



HAVANT FEDERATION
OF SCHOOLS

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER EDUCATION

Dear Parent/Carer

The Havant Federation of Schools includes the secondary schools of Hayling, Warblington, Crookhorn, Oaklands, Cowplain, Horndean, Park, Havant Academy, Purbrook, Prospect School and The Key. As a group of schools, we work together closely and share good practice for the benefit of young people across the Havant area. The Chairs of Governors and Headteachers from the Federation have developed three joint statements to clarify our shared position with parents and carers on key issues that schools increasingly encounter: relational conflict and bullying; standards, expectations and attendance; and vaping, smoking and prohibited substances. The statements set out shared Federation principles, while each school will continue to implement them through its own published policies and procedures.

Social media and the use of mobile phones. Modern technology, particularly mobile phones and social networking, means that we are more connected as a community than ever before. This can bring significant benefits, including communication and safety, but it can also create challenges for young people and schools. From September 2026, schools are required to have regard to statutory Department for Education guidance on mobile phones and to establish arrangements that support a mobile-phone-free school day. Parents/carers should refer to their child's individual school policy for the school's arrangements and any permitted exemptions.

The first statement refers to **relational conflict and bullying**. As young people grow up and move through adolescence they form and develop friendships with numerous other students and as they move into the latter part of schooling, they settle into friendships that are more definite and even in some instances last a lifetime. At certain times in this adolescence period some students do fall out with their friends and in some instances, bullying does occur in our schools. This statement defines the difference between relational conflict and bullying and sets out how schools will deal with these issues when they arise. It also indicates how parents can support these situations when they arise and work with the school.

The second statement outlines the expectations schools have of young people's behaviour and the systems used to support safe, respectful behaviour and learning. It also explains the importance of partnership and respectful communication between schools and parents/carers. The statement promotes attendance of at least 95% wherever possible and emphasises that every day of avoidable absence reduces valuable learning time. Individual school Attendance Policies provide further detail about attendance procedures and the law.

The third statement addresses vaping, smoking and prohibited substances. It explains that vaping is less harmful than smoking but is not risk-free, that children and non-smokers should not vape, and that nicotine is addictive. It also provides information about the law, the safeguarding risks that can be associated with access to vapes or other substances, and sources of further reliable advice for parents/carers and young people.

We hope these statements are useful and make clear both how schools will support young people and how parents/carers can support their children at home and in the wider community. Experience shows that issues are more likely to be resolved successfully when school and home work in partnership.

Each school has its own published policies and procedures explaining how it works with students, parents/carers and other stakeholders; these remain the authoritative documents for the school's operational response.

During the first term all students in the Federation will receive an assembly on Relationships, Bullying and Attendance, this supports the joint statements that are issued.

We ask that parents/carers support the school when dealing with these issues. As a group of schools, we will always work with our young people to ensure that they are well equipped with the academic and social skills to be responsible citizens in the future.