

# ST PAUL'S

## GIRLS' SCHOOL

### St Paul's Girls' School

#### Terms and conditions of the Parent Contract

#### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 **Terms and conditions:** These terms and conditions reflect the custom and practice of independent schools for many generations and together with the letter of offer, Conditions of Award (if applicable), Acceptance Form and Fees List they form the basis of a legally binding contract between the parents and the school for the provision of educational services. These terms and conditions are intended to promote the education and welfare of students and the stability, forward-planning, proper resourcing and development of St Paul's Girls' School.
- 1.2 **Fees and notice:** The rules concerning Fees and Notice are of particular importance and are set out at Sections 8 and 9 below.
- 1.3 **Managing change:** St Paul's Girls' School, as any other school, is likely to undergo a number of changes during the time your child is a student here. Please see Section 10 below for further details of the changes that may be made and the consultation and notice procedures that will apply.

#### 2 Terminology

- 2.1 **The school or We or Us:** means St Paul's Girls' School as now or in the future constituted (and any successor). The school is constituted as a charitable company limited by guarantee.
- 2.2 **School Governors or 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.
- 2.3 **The High Mistress:** means the High Mistress of the school as appointed by the school Governors. The High Mistress is responsible for the day-to-day running of the school.
- 2.4 **The Parents or You:** means any person who has signed the Acceptance Form. The Parents are legally responsible, jointly and severally, for complying with their obligations under these terms and conditions. Fees payable by a third party (for example, an employer, grandparent or step-parent without Parental Responsibility or third-party credit provider) will be subject to a separate agreement between the school, the Parents and the third party. Please also see clause 9.3 and clause 11.7 below.
- 2.5 **Parental Responsibility:** Those who have Parental Responsibility (i.e. legal responsibility for the child) are entitled to receive relevant information concerning the child whether or not they are a party to this contract unless a court order has been made to the contrary, or there are other reasons which justify withholding information to safeguard the best interests and welfare of the child.
- 2.6 **The student:** means the child named on the Acceptance Form. The age of the student will be calculated in accordance with British custom.

- 2.7 **Acceptance Form:** means the form provided by the school for parents to complete when accepting a place for their child at the school.
- 2.8 **Acceptance Deposit:** means the amount set out and referred to as the deposit on the Fees List for the relevant year.

### 3 Admission and entry to the school

- 3.1 **Registration and Admission:** Applicants will be considered as candidates for Admission and Entry to the school when the Registration Form and Examination Entry Form have been completed and returned to Us and the non-returnable Registration Fee paid. Admission will be subject to the availability of a place and the student and the Parents satisfying the admission requirements at the relevant time. The admissions requirements are set out in the school's Admissions Policy current at the time and published on the school's website. **Admission** occurs when the Parents accept the offer of a place. **Entry** occurs on the date when the student attends the school for the first time under these terms and conditions.
- 3.2 **Ethos and character:** The school is an academically selective mainstream day school for girls aged from 11 to 18 years. The school's ethos is in line with Christian values but the school welcomes staff and children from many different ethnic groups, backgrounds and creeds.
- 3.3 **Offer of a place and Acceptance Deposit:** A deposit (**Acceptance Deposit**) as shown on the Fees List for the relevant year will be payable when the Parents accept the offer of a place. The Acceptance Deposit will be retained in the general funds of the school until the student leaves and will be repaid by means of a credit without interest to the final payment of Fees or other sums due to the school on leaving, unless stated otherwise in these terms and conditions or unless the Parents wish to donate the Acceptance Deposit to the school's Bursary Campaign. See also clause 8.5.
- 3.4 **Additional Deposit:** For reasons of administration, the right is reserved to require payment by the Parents of an additional deposit (**Additional Deposit**), as shown on the Fees List for the relevant year, in the case of a student whose normal residence is outside the United Kingdom. The Additional Deposit will be retained in the general funds of the school until the student leaves and will be repaid by means of a credit without interest to the final payment of Fees or other sums due to the school on leaving, unless stated otherwise in these terms and conditions. See also clause 8.5.
- 3.5 **Immigration:** The school currently holds a Child Student sponsor licence. The Parents must inform the High Mistress when returning a completed Registration Form or at any other time if their child requires sponsorship from the school in order to obtain a visa to study at the school. It shall be the Parents' responsibility at all times to ensure that their child has the appropriate immigration permission to live in the United Kingdom and to study at this school, and the Parents shall permit the school to take and retain copies of all documentation required to be kept by the school in order to comply with its duties as a Child Student sponsor, including passport, visa, vignette and /or biometric resident permit of the child and, where necessary, the Parents. The Parents shall immediately inform the school of any intended or actual change in the Child's accommodation arrangements during their period of sponsorship. Please also see clause 8.13.

### 4 Pastoral Care

- 4.1 **The school's commitment:** We will do all that is reasonable to safeguard and promote the student's welfare and to provide pastoral care to at least the standard required by law in the particular circumstances. We will respect the student's human rights and freedoms which must, however, be balanced with the lawful needs and rules of the school community and the rights and freedoms of others. The Parents agree that the High Mistress has the right to require the student to remain away from the school

temporarily at the home of their Parents or education guardian:

- 4.1.1 pending the outcome of an investigation (please see also clause 7.5 below); or
- 4.1.2 if the High Mistress considers that the student's presence at the school presents a risk to them or to any other student.
- 4.2 **Complaints:** Any expression of dissatisfaction about action taken, or a lack of action by the school where the Parents seek action by Us must be notified to the school as soon as practicable. Parents will remain courteous and respectful at all times in their dealings with the school regardless of any complaint. A copy of the school's Complaints policy is available on the school website and can be supplied on request. See also clause 7.10.3 and 7.17 below.
- 4.3 **Student's rights:** The student, if of sufficient maturity and understanding, has certain legal rights that the school must observe. These include the right to give or withhold consent in a variety of circumstances and certain rights to confidentiality and, usually, the right to have contact with their parents. If any conflict of interest arises between the Parents and the student, the rights of, and duties owed to, the student will in most cases take precedence over the rights of, and duties owed to, the Parents.
- 4.4 **High Mistress's authority:** The Parents authorise the High Mistress to take and / or authorise in good faith all decisions which the High Mistress considers on proper grounds will safeguard and promote the student's welfare. Please see Section 5 below.
- 4.5 **Ethos:** The ethos of the school is to foster good relationships between students and between members of staff and students. Bullying, harassment, victimisation and discrimination will not be tolerated. The school and its staff will act fairly in relation to the student and the Parents and we expect the same of the student and the Parents in relation to the school or its staff.
- 4.6 **Physical contact:** The Parents consent to such physical contact with the student:
  - 4.6.1 as may accord with good practice; or
  - 4.6.2 as may be appropriate and proper for teaching and instruction; or
  - 4.6.3 for providing comfort to the student in distress; or
  - 4.6.4 to maintain safety and good order; or
  - 4.6.5 in connection with the student's health and welfare.

The Parents also consent to the student participating in contact and non-contact sports and other activities as part of the normal school programme or extra-curricular programme. The Parents acknowledge that while the school will provide appropriate supervision the risk of injury cannot be eliminated.
- 4.7 **Disclosures:** The Parents must, as soon as possible, disclose to the school in confidence:
  - 4.7.1 any known medical condition, health problem or allergy affecting the student;
  - 4.7.2 any history of a learning difficulty on the part of the student or any member of their immediate family;
  - 4.7.3 any disability, special educational need or any behavioural, emotional difficulty and / or social difficulty on the part of the student;

- 4.7.4 any family circumstances, court proceedings or court order which might affect the students's welfare or happiness;
  - 4.7.5 any concerns about the student's safety;
  - 4.7.6 any significant change in the financial circumstances of the Parents;
  - 4.7.7 if it is the Parents' intention that the student is to be cared for and accommodated by someone who is not a close relative for a period of 28 days or more.
- 4.8 **Confidentiality:** The Parents authorise the High Mistress to override their own and (so far as they are entitled to do so) the student's rights to confidentiality, and to impart confidential information on a "**need to know**" basis where necessary to safeguard or promote the student's welfare or to avert a perceived risk of serious harm to the student or to another person at the school. In some cases, members of staff may need to be informed of any particular vulnerability the Student may have. The school reserves the right to monitor the student's use of:
- 4.8.1 e-mail;
  - 4.8.2 the internet; and
  - 4.8.3 mobile electronic devices.
- See also the school's Behaviour policy and the Student Acceptable Use policy.
- 4.9 **Special precautions:** The High Mistress needs to be aware of any matters that are relevant to the student's safety and security. Accordingly, the Parents must notify the High Mistress in writing immediately of any court orders or situations of risk in relation to the student for whom any special safety precautions may be needed. The High Mistress may exclude the Parents from school premises if the High Mistress, acting in a proper manner, considers such exclusion to be in the best interests of the student or any other member of the school community.
- 4.10 **Leaving school premises:** The school will do all that is reasonable to ensure that the student remains in the care of the school during school hours but does not accept responsibility for the student if they leave school premises in breach of school rules. Separate arrangements apply for students in Year 12 (VII) and Year 13 (VIII). The school is not legally entitled to prevent a student aged 16 years or over from leaving school premises during school hours.
- 4.11 **Residence during term time:** The student is required during Term time and at weekends and half term, to live with the Parents or a legal guardian or with an education guardian acceptable to the school. The school expects students to live within a reasonable distance of the school, for example within a 60-minute commute. The Parents must immediately notify the Director of Pastoral Care in writing if the student will be residing during Term time under the care of someone other than the Parents or their education guardian.
- 4.12 **Communication with parents:** Communications or instructions from one of the Parents or any person with Parental Responsibility shall be deemed by the school to be received from both Parents unless there is clear evidence of a contrary view. This requirement does not apply to the giving of Notice for the Cancellation of the place or the Withdrawal of the student from the school. Those persons who are required to consent to or to give Notice of Cancellation or Withdrawal of the student are set out in clause 8.2.
- 4.13 **Absence of parents:** At any time when both the Parents will be absent from the student's home overnight or for a 24-hour period or longer, the Parents must inform the High Mistress in writing of the name, address and telephone number for 24 hour

contact for the adult who will have the care of the student.

- 4.14 **Education guardians:** The Parents, if resident outside the United Kingdom, must before Entry appoint an education guardian for the student 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 accepts no responsibility for the student when they are in the care of the Parents or the education guardian. The Parents or the education guardian must make holiday arrangements, including travel to and from the school, in advance. The Parents are responsible in each case for making suitable arrangements to appoint an education guardian. The Parents shall immediately on appointment provide the school with up-to-date contact details for the appointed education guardian and shall immediately notify the school of any changes to those details. The Parents shall upon request provide such further information to the school as it reasonably requires, to satisfy itself that the proposed appointment and or arrangements are suitable. Failure to provide such information upon request may constitute unreasonable behaviour. See clause 7.10.3.
- 4.15 **Photographs or images (including video recordings):** The school may obtain and use photographs or images (including video recordings) of the student for:
- 4.15.1 use in the school's promotional material such as admissions publications, the website or social media;
  - 4.15.2 press or media purposes;
  - 4.15.3 use in the school's news and events publications (hard copy and electronic); or
  - 4.15.4 educational purposes as part of the curriculum or extra-curricular activities.
- Please see the student summary privacy notice for more information about how the school uses photographs and videos of students. The school may seek specific consent from the Parents before using a photograph or video recording of the student where the school considers that the use is more privacy intrusive. Where the student is of sufficient maturity (usually when aged 12 years or older) we may seek the student's specific prior consent in addition to or instead of the Parents' consent. We would not disclose the home address of the student alongside a photograph or video without the Parents' consent.
- 4.16 **Request for confidentiality:** The Parents may ask Us to keep information about the student confidential. For example, You may ask Us to not use photographs of the student in promotional material or ask Us to keep the fact that the student is on the school roll confidential. If the Parents would like information about the student to be kept confidential, they must immediately contact the Head of Admissions in writing, requesting an acknowledgment of their letter
- 4.17 **Transport:** The Parents consent to the student 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.
- 4.18 **Student's personal property:** The student is responsible for the security and safe use of all their personal property including money, mobile electronic devices, locker keys, watches, computers, musical instruments and sports equipment, and for property lent to them by the school.
- 4.19 **Insurance:** The Parents are responsible for insurance of the student's personal property whilst at school or on the way to and from school or any school-sponsored activity away from school premises.
- 4.20 **School's 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 student or the Parents or for loss or damage to property.

## 5 Health and medical matters

- 5.1 **Medical declaration:** The Parents will be asked to complete a confidential Health History form on Entry to the school concerning the student's health and must inform the school in writing if the student develops any known medical condition, health problem or allergy, or will be unable to take part in games or sporting activities or has been in contact with anyone with an infectious or contagious disease.
- 5.2 **Medical care:** The Parents must comply with the school nurse's recommendations which may include a reasonable decision to release the student home or to their education guardian when they are unwell.
- 5.3 **Medical examination:** The student will have a routine medical examination with the school doctor or other doctor appointed by them, usually during the first Term at the school. Arrangements can be made on request for the Parents to be present but this is subject to the student's consent if the student is of sufficient maturity and understanding.
- 5.4 **Student's health:** The High Mistress may at any time require a medical opinion or certificate as to the student's general health where the High Mistress considers it necessary as a matter of professional judgement in the interests of the student and / or the school community. The student if of sufficient age and maturity is entitled to insist on confidentiality which can be overridden in the student's own interests or where necessary for the protection of other members of the school community.
- 5.5 **Medical information:** Throughout the student's time as a member of the school, the School's medical team shall have the right to disclose confidential information about the student if it is considered to be in the student'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.
- 5.6 **Emergency medical treatment:** The Parents authorise the High Mistress to consent on their behalf to the student receiving emergency medical treatment where certified by an appropriately qualified person as necessary for the student's welfare and if the Parents or a second emergency contact cannot be contacted in time.

## 6 Educational matters

- 6.1 **Provision of education:** The school will do all that is reasonable to provide an educational environment and teaching of a range, standard and quality which is suitable for each student and to provide education to at least the standard required by law in the particular circumstances. The school will exercise reasonable care and skill in providing educational services for the student but cannot guarantee that the student will achieve their desired examination results or that results will be sufficient to gain entry to other educational establishments.
- 6.2 **Organisation of the curriculum:** We reserve the right to organise the curriculum and its delivery in a way which, in the professional judgement of the High Mistress, is most appropriate to the school community as a whole. This may be by online or other form of remote learning. We will endeavour to inform the Parents of significant changes to the curriculum and the reasons for them as soon as practicable. The curriculum includes teaching which actively promotes the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. If the Parents have specific requirements or concerns about any aspect of the student's education or progress they should contact the student's tutor, or other appropriate member of staff, as soon as possible, or contact the Director of Studies in the case of a serious concern.
- 6.3 **Progress reports:** The school shall monitor the students' progress and shall report to the Parents by means of grades, full written reports and parents' meetings.

- 6.4 **Relationships and sex education:** The student will receive health and life skills education including relationships and / or sex 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 the student to take part in part or all of the sex education aspect of the curriculum. The student cannot be withdrawn from relationships education.
- 6.5 **Public examinations:** The High Mistress may, after consultation with the Parents and the student, decline to enter the student's name for a public examination if the High Mistress considers that by doing so the student's prospects in other examinations would be impaired and / or if the student has not prepared for the examination with sufficient diligence, for example, because the student has not worked or revised in accordance with advice or instruction from their teachers.
- 6.6 **Examination services:** The High Mistress may, after consultation with the Parents and, if appropriate, the student, decline to apply for post- examination services if, in her professional judgement it is considered not to be in the best interests of the student or the examination cohort to do so.
- 6.7 **Reports and references:** Information supplied to the Parents and others concerning the progress and character of the student, and about examinations, further education and career prospects, and any references shall be given conscientiously and with all due care and skill but otherwise without liability on the part of the school.
- 6.8 **Learning difficulties:** The school shall do all that is reasonable to detect and deal appropriately with a learning difficulty which is considered to be a "special educational need". The school staff are not, however, qualified to make a diagnosis of conditions such as those commonly referred to as dyslexia, or of other learning difficulties.
- 6.9 **Screening for learning difficulties:** The screening tests available to schools are indicative only: they are not infallible. The Parents will be notified if a screening test indicates that the student may have a learning difficulty. A formal assessment can be arranged by the school at the Parents' expense or by the Parents themselves. The Parents agree to cooperate fully with any investigation of the student's educational needs and refusal to do so may be regarded as unreasonable behaviour. See also clause 7.10.3.
- 6.10 **Information about learning difficulties:** The Parents shall notify the High Mistress when completing the school's Registration Form and confidential Health History form, and subsequently in writing if at any time they are aware or suspect that the student has a learning difficulty, and the Parents must provide the school with copies of all written reports and other relevant information. The student's place will be cancelled, or, once the student has started, Parents will be asked to withdraw the student, further charge if, in the professional judgement of the High Mistress and after consultation with the Parents and with the student (where appropriate), the school is unable to provide adequately for the student's special educational needs. The school reserves the right to charge for the provision of additional teaching where it is lawful to do so.
- 6.11 **Moving up the school:** It is assumed that, if the student satisfies the relevant criteria at the time, they will move through the school and will ultimately complete Year 13 (VIII). The Parents will be consulted before the end of the Spring Term if there appears to be any reason why the student may be refused a place in the next year at the school. Unless the student will be leaving at the end of Year 13 (VIII), the Parents must give a Term's Notice in writing (i.e., before the start of the Summer Term) in accordance with the provisions about Notice in Section 8 below if they do not intend the student to proceed to the next year of the school, or a Term's Fees in lieu of Notice will be payable.
- 6.12 **Intellectual property:** Where the student creates a copyright work, including where the work is created jointly with a member of staff or another student, the school may use that work for the purpose of promoting the interests of the school, including exhibiting

it, publishing it in the school magazine or putting it or a copy of it on the school's intranet, social media or public website.

- 6.13 **Student's work:** The Parents consent for themselves and (so far as they are entitled to do so) on behalf of the student, to the school retaining the student's original work until, in the professional judgement of the Director of Studies, it is appropriate to release the work to the student. Certain coursework may have to be retained for longer than other work in order to reduce the risk of cheating. This does not prejudice the student's or the Parents' right to access their personal data under data protection law. We will take reasonable care to preserve the student's work undamaged but cannot accept liability for loss or damage caused to this or any other property of the student by factors outside the direct control of the High Mistress or staff.

- 6.14 **Consent for educational visits:** A variety of educational visits will be provided for the Student. Parents will be provided with relevant information in advance of educational visits. Unless Parents specifically notify the school in writing that they do not wish the student to take part in a specific educational visit, by signing the Acceptance Form or agreeing to be bound by these terms and conditions the Parents' consent to the student taking part in all educational visits. These include:

6.14.1 visits which take place during the weekends or school holidays; or

6.14.2 non-routine off-site activities and sporting fixtures which extend beyond the normal start and finish of the school day; or

6.14.3 adventure activities which may take place at any time;

Visits requiring an overnight or residential stay will be subject to a separate agreement.

The Parents agree that the student shall be subject to school discipline in all respects whilst engaged in an educational visit.

- 6.15 **The cost of educational visits:** The school will advise the Parents in advance of any additional costs associated with an educational visit, including those visits described in clause 6.14.1 to 6.14.3.above. The cost of such a visit will be payable in advance and may be subject to a separate agreement. All additional costs (such as medical costs, taxis, air fares, or professional advice) incurred to protect the student's safety and welfare, or to respond to breaches of discipline, will be added to the Fees invoice. The school reserves the right to prevent the student from taking part in an educational visit while overdue Fees remain unpaid.

## **7 Behaviour and discipline**

- 7.1 **School regime:** The Parents accept that the school will be run in accordance with the authorities delegated by the Governing Body to the High Mistress. The High Mistress 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 student is at issue. The Parents accept that the school's policies, procedures and regime may be subject to change at short notice, if in the opinion of the High Mistress it is deemed appropriate to do so in the circumstances prevailing at the time.
- 7.2 **Conduct and Attendance** We attach importance to courtesy, integrity, good manners, good discipline and respect for the needs of others. The Parents warrant that the student 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's Behaviour policy.
- 7.3 **School rules:** school rules about behaviour and discipline are contained in the school's Behaviour policy which is available on the school website, and other documents published from time to time. The Parents are requested to read these documents carefully with the student before they accept the offer of a place.



- 7.4 **School discipline:** The Parents accept the authority of the High Mistress and of other members of staff on the High Mistress's behalf to take all reasonable disciplinary or preventative action necessary to safeguard and promote the welfare of the student and the School community as a whole. The school's policies on behaviour and discipline current at the time and published on the school website apply to all students at the school and at all times when the student is in or at school (including when engaged in online or remote learning), representing the school, travelling to or from school, on school-organised trips or associated with the school at any time. The policies shall also apply at all times and places in circumstances where failing to apply this policy may affect the health, safety or well-being of a member of the school community or a member of the public, have repercussions for the orderly running of the school or bring the school into disrepute.
- 7.5 **Investigative action:** An allegation, complaint or rumour of misconduct will be investigated. The student may be questioned, and their belongings may be searched in appropriate circumstances. The Parents will be informed that the student may face formal disciplinary action unless the school is prevented from doing so. If considered necessary, the school may make arrangements for legal representation for the student to be funded at the Parents' expense. If under the school's disciplinary policy, a disciplinary meeting with the High Mistress is required before a decision is taken, the school will make reasonable efforts to notify the Parents or education guardian so that they can attend. In the absence of the Parents or education guardian, the student will be assisted by an adult (usually a teacher) of their choice.
- 7.6 **Divulging information:** Except as required by law, the school and its staff shall not be required to divulge to the Parents or others any confidential information or the identities of students or others who have given information which has led to the complaint or which the High Mistress has acquired during an investigation.
- 7.7 **Drugs and alcohol:** The student may be given the opportunity to provide a biological sample under medical supervision if involvement with drugs is suspected, or a sample of breath to test for alcohol consumed in breach of school rules or policy. A sample or test in these circumstances will not form part of the student's permanent medical record.
- 7.8 **Sanctions:** The school's current policies on sanctions are available within the school's Behaviour policy, which is published on the school's website, or to the Parents on request from the school office before they accept an offer of a place. Those 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 practical but not degrading tasks on behalf of the school or external community, detention for a reasonable period, withdrawal of privileges, being placed 'on report' or Suspension, or Requirement to leave or Expulsion.
- 7.9 **Definitions of sanctions:** The definitions in this clause apply in these terms and conditions:
- Suspension:** means that the student is sent or released home for a limited period as a disciplinary sanction or pending a Governors' Review.
- Withdrawal:** has the meaning set in clause 8.4.
- Requirement to leave:** means that the permanent removal of the student from the school is required in circumstances described in clause 7.10.
- Expulsion:** means that the student is required to leave the school permanently in circumstances described in clause 7.12.
- 7.10 **Requirement to leave in other circumstances:** The Parents may be required to remove the student permanently from the school if, after consultation with the Parents and if

appropriate the student, the High Mistress is of the opinion that:

- 7.10.1 the student has committed a breach or breaches of school rules or discipline for which Requirement to leave is the appropriate sanction; or
- 7.10.2 by reason of the student's conduct, behaviour or progress, the student is unwilling or unable to benefit sufficiently from the educational opportunities and / or the community life offered by the school; or
- 7.10.3 one or both of the Parents have behaved unreasonably including but not limited to if they have treated the school or members of its staff or any member of the school community unreasonably; then

in these circumstances, and at the sole discretion of the High Mistress, Withdrawal of the student by the Parents may be permitted as an alternative to a Requirement to leave. The High Mistress shall act with procedural fairness in all such cases and shall have regard to the interests of the student and the Parents as well as those of the school. A decision by the High Mistress to require the student to leave shall be subject to a Governors' Review if requested by the Parents. The Parents will be given a copy of the Governors' Review procedure current at the time. The student shall be suspended from the school pending the outcome of the Review. A Withdrawal under this clause is not subject to a Governors' Review. See clause 7.15 and clause 7.16.

- 7.11 **Fees following Requirement to leave:** If the student is removed or withdrawn in the circumstances described in clause 7.10 above, the provisions relating to Fees shall be as set out in clause 7.13 save that the Acceptance Deposit and Additional Deposit (if paid) will be refunded without interest less any sums owing to the school.
- 7.12 **Expulsion:** The student may be formally expelled from the school if it is proved on the balance of probabilities that the student has committed a serious breach of discipline or a criminal offence. Expulsion is reserved for the most serious breaches. The High Mistress shall act with procedural fairness in all such cases. The High Mistress's decision to expel shall be subject to a Governors' Review if requested by the Parents. The Parents will be given a copy of the Governors' Review procedure current at the time. The student shall be suspended from the school pending the outcome of the Review. See clause 7.15 and clause 7.16.
- 7.13 **Fees after Expulsion:** If the Student is expelled, there will be no refund of the Acceptance Deposit or of Fees for the current or past Terms, but the Additional Deposit (if paid) will be refunded without interest less any sums owing to the school. There will be no charge to Fees in lieu of Notice but, save for any contrary provisions in any other agreement made between the Parents and the school, all arrears of Fees and any other sums due to the school will be payable.
- 7.14 **Leaving status:** The school reserves the right to record the leaving status of the student on the student's file immediately after Expulsion or Requirement to leave or Withdrawal.
- 7.15 **Governors' Review:** The Parents may request a review by Governors (**Governors' Review**) of a decision to expel or require the student to leave the school (but not a decision to suspend the student unless the suspension is for 11 school days or more, or would prevent the student taking a public examination). The High Mistress will advise the Parents of the Governors' Review procedure current at that time when Parents are informed of the decision. A Governors' Review will be conducted under fair procedures in accordance with the requirements of natural justice.
- 7.16 **Student's status pending Review:** If the Parents request a Governors' Review, the student will be suspended from school until the review procedure has been completed. While suspended, the student shall remain away from school and will have no right to enter school premises during that time without written permission from the High Mistress.

- 7.17 **Complaints procedure:** A complaint as described in clause 4.2 which does not involve an Expulsion or Requirement to leave must be made in accordance with the school's published Complaints policy, a copy of which is available on the school website or on request from the school office. Every reasonable complaint shall receive fair and proper consideration and a timely response.

## **8 Provisions about Notice**

- 8.1 **Term:** means the period between and including the first and last days of the relevant school term.

- 8.2 **Notice:** means (unless the contrary is stated in these terms and conditions) a Term's Written Notice given by:

8.2.1 both Parents; or

8.2.2 one of the Parents with the prior written consent of the other Parent; and

8.2.3 in either case the prior written consent of any other person with Parental Responsibility where appropriate

before the first day of Term addressed to and received by the High Mistress personally or the Bursar on the High Mistress's behalf. It is expected that the Parents will consult with the High Mistress before giving Notice to withdraw the student. The Parents should contact the school if no acknowledgement of the Notice is received from the school within seven days of the date of the Notice.

- 8.3 **Cancel or Cancellation:** means the cancellation of a place at the school which has been accepted by the Parents and which occurs before the Student enters the school or where the student does not enter the school. Please see clause 3.1 for details of when Entry to the school occurs.

- 8.4 **Withdraw or Withdrawal:** means the withdrawal of the student from the school by the Parents or the student with or without notice required under these terms and conditions at any time after the student has entered the school. Please see clause 3.1 for details of when Entry to the school occurs.

- 8.5 **Cancellation rights:** If the offer of a place and its acceptance are both made entirely at distance by means of post, fax or electronic communication without either of the Parents meeting face to face with a member of the school staff between offer and acceptance, the Parents have the right to cancel this contract at any time within 14 days of the day after We receive Your completed and signed Acceptance Form. In such circumstances the Acceptance Deposit and the Additional Deposit (if paid) will be refunded together with any Fees paid pro-rated if the school has provided any educational services under this contract. Notice of cancellation should be given in writing to Admissions within the 14 day period.

- 8.6 **Fees in lieu of Notice:** means Fees in full at the rate applicable for the next Term following termination by the Parents on less than one full Term's Notice, or the student is excluded for more than 28 days for non-payment of Fees as set out in clause 9.6. Fees in Lieu of Notice is not limited to the parental contribution in the case of a scholarship, exhibition, bursary or other award or concession. The Parents acknowledge that the requirement to pay one Term's Fees in lieu of Notice is necessary to promote financial stability at the school and to enable it to plan its staffing and other resources.

- 8.7 **A Term's Written Notice:** means Notice given before the first day of a Term and expiring at the end of that Term.

- 8.8 **Termination by the Parents:** Except when the student is to leave at the end of Year 13 or clause 8.10 below applies, if the Parents wish to Withdraw the student or Cancel and terminate this contract at any time or after the expiry of

the 14 day cancellation period described in clause 8.5 above, if applicable, they shall do so either by:

8.8.1 providing at least one Term's Written Notice. If the Parents Cancel by providing at least one Term's Written Notice the school shall retain the Acceptance Deposit; or

8.8.2 paying one Term's Fees in lieu of Notice.

The school reserves the right to offset the Additional Deposit (if paid) against the Term's Fees in lieu of Notice.

8.9 **Other Notice requirements:** The requirements in clause 8.8 shall also apply if following the GCSE year or Year 12, the student will not return for the following year even if they have achieved the required grades.

8.10 **Cancelling a place offered in the Term before Entry:** Except for where clause 8.5 applies, if the offer of a place is made within a Term of Entry, the Parents may Cancel and terminate this contract by notifying the school in writing at any time before Entry but they shall pay one Term's Fees at the rate payable for the Term of Entry, less the Acceptance Deposit, payable as a debt. The school reserves the right to offset the Additional Deposit (if paid) against the Term's Fees.

8.11 **Prior consultation:** It is expected that the Parents, or duly authorised education guardian, will consult personally with the High Mistress or with the High Mistress's authorised deputy before Notice is given by the Parents.

8.12 **Discontinuing extra subjects:** With the exception of music lessons, a Term's Written Notice is required to discontinue extra subjects or a Term's Fees for the extra subject will be immediately payable. In the case of music lessons only, written notice of discontinuance or alteration that is received by the Director of Music before the start of half term to stop at the end of the term will be deemed to satisfy this condition.

8.13 **Termination by the school:** The school may terminate this contract:

8.13.1 on one full Term's notice in writing sent by ordinary post. The school will not terminate this contract without good cause and full consultation with the Parents and also the student (if of sufficient maturity and understanding). The Acceptance Deposit and the Additional Deposit, if paid, will be refunded without interest, less any outstanding balance of Fees; or

8.13.2 on reasonable notice if, in the professional opinion of the High Mistress, the school is unable to provide all or a significant proportion of the educational services to the student; or

8.13.3 immediately where the student does not have the appropriate immigration permission to live in the United Kingdom and to study at the school or, in the case of a student who holds a Child Student visa on the basis of sponsorship by the school, where the Parents have arranged accommodation for the student which does not meet the requirements of the Child Student Immigration Rules; or

8.13.4 immediately where, after seven days from the school requesting that they do so, the Parents have not made arrangements which the school considers are suitable with an education guardian or accommodation provider.

## 9 Fees

9.1 **Fees:** may include alone or in combination any of the Registration Fee, the Acceptance

Deposit, the Additional Deposit, tuition fees, fees for extra subjects, other extras such as clothing and equipment, photographs or other items ordered by the Parents or the student or charges arising in respect of educational visits, or damage where the student alone or with others has caused willful loss or damage to school property or the property of any other person (fair wear and tear excluded), or bank charges arising from default in Fees payment or late payment charges if incurred.

- 9.2 **Payment of Fees:** The Parents jointly and severally agree to pay the Fees applicable to each Term directly to the school. Fees for each Term are due and payable as cleared funds before the commencement of the school Term to which they relate. If an item on the Fees invoice is under query, the balance of the Fees invoice must be paid. The school reserves the right to refuse a payment if it is not satisfied as to the identity of the payer or the source of the funds
- 9.3 **Payment of Fees by a third party:** An agreement with a third party 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.
- 9.4 **Indemnity:** If the school is required to pay all or part of any sum received from a third-party credit provider on behalf of the Parents, the Parents shall indemnify the school against all losses, expenses (including legal expenses) and interest suffered or incurred by the school.
- 9.5 **Refund or waiver:** Save where there is a legal liability including liability under a court order or under the provisions of this contract to make a refund or reduction, Fees will not be reduced, refunded or waived if:
- 9.5.1 the student is absent through illness; or
  - 9.5.2 a Term is shortened, or a vacation extended; or
  - 9.5.3 the student is released home before or after public examinations or otherwise before the normal end of a Term; or
  - 9.5.4 the school is temporarily closed due to adverse weather conditions or other safety related reasons; or
  - 9.5.5 for any reason other than exceptionally and at the sole discretion of the High Mistress in a case of genuine hardship.

See also Section 10 for information about events beyond the control of the parties.

- 9.6 **Exclusion for non-payment:** The school may exclude the student by providing written notice if at any time Fees are overdue for payment or if the Parents fail to provide information reasonably requested by the school about the identity of the payer of any Fees or the source of the funds. If the student is excluded for a period of 28 days, they will be deemed withdrawn without Notice and a Term's Fees in lieu of Notice will be payable in accordance with Section 8. Exclusion in these circumstances is not a disciplinary matter and there is no right to a Governors' Review. The school may withhold any information, character references or property while Fees remain overdue where it is lawful to do so.
- 9.7 **Late payment:** Save where alternative provisions for the payment of interest are contained in a separate consumer credit agreement made between the Parents and the school, simple interest may be charged on a day-to-day basis on Fees which are unpaid. The rate of interest charged will be at up to 3% per annum above the base rate of the school's bank accruing on a daily basis. The Parents shall also be liable to pay all costs, fees, disbursements and charges including legal fees and costs reasonably incurred by the school in the recovery of any unpaid fees regardless of the value of the

school's claim.

- 9.8 **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 may be applied to any unpaid balance of Fees at set out in clause 9.7.
- 9.9 **Appropriation:** Payments will usually be allocated by the school to the earliest balance on the Fees account. The Parents agree that a payment made in respect of one child may be appropriated by the school to the unpaid account of any other child of the Parents.
- 9.10 **Instalment arrangements:** An agreement by the school to accept payment of current and / or past and /or future Fees by instalments is concessionary and will be subject to separate agreement[s] between the Parents and the school. Where there are inconsistencies between these terms and conditions and those of any instalment agreement or invoice issued by the school to the Parents (as applicable), the terms and conditions of the instalment agreement or the invoice shall prevail.
- 9.11 **Scholarships and bursaries:** Every scholarship, exhibition, bursary or other award or concession is a discretionary privilege, subject to high standards of attendance, diligence and behaviour on the student's part and to the Parents treating the school and its staff reasonably. The terms on which such awards are offered and accepted will be notified to the Parents at the time of offer. Any value attached to a scholarship shall be deducted from Fees before any bursary or other concession is calculated or assessed. A copy of the school's Bursary Conditions of Award can be found on the school website or is available from the school on written request.
- 9.12 **Fees increases:** Fees are reviewed annually and are subject to increase from time to time. If the Parents receive less than a Term's notice of a Fees increase they may give to the school written Notice of Withdrawal of the student within 21 days and will not be liable to pay Fees in lieu of Notice and the Acceptance Deposit and Additional Deposit, if paid, will be refunded without interest, less any sums owing to the school.
- 9.13 **Information about Fees:** The Parents acknowledge that the school may make enquiries of the student's previous schools for confirmation that all sums due and owing to such schools have been paid. The Parents also acknowledge that the school may inform any other school or educational establishment to which the student is to be transferred if any Fees of this school are unpaid.
- 9.14 **Identity of Fees payer:** From time to time the school may need to obtain satisfactory evidence of the identity of a person who is paying Fees, such as sight of a passport.

## 10 Events beyond the control of the parties

- 10.1 **Force majeure:** An event beyond the reasonable control of the school or the Parents is a **Force Majeure Event** and shall include such events as:

- 10.1.1 fire, an act of God, flood, drought, earthquake or other natural disaster;
- 10.1.2 war, riot, civil commotion/unrest, act of terrorism, strikes, industrial disputes;
- 10.1.3 pandemic or epidemic of any disease (subject to clause 10.2);
- 10.1.4 failure of utility service or transportation.

Provided always that the inability of either party to pay any amount required under this contract shall not be a Force Majeure Event.

- 10.2 **Reasonable modifications:** Any reasonable modifications to the educational provision made by the school in order to meet legal obligations, comply with government

guidance and to protect the health safety and well-being of staff or students, including during or following a Force Majeure Event, shall not affect the obligation of the Parents to pay the Fees in accordance with this contract.

- 10.3 **Notification:** If either the school or the Parents is prevented from or delayed in carrying out its contractual obligations by a Force Majeure Event, that party (Affected Party) shall as soon as reasonably practicable notify the other in writing and shall be excused from performing those obligations while the Force Majeure Event continues.
- 10.4 **Continued force majeure:** The Affected Party shall use all reasonable endeavors to mitigate the effect of the Force Majeure Event on the performance of its obligations. If a Force Majeure Event continues for a period greater than 90 days from the date of notification, the Affected Party shall notify the other of the steps to be taken to ensure performance of its contractual obligations.
- 10.5 **Termination:** If the Force Majeure Event continues for a total period greater than 120 days from the date of notification, the party in receipt of notification under clause 10.4 may terminate this contract by providing at least three working days' notice in writing to the other party.

## 11 General contractual matters

- 11.1 **Variations:** these terms and conditions, the Conditions of Award (if applicable) and the Fees List are subject to change to reflect changes in the law or in custom and practice at the school.
- 11.2 **Data protection:** The school has a privacy notice and a student summary privacy notice (*How we use your information*) which explain how the school will use the Parent's and the student's personal data. These privacy notices are provided with the letter of offer and are also published on the school's website. The Parents must read these privacy notices in full before signing the Acceptance Form. The Parents must show the student a copy of the student summary privacy notice and discuss it with **them** before accepting the offer of a place.
- 11.3 **Change:** The school, as any other, is likely to undergo a number of changes during the period of this contract. 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 procedures, 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 contract may be freely assigned to another party at the discretion of the school.
- 11.4 **Consumer rights:** Care has been taken to use plain language and to give clear explanations in these terms and conditions. If any words alone or in combination infringe consumer rights laws 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. Nothing in these terms and conditions affects the Parents' statutory rights.
- 11.5 **Consultation:** It is not practicable to consult with the Parents and the student over every change that may take place. Whenever practicable, the school will use reasonable endeavours to ensure that the Parents will be consulted and provided with reasons for the changes and where possible given a Term's notice in writing of:
- 11.5.1 a change of ethos or culture; or
- 11.5.2 a change in any physical aspect of the school which would have a significant effect on the student's education or pastoral care; or
- 11.5.3 a change of ownership of the school,

where such changes are not temporary.

- 11.6 **Information for Parents:** We provide parents of prospective students with information about the school and the educational services we provide in good faith. This information may be contained in the school's website, promotional literature or in statements made by staff or students during a visit or an open day. If the Parents wish to take account of the information provided to them when deciding whether to enter into this contract they should seek specific confirmation from the Head of Admissions that the information is accurate before returning a completed Acceptance Form to the School.
- 11.7 **Third party rights:** Only the school and the Parents are parties to this contract. Neither the student nor any third party is a party to this contract and shall not have any rights to enforce any term of this contract.
- 11.8 **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.
- 11.9 **Severability:** If any provision or part-provision of this contract is or becomes invalid, illegal or unenforceable, it shall be deemed modified to the minimum extent necessary to make it valid, legal and enforceable. If such modification is not possible, the relevant provision or part-provision shall be deemed deleted. Any modification to or deletion of a provision or part-provision under this clause shall not affect the validity and enforceability of the rest of this contract.
- 11.10 **Jurisdiction:** This contract was made at the school and it, together with each matter relating to the provision of educational services by the school, is governed exclusively by the law of England and Wales and the parties submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Courts of England and Wales.

**St Paul's Girls' School: a Company Limited by Guarantee**

**Registered in England No: 06142007**

**Registered Office: St Paul's Girls' School, Brook Green, Hammersmith, London W6 7BS**

**Registered Charity No: 1119613**



### Summary of clauses containing financial consequences

Event	Clause
Offer of a place and acceptance deposit	3.3
Additional Deposit	3.4
Cancellation rights	8.5
Fees in lieu of Notice	8.6
Termination by the Parent	8.8
Other Notice requirements	8.9
Cancelling a place offered in the Term before Entry	8.10
Discontinuing extra subjects	8.12
Indemnity	9.4
Refund or waiver	9.5
Exclusion for non-payment	9.6
Late payment	9.7
Fees Increases	9.12