, our values are clear and it is reassuring to see that the vast majority of our students demonstrate those values every day and act responsibly to do the right things.

Winterton is a fantastic community and I recognise our role as the school at the heart of that community. We have clear expectations of our students and we will always respond to ensure that we uphold those expectations.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mr Rowlands', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mr Rowlands