



Stockport School

House Policy

Introduction

Our new school House System has been developed and introduced to address the following:

- The need to include students (a sense of belonging) immediately upon joining Stockport School and build on the sense of school community.
- Supporting anti-bullying policies. If such subcultures are to be minimised, the school must provide greater opportunities for members of different ages to interact.
- The importance of providing more opportunities for our students to take responsibility and develop leadership skills.
- Providing opportunities for all students to involve themselves in worthwhile activities that are not necessarily athletic in nature but reflect the values of contemporary society.
- Making them viable in terms of participation rates.

The House System

Staff, governors and students entering the school become a member of one of the five Houses. Each House has a Head of House and House Captain who have a responsibility to leading a House.

Red House – Klee and Van Gogh

Blue House – Escher and Picasso

Green House – Di Vinci and Riley

Yellow House – Goldsworthy and Lowry

Orange House – Monet and Turner

Students quickly form loyalties to their House and achieve a true sense of belonging.

The House system acts as a link between the different age groups in the school, providing them with opportunities for working and playing together.

Typical of this is the appointment of Year 10 students as House Captains to encourage and support House activities; and the House subject and sport competitions, where the Year 10 students are responsible for all organisation and direction, with only minimal staff help.

The House Championship

The House Championship gives students a balance between academic rigours and social aspects of school life. The system provides a sense of competition and fun through a range of school based activities. The House System runs from September to July, with points being awarded for each event.

The Stockport House Championship is awarded to the House with the overall highest number of House points. The House Championship is awarded in the final assembly of the school year and the trophy is presented to the winning Head of House and House Captain. House points are calculated at the end of each term (six times a year) and the running totals are displayed around the school.

Staff and students alike are encouraged to run appropriate competitions for the whole school or a particular Year group. The aim of a particular event could be to raise the profile of a particular subject or activity, the only requirement being that it should be educational and fun for competitors and spectators alike.

There are four 'House Cups'. These are events that involve a large number of participants and often take place over a longer period of time. These big activities are awarded a high tariff of House points. Activities on the House Championship calendar that take place each week in tutorials or that involve a smaller number of students, are awarded a lower number of House points. At the start of every school year, staff can introduce a new event or activity into the House Championship. The proposed new activity will be approved by the five Heads of House and Assistant Headteacher and will go on the Championship calendar.

Achievements in the House system are recognised by students being awarded Commendation certificates (Gold, Silver, Bronze) at the end of each term. Citizenship stars are also rewarded termly to students within the House by their tutors.

The Four House Cups

Credits

Teachers give credits to students in class. These are accumulated over the course of the year for their House. Students and Parents can monitor their rewards through their own Firefly VLE.

Each term the average number of credits per House is calculated and the following points are awarded:

- 1st place – 10 points
- 2nd place – 8 points
- 3rd place – 6 points
- 4th place – 4 points
- 5th place – 2 points

Commendations

Students gain commendations for exceptional or outstanding contributions to school, school life & the community. These commendations equate to 5 credits and students will be rewarded with a Bronze (10), Silver (20) or Gold (30) certificate in the celebration assembly at the end of each term.

The Curriculum Cup

Activities in each subject will be centred on a chosen theme in lessons. The individual student winners will receive credits. Each department's challenges will be recorded, with the results being accumulated over the year. This will allow an overall result at the end of the year.

- English – Creative writing (Junior, Intermediate & Senior)
- Social Sciences
- Technology
- ICT and Computing
- Art and Photography
- Maths
- Science
- Humanities
- Personal and Social Development
- Modern Foreign Languages
- Film and Media Studies
- Business Studies and Careers
- Music, Drama and Performing Arts

- 1st place – 10 points
- 2nd place – 8 points
- 3rd place – 6 points
- 4th place – 4 points
- 5th place – 2 points

The Attendance Cup

These are accumulated over the course of the year for their House. Students and parents can monitor their attendance through their own FireFly account.

Each term the average attendance per House is calculated and the following points are awarded:

- 1st place – 10 points
- 2nd place – 8 points
- 3rd place – 6 points
- 4th place – 4 points
- 5th place – 2 points

The Sports Cup

This takes place throughout the school year with Years 7-11 in their respected Houses competing against each other in a range of activities.

- 1st place – 10 points
- 2nd place – 8 points

- 3rd place – 6 points
- 4th place – 4 points
- 5th place – 2 points

Benefits of the House System

The House system promotes and supports:

- Improved Leadership opportunities for students.
- It provides a structure that is designed to help students function to the best of their ability in school and enrich each student's personal life by developing resilience, prompting independence, helping students make responsible choices, increasing their ability to function as a group and offering guidance and support in preparation to meet the intellectual, social and emotional demands of life as a young adult.
- A great sense of allegiance to their peers and as a direct consequence, their House.
- Positive self-esteem amongst students and value of the ethos of the school community.
- Equality of opportunity encouraging students to realise an individual's full potential.
- The building of an individual's strengths within a group and bonds with other students of all ages.

ROLE OF THE HEAD OF HOUSE (HOH)

Job Purpose:

The HOH leads and manages a House with students organised in a vertical grouping from Years 7 – 11. They are instrumental in the promotion and development of a House ethos that reflects the aims and values of the school ethos and embraces community cohesion. They are responsible for raising achievement through the leadership and management of the school provision for enrichment, including Inter-House competitions, and out of hours learning, community service, charity, leadership development programmes for students and leading on the school rewards policy.

HOUSE CAPTAIN

Purpose of the Role:

- To demonstrate a presence around the school as a school leader, wearing the House badge with pride and essentially being a great role model for other students
- To provide guidance and information to students across the Year groups with respect to Inter-House events and competitions, fundraising for charity and service to others

Areas of Responsibility:

1. To attend and actively contribute to regular meetings held with HOH and other team members.

2. To contribute to the writing of a House action team plan that records 3 key priorities for the year. These will include areas relating to:

- House Charity including the organisation of fund raising activities
- The organisation of Inter-House competitions and contributing to the evaluation process
- Monitoring the implementation and impact of the school rewards system

3. To support the HOH in raising the profile of the House across the school community and the wider local-community.
4. To assist the HOH with the organisation of Inter-House competitions, including:
 - The format of the competitions
 - The promotion of the competitions
 - Attending and supervising at the events
 - Contributing to the student evaluation of Inter-House competitions
5. To promote charitable donations and associated fundraising activities within each of the Tutor groups as well as the organisation of large, school focused fundraising events and developing a social scene within the House
6. To be innovative and creative in the development of further opportunities for involvement in activities by ALL students.

Evaluation:

The work of each Student Action Team member will be reviewed through:

- Regular meetings with the HOH.

Review: -

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years or earlier as required.

Last reviewed and modified: September 2016

Review date: September 2019