

Merchant Taylors' Schools, Crosby

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 Merchant Taylors' Schools, Crosby.
2. **Our prospectus**, website and School DVD are not contractual documents. Please see **Section K** for further information.
3. **Fees & Notice:** The rules concerning Fees (as defined in **Section I**) and notice are of particular importance and are set out at **Sections H & I** below.
4. **Managing Change:** Merchant Taylors' Schools, Crosby, as with any other schools, are likely to undergo a number of changes during the time your child is a pupil here. Please see **Section K** 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 receive a copy of the School Rules and the Fees List. Parents also have an opportunity, on request, to see any of the other documents referred to in these Terms and Conditions. Please now refer to **Section K**.

B Terminology

6. **"The School"/"We"/"Us"** means Merchant Taylors' Schools, Crosby as now or in the future constituted (and any successor) and includes Merchant Taylors' Senior Boys' School, Merchant Taylors' Junior Boys' School, Merchant Taylors' Senior Girls' School and Merchant Taylors' Mixed Infants and Junior Girls' School (Stanfield). The School is constituted as a Charitable Company, limited by guarantee.
7. **"School Governors"/"Governing Body"** means the Governors of the School who are appointed from time to time under the terms of its governing instrument and who are responsible for governance of the School and those expressions include those to whom any duties of the Governing Body have been delegated.
8. **"The Head"** is responsible for the day-to-day running of the School and that expression includes those to whom any duties of the Head have been delegated.
9. **"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.
10. **"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

11. **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. By returning the Registration Form, you confirm to Us that you wish for us to begin the admission process for the Pupil and you acknowledge that if you cancel your contract with us you will have to pay for any Fees or expenses incurred up to the date you cancel.
12. **Statutory Right:** As You are a consumer and are entering the contract outside of a meeting at the School premises, the law requires us to inform you of a statutory right to cancel your contract with the School. The cancellation period ends at the end of 14 days after the day on which the contract is entered into between You and Us. You can cancel this contract without giving any reason. To cancel you must inform us of your decision by a clear statement (e.g. a letter or email). You may use the model cancellation form which is available from the School but it is not obligatory. If you so cancel we will promptly reimburse to you all payments received from you, except for sums due as a result of undertaking any work (such as administration work relating to the Admission). If you confirm to us you wish for Entry to occur within the 14 day cooling off period, you will lose this right of cancellation.
13. **Equal Treatment:** The School comprises mainstream schools for girls and boys aged from 4 - 18 years. The School has a Christian ethos but welcomes staff and children from many

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different ethnic groups, backgrounds and creeds. Human rights and freedoms are respected. Due to the listed nature of our buildings there are challenges to physical facilities for the disabled, but we will do all that is reasonable to ensure that the School's culture, policies and procedures are made accessible to children who have disabilities and to comply with our legal and moral responsibilities under the *Equality Act 2010 and 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. The Acceptance Deposit will be held on account by the School and returned by way of a credit against the fees for the final term of the relevant year, provided that Fees have been cleared in full and any outstanding School property has been returned to the School. Until credited the Acceptance Deposit will form part of the general funds of the School.
15. **Overseas pupils:** For reasons of administration, the right is reserved to require payment of a full term's tuition fees ("**Overseas Deposit**") as a deposit in the case of a pupil whose normal residence is outside the United Kingdom.

D Pastoral Care

16. **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.
17. **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.
18. **Complaints:** Any question, concern or complaint about the pastoral care or safety of a pupil must be notified to the School as soon as practicable. A copy of the School's Complaints Procedure can be supplied on request. **See also Clause 70 below.**

19. **Pupil's Rights:** The Pupil, if they are 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 (including requiring us to withhold information regarding the Pupil from Parents) and usually, the right to have contact with both natural or adoptive parents. If a conflict of interests arises between a Parent and the Pupil, the rights of, and our duties owed to, the Pupil will in most cases take precedence over the rights of; and duties owed to, the Parent.
20. **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.
21. **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 Pupil and Parents and we expect the same of the Pupil and Parents in relation to the School.
22. **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. Parents also consent to their child participating in contact and non-contact sports and other activities as part of the normal School and extra-curricular programme and acknowledge that while the School will provide appropriate supervision the risk of injury cannot be eliminated.
23. **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 or any change in the financial circumstances of the parent(s) of pupil(s) awarded financial assistance by the School.
24. **Confidentiality:** The Parents authorise the Head to override their own and (so far as they are entitled to do so) the Pupil's rights of confidentiality, and to impart confidential information on a "*need-to-know*" basis where necessary to safeguard or promote the Pupil's

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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 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. The School may disclose any information as may be required by law, by order from a court or other authority of competent jurisdiction or by any governmental or other regulatory authority. The School may disclose any information which is no longer confidential, or is already of public knowledge, or was known by the School prior to receipt from the Pupil or Parents, or was or is made available to the School on a non-confidential basis by a third party entitled to do so.

25. **Special Precautions:** The Head needs to be aware of any matters that are relevant to the Pupil's safety and security. The Head must therefore be notified in writing immediately of any court orders or situations of risk in relation to the Pupil for whom any special safety precautions may be needed. Parents may be excluded from School premises if the Head acting in a proper manner, considers such exclusion to be in the best interests of the Pupil or of the School.
26. **Leaving School Premises:** We will use reasonable endeavours to ensure that your child remains in the care of the School during School hours but we cannot accept responsibility for the Pupil if they leave School premises in breach of School Rules and Regulations and we are not legally entitled to do so in the case of a pupil aged 16 years or over.
27. **Residence During Term Time:** Pupils are required during term time and at weekends, and half term, to live with a Parent or legal guardian or with an education guardian acceptable to the School. The Head must be notified in writing immediately if the Pupil will be residing during term time under the care of someone other than a Parent.
28. **Communication with Parents:** The School will (unless otherwise notified) treat any communication from any person with parental responsibility as having been given on behalf of each such person unless other arrangements are made and any communication from the School to any such person as having been made to each of them.
29. **Absence of Parents:** When both Parents will be absent from the Pupil's home overnight or for a twenty' four hour period or longer, the School must be told in writing the name, address and telephone number for twenty four hour contact with the adult who will have the care of the Pupil.
30. **Education Guardians:** A pupil of any age whose Parents are resident outside the United Kingdom must have an education guardian in the United Kingdom who has been given legal authority to act on behalf of the Parents in all respects and to whom the School can apply for authorities when necessary. The School can accept no responsibility during exeats, half term or the holidays for pupils whose Parents are resident abroad and the Parents and guardians of such pupils must make holiday arrangements, including travel to and from the School, well in advance. The responsibility for choosing an appropriate education guardian rests solely with the Parents. Parents are responsible in each case for satisfying themselves as to the suitability of an education guardian.
31. **Photographs:** It is the custom and practice of most 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. The School, and other schools we interact with, may also include photographs or images in their promotional material of activities and/or events conducted with the School and other schools which may involve pupils from the School or other schools. 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 promotional material of the School or any other school with whom the School interacts with, must make sure their child knows this and must write immediately to the Head requesting an acknowledgement of their letter. The Parents are otherwise deemed to have consented to such use.
32. **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.
33. **Pupil's Personal Property:** Pupils are responsible for the security and safe use of all their personal property including money, mobile phones, locker keys, watches, computers, calculators, musical instruments and sports equipment, and for property lent to them by the School.
34. **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.

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35. **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 and Medical Matters

36. **Medical Declaration:** Parents will be asked to complete a Medical Health Questionnaire concerning the Pupil's health and must inform the School Nurse in writing if the Pupil develops any known medical condition, health problems, allergy or has been in contact with infectious diseases, or will be unable to take part in sporting activities or school trips of any kind. School Health Policies are available to all staff, parents and pupils.
37. **Pupil's Health:** The Head may at any time require a medical opinion or certificate as to the Pupil's general health where the Head considers that necessary as a matter of professional judgement in the interests of the child and/or the School. If the Pupil is of sufficient age and maturity they are entitled to insist on confidentiality which can nonetheless be overridden in the Pupil's own interests or where necessary for the protection of other members of the School community.
38. **Pupil's Medication:** The Head and School Nurse are responsible for deciding whether the School can assist the Pupil who needs medication, and Parents should arrange an appointment to discuss the matter fully. School staff will not as a general rule administer medication without first receiving appropriate information and/or training from the School Nurse. Merchant Taylors' Schools employ their own School Nurse who can advise on health issues for all staff and pupils.
39. **Medical Information:** Throughout the Pupil's time as a member of the School, the School Nurse 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 in accordance with clause 23.
40. **Emergency Medical Treatment:** The Parents authorise the Head and the School Nurse 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

41. **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.
42. **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 and class sizes 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 tutor, or any other appropriate member of staff as soon as possible, or contact the Head in the case of a grave concern.
43. **Progress Reports:** The School monitors the progress of each pupil and reports regularly to Parents by means of grades and full written reports.
44. **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.
45. **Public Examinations:** The Head may, after consultation with Parents and the Pupil, decline to enter the 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.
46. **Reports and References:** Information supplied to Parents and others concerning the progress and character of the Pupil, and about examination, further education and career prospects, and any references will be given conscientiously and with all due care and skill

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but otherwise without liability on the part of the School.

47. **Learning Difficulties:** The School will do all that is reasonable in the case of each Pupil to detect and deal appropriately with a learning difficulty which amounts to a "special educational need". Our staff are not, however, qualified to make a medical diagnosis of conditions such as those commonly referred to as dyslexia or of other learning difficulties.
48. **Screening for Learning Difficulties:** The screening tests available to Schools are indicative only: they are not infallible. Parents will be notified if a screening test indicates that the Pupil has a learning difficulty. A formal assessment can be arranged by the School at the Parents' expense or by the Parents themselves.
49. **Information about Learning Difficulties:** Parents must notify the Head in writing if they are aware or suspect that the Pupil has a learning difficulty and the Parents must provide us with copies of all written reports and other relevant information. Parents will be asked to withdraw the Pupil, without being charged Fees in lieu of notice if, in the professional judgement of the Head and after consultation with the Parents and with the Pupil (where appropriate), the School cannot provide adequately for a pupil's special educational needs. Learning Support provided by the School may be charged as an extra.
50. **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 the Upper Sixth Year (Year 13). Parents will be consulted before the end of the Spring Term in Years 2, 6 or 11 if there appears to be any reason why the Pupil may be refused a place at the next stage of the School. **Parents must give a term's notice in writing (i.e. before the start of the Summer Term in Years 2, 6 or 11) 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.**
51. **School's Intellectual Property:** The School reserves all rights and interest in any copyright design right, registered design, patent or trademark, database right and any and all other intellectual property rights in each case whether registered or unregistered and including all applications (or rights to apply) for, and renewals or extensions of, such rights and all similar or equivalent rights or forms of protection which may now or in the future subsist in any part of the world

("intellectual property") arising as a result of the actions or work of the 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.

52. **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 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. 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.
53. **Educational Visits:** A variety of educational visits will be provided for your child whilst he or she is a Pupil here. The cost of some educational visits will be charged as an extra. Educational visits 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 charged. By seeking Admission of the Pupil to the School, you agree to these additional costs being payable. **Parents' prior additional consent will be sought for a visit costing more than £30.**

G Behaviour and Discipline

54. **School Regime:** The Parents accept that the School will be run in accordance with the authorities delegated by the 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 the Pupil is at issue.

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55. **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 Rules about the wearing of uniform.
56. **School Rules:** The School Rules and Regulations which apply are set out in the Pupil Handbook and other documents published from time to time. Parents are requested to read these documents carefully with the Pupil, before they accept the offer of a place.
57. **School Discipline:** The Parents hereby confirm that they accept the authority of the Head and of other members of staff on the Head's 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 policy which is current at the time applies 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.
58. **Investigative Action:** A complaint or rumour of misconduct will be investigated. The Pupil may be questioned and his/her accommodation or 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, education guardian or a teacher of the Pupil's choice.
59. **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.
60. **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.
61. **Drugs & Alcohol:** The 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.
62. **Terminology:** In these Terms and Conditions "**Suspension**" means that the 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. "**Released home**" means that the Head has consented to the Pupil being away from School for a specified period of time. "**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.
63. **Sanctions:** The School's current policies on sanctions are available to Parents on request 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.
64. **Expulsion:** The 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. The Head's decision shall be subject to a Governors' Review if requested by a Parent. Parents will be given a copy of the Review procedure current at the time. The Pupil shall remain away from School pending the outcome of the Review (see "Governors' Review" below).
65. **Fees after Expulsion:** If the Pupil is expelled, there will be no refund of Fees for the current or past terms, but the overseas element (if any) of the Acceptance Deposit, and 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

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Fees and any other sum due to the School will be payable immediately upon expulsion.

66. **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 the 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 or community life 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).
67. **Fees Following Removal:** If the Pupil is removed or withdrawn in the circumstances described above, the rules relating to Fees shall be the same as for expulsion.
68. **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.
69. **Governors' Review:** Parents may ask for a Governors' Review of a decision to expel or require the removal of the Pupil from the School (but not a decision to suspend the 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 working 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).
70. **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 (including an

independent member if requested). 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. A Governors' Review will be conducted under fair procedures in accordance with the requirements of natural justice.

71. **Complaints Procedures:** A complaint about any matter of School policy or administration not involving a decision to expel or remove the Pupil must be made in accordance with the School's published complaints procedure, a copy of which is available on request. Every reasonable complaint shall receive fair and proper consideration and a timely response.

H Provisions About Notice

- see also section F "Moving up the School" and section G.
72. **Notice to be given by Parents** means (unless the contrary is stated in these terms and conditions) **a term's written notice addressed to and received by the Head personally** or signed for by the Head's secretary or the DFO on the Head's behalf. It is expected that Parents will consult with the Head before giving notice to withdraw the Pupil.
73. **Provisional notice** is valid only for the term in which it is given and only when written and accepted in writing by the Head personally or the Head's deputy duly authorised for this purpose.
74. **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 scholarship, Financially Assisted Place, bursary or other award or concession.
75. **"A term's notice"** to be given by Parents means notice given before the first day of an academic term and expiring at the end of that term.
76. **Cancelling Acceptance:** The cancellation of a place which has been accepted after the 14 day statutory cooling off period can cause long-term loss to the School if it occurs after other families have taken their decisions about Schooling for their children. A genuine pre-estimate of loss is fees for between one and 5 years. Nonetheless, the School agrees to limit the Parent's liability to a full term's fees payable as a debt if less than a term's notice of cancellation has been given, or to the full amount of the Acceptance Deposit if more than a term's notice has been given.

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Cases of serious illness or genuine hardship may receive special consideration on written request.

77. **Withdrawal by Parents:** 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 if, following the GCSE year or AS Level year, **the Pupil will not return for the following year** even if he/she has achieved the required grades; **or the Pupil wishes to discontinue extra tuition.**
78. **Insufficient Notice:** If the 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.
79. **Prior Consultation:** It is expected that a Parent or duly authorised education guardian will in every case consult personally with the Head or with the Head's authorised Deputy before notice of withdrawal is given.
80. **Withdrawal by Pupil:** The Pupil's decision to withdraw from the School shall for these purposes, be treated as a withdrawal by the Parents.
81. **Discontinuing Extras:** Half a term's written notice is required to discontinue an extra or half a term's fees for the extra will be immediately payable in lieu as a debt.
82. **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 Acceptance Deposit would be refunded without interest less any outstanding balance of the account.
- I Fees**
83. **Meaning:** "Fee" and "Fees" where used in these Terms and Conditions include each of the following charges where applicable:
- Acceptance Deposit; Overseas Deposit; Tuition Fees; Fees for extra tuition; other extras** such as dinners, buses, clothing and equipment, photographs and other items ordered by the Parents or the Pupil and **charges arising in respect of educational visits, and damage** where the 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.
84. **Payment:** The Parents undertake to pay the Fees applicable in each School year. Unless otherwise stated, 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.
85. **Payment Method:** Unless otherwise stated by the School, all payments must be made by direct debit by no later than the day before the commencement of the School term to which they relate. The School may, at its sole option, agree payment by other means such as cash or cheque. The School may refuse any payment by any means other direct debit and it is our policy not to accept payments of cash in large amounts.
86. **Refund/Waiver:** Fees will not be refunded or waived for absence through sickness; or if a term is shortened or a vacation extended; or if a pupil is released home after public examinations or otherwise before the normal end of term (provided that the School remains open to the Pupil and they wish to stay at School during that period); 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**) would apply if the Pupil is expelled or removed, i.e. asked to leave. **See also Section J** for information about the rules on events beyond the control of the parties.
87. **Exclusion for Non-Payment:** The right is reserved on 3 days' written notice to exclude the 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

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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.**)

88. **Late Payment:** Simple interest may be charged on a day-to-day basis on Fees which are unpaid. The rate of interest charged will be at a rate of up to 1.5% per month which 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.
89. **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.
90. **Appropriation / Set Off:** The Parents agree that a payment made in respect of one child may be appropriated or set off by the School to the unpaid account of any other child of those Parents. The Parents agree that the School may at any time appropriate or set off any payment made in respect of any Fee against any other Fee. The Parents agree that where any Fee is in arrears or unpaid ("Fee in arrears"), the School may use any other Fee payment received as payment or part payment of any such Fee in arrears. Any Fee used as payment or part payment of any Fee in arrears shall be considered unpaid in relation to the charge to which such Fee was made. For example, where a Fee is paid for an educational visit, but there are other Fees in arrears, the School may use such payment against the Fees in arrears, and the charge for educational visit will be considered unpaid which may cause a pupil to be refused participation in such unpaid educational visit.
91. **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 (see also clause 96).
92. **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 for thirty days or more. 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 nine instalments appropriated as to three instalments for the Autumn Term, three instalments for the Spring Term and three instalments for the Summer Term. The payments in respect of each term shall be deemed a separate credit agreement from the payments for each other term.
93. **Composition Schemes:** A composition scheme is a scheme under which a lump sum prepayment for between one and five years is made by or on behalf of the Parents. The School does operate a Composition Scheme and a discount may be given by the School depending upon how many years in advance a Parent wishes to pay. Discounts are on tuition fees only. Full details of the Composition Scheme are available on request to the Bursars office.
94. **Composition Schemes, points to note:** The School Composition Scheme 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 leaving earlier than expected. Fees in lieu of notice (where applicable) and any other sum due and owing to the School at that time (including the following term's fees) will be deducted from the sum to be refunded. One full term's notice will be required for such refund and the School will reserve its rights to retain any interest accrued. Any discount offered under the Composition Scheme will immediately cease upon refund.
95. **Scholarships & Financially Assisted Places:** Every scholarship, assisted place or other award or concession is a discretionary privilege, subject to high standards of attendance, diligence and behaviour on the Pupil's part and to the Parents treating the School and our staff reasonably. The terms on which such awards are offered and accepted will be notified to Parents at the time of offer. The value of a scholarship shall be deducted from Fees before any bursary or other concession is calculated or assessed.
96. **Sibling Discounts:** The School offers a sibling discount for children with a brother and/or sister already in the Schools. The discount applies to the tuition fee only and may be varied by the Schools at any time. The current sibling discount is 10% on a second and third child with the same Parents and a 20% discount on a fourth child and subsequent children with the

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same Parents. Sibling discount does not apply to overseas students. If any pupil(s) within the family is in receipt of any other form of financial assistance (excluding Harrison Scholarships) then that pupil(s) will not be included within the scope of the Sibling Discount. For pupils in receipt of Academic or Sports Scholarships, who also qualify for a Sibling Discount; such discount will be awarded at the Head's absolute discretion.

97. **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 greater than 8%, 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 and the Acceptance Deposit will be refunded without interest.
98. **Money Laundering:** Legislation requires the School, in some circumstances, to obtain satisfactory evidence of the identity of the person who is paying Fees as soon as practicable. We may require, therefore, documents (such as sight of a passport and a recent utility bill) to verify the identity and address of the relevant Fee payer. We may be required by statute to make a disclosure to the relevant authorities where they know or suspect that a transaction may be an offence under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002. If we make a disclosure in relation to your matter, we may not be able to tell you that a disclosure has been made. We are also unable to accept cash payments in respect of Fees.

J Events beyond the control of the Parties

99. **Force Majeure:** An event beyond the reasonable control of the parties to this agreement is referred to below as a *Force Majeure Event* and shall include, but is not limited to, such events as an act of God, fire, flood, storm, war, riot civil unrest, act of terrorism, strikes, industrial disputes, outbreak of epidemic or pandemic of disease, failure of utility service or transportation.
100. **Notification:** If either party to the Agreement is prevented from or delayed in carrying out its obligations under this Agreement by a *Force Majeure Event*, that party shall immediately or, if this is not possible, as soon as possible following the occurrence of the *Force Majeure Event*, notify the other party in writing and shall be excused from performing those obligations while the *Force Majeure Event* continues.
101. **Continued Force Majeure:** If a *Force Majeure Event* continues for a period greater than 90 days, the party who has provided notification under clause 95 above shall notify the other of

the steps to be taken to ensure performance of this Agreement.

K General Contractual Matters

102. **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.
103. **Legal Contract:** The offer of a place by the School and its acceptance by the Parents give rise to a legally binding contract on the terms of these Terms and Conditions.
104. **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. In addition, there may be the need to undertake a corporate reorganisation exercise and/or a merger or change of ownership may be necessary. For these reasons, the benefit and burden of this agreement may be assigned freely to another party at the discretion of the School. Fee levels will be reviewed each year and there will be reasonable increases from time to time.
105. **Data Protection:** The School is a data controller for the purpose of the Data Protection Act 1998. We may use your data and the data of the Pupil and other information obtained about you and/or the Pupil to provide our services and to administer your account with us including tracing and collecting any debts. We may also use it for fraud prevention (for example by verifying your identity to comply with our obligations under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002), to assist Pupil and Parent satisfaction and to improve services and for the safety and security of the School and staff. You consent to us processing personal data (including sensitive personal data) about you and your child that we collect from you in order to carry out the purposes detailed above and our obligations and rights under these Terms and Conditions in accordance with relevant Data Protection legislation. For the purpose of providing educational services, Parent and/or Pupil personal data may be held on the cloud rather than on local systems. We will not put any such data on the cloud without notifying Parents. Under the Data Protection Act

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1998 an individual has the right upon payment of a fee to obtain copies of personal data about them held by us. If you have any queries in relation to the above please do not hesitate to contact us. Any questions, comments and requests relating to data protection should be made to the Head at the address details given below or otherwise informed to you.

106. **Consumer Protection:** Care has been taken to use plain language in these Terms and Conditions and to explain the reasons for any of the terms that may appear one-sided. If any words above or in combination infringe the *Unfair Terms in Consumer Contracts Regulations 1999*, the *Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008* or any other provision of law, they shall be treated as severable and shall be replaced with words which give as near the original meaning as may be fair.
107. **Anti-Bribery:** The School will comply with all applicable laws relating to anti-bribery and anti-corruption including the Bribery Act 2010. The School is committed to maintaining a high standard of honesty and integrity and we adopt a zero tolerance to bribery and corruption. The School will not make bribes, nor will it condone the offering of bribes or any inducements (whether monetary or not) on its behalf, so as to gain an advantage or otherwise. The School will not accept bribes, nor will it agree to them being accepted on its behalf, in order to influence the School or otherwise. The School will not enter agreements with others who do not accept its values and may harm its reputation. The School will only enter agreements with others who follow these principles both to the letter and in spirit, both in their dealings with School and with others. The School will keep to these principles even where it becomes difficult. The School expects, and the Parents agree, that Parents will keep to these principles in their dealings with the School and with others.
108. **Changes to Terms and Conditions:** We may revise these terms and conditions from time to time following periodic review or to reflect changes in relevant laws and regulatory requirements or how we conduct the school's affairs. If we revise the Terms and Conditions, we will give you at least one month's written notice of any changes to these Terms before they take effect. You can choose to terminate the contract in accordance with section H.
109. **Consultation:** It is not practicable to consult with parents and pupils over every change that may take place. Whenever practicable, the School will use reasonable endeavours to ensure that Parents will be consulted and where possible given at least a term's notice of a change of policy, a change in any physical aspect of the School or a change in ownership 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.
110. **Representations:** Our prospectus, website and DVD describe the broad principles on which the School is presently run and gives an indication of our history and ethos. Although believed correct at the time of publication, the prospectus, website and DVD are not part of any agreement between the Parents and the School. **Parents wishing to place specific reliance on a matter contained in the prospectus, website, DVD, 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.**
111. **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.
112. **Interpretation:** These Terms and Conditions supersede those previously in force and will be construed as a whole. 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.
113. **Jurisdiction:** This contract was made at the School and is governed exclusively by the law of England and Wales (where the services are provided) and the parties submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Courts of England and Wales.

**The Merchant Taylors' Schools, Crosby:
a Company limited by guarantee**

Merchant Taylors' Schools, Crosby
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Registered in England No: 6654276
Registered Office: 186 Liverpool Road, Crosby, Liverpool L23 0QP
Registered Charity Number: 1125485

October 2017