



LLEGE  
(Hons), PGDip, M.Ed

ociety ck, Devon PL19 8DD  
Tel: 01822 614231  
: office@tavistockcollege.org  
ite: www.tavistockcollege.org

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Dear Parent/Carer,

## Ready to Learn

I am writing to inform you about a development to our behaviour policy, known as *Ready to Learn*. This is a behaviour management strategy which has at its heart a drive to improve the quality of learning for all our students, and to ensure that your child is able to make excellent progress at Tavistock College.

Recently, students and parents have commented to us that there are some instances of poor behaviour in lessons which are preventing effective learning. This echoes the findings of a national report commissioned by Ofsted called *Below the Radar*. The report identifies that a key barrier to progress in schools can be low-level disruption. Here at Tavistock College we are clear that we will not allow the behaviour of a minority of students to have a detrimental impact on the quality of learning for others. We met with a group of parents to consult on this change and the parents were unanimous in their support for implementing this system.

In the classroom, the *Ready to Learn* strategy gives clear expectations for students to follow to enable teachers to teach and students to learn effectively. This is a straightforward system. It does not represent a change in our values and expectations, however it does enable decisive action to be taken to ensure that these expectations are consistently and rigorously applied.

Essentially, the aims of the system are:

- To **eliminate all disruptive behaviour**, so that there is a scholarly culture where students take learning seriously and no learning time is wasted.
- To provide **clarity for staff and students** about acceptable behaviour and the consequences of poor behaviour or behaviour that means students are not ready to learn.
- To foster an environment of **respect** for adults and fellow students.
- To encourage students to be self-motivated and responsible, independent learners who take **responsibility** for their own actions.
- To enable teachers to deliver lessons that **inspire, engage, challenge** and support students to **reflect** on their learning in a positive learning environment free from interruptions.

In class, the teacher will give *one warning* to any student who is not meeting the *Ready to Learn* expectations. If this infringement is repeated, he/she will be sent to work in the Ready to Learn room. The student will remain in this room for their learning for one full teaching day (5 lessons). Parents/Carers will be informed of the isolation by the class teacher via telephone. The class teacher will also meet with the student for a restorative conversation, so that the issue can be resolved and to support future learning.

Together: we care. we challenge. we excel



We appreciate that some students have additional educational needs which make it more difficult for them to regulate some aspects of their behaviour. The strategy will, therefore, include a tariff of reasonable adjustments which are personalised for individual students. An intervention and support programme will be implemented if the student has multiple incidents of poor behaviour. **However, behaviours that stop other students learning effectively will not be tolerated at Tavistock College.**

This system will begin to be implemented on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January. We have already trialled this system with year 8 and we got positive feedback from both parents and students. Mr Smith is leading assemblies with all year groups this week to explain to them the expectations of *Ready to Learn*.

Please would you discuss this with your child so that they have a clear understanding about the expectations and consequences of *Ready to Learn*.

Applying these clear standards of learning behaviour enables opportunities for teachers and students to be creative in their approach to learning, which in turn leads to inspiration, motivation and progress.

Thank you for your support with this. By working together we can ensure the best outcomes for your child and continue to raise standards at Tavistock College.

Yours sincerely



**Sarah Jones**  
Principal



**Gareth Smith**  
Assistant Principal