HAVANT FEDERATION
OF SCHOOLS
WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER EDUCATION

Dear Parent/Carer

The Havant Federation of Schools includes the secondary schools of Hayling, Warblington, Crookhorn, Oaklands, Cowplain, Horndean, Park, Havant Academy, Purbrook, Prospect School and The Key. As a group of schools, we work together closely, and we share good practice for the benefit of all the young people who live in the Havant Area. The Chairs of Governors and Headteachers from the Federation have devised joint statements to clarify their position with parents and carers about three key issues that schools increasingly encounter. All statements recognise that all schools want to work to develop respectful relationships which result in a happier and safer society. These statements have been created to make it clear to parents/carers how the schools will respond in such circumstances.

**Social media and the use of mobile phones**. The use of modern-day technology particularly using mobile phones and social networking means that we are more connected as a community than we have ever been before. This communication contributes to greater safety for our young people. As with all forms of technologies there are some drawbacks and disadvantages. As of September 2026, new statutory DfE guidance expects schools to establish a mobile-free-school day with parents directed to the individual school's policy for the arrangements and permitted exemptions.

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

The second statement outlines clearly the **expectations** that the schools have of a young person's behaviour and the systems that are in place to support respectful behaviours. There is a section that refers to our work with you as parents and how it is important to always be respectful if we are to work together for the benefit of the child and their education. In this statement the importance **of 95% and above attendance** is highlighted as being one that is a minimum for a child's education to not be unduly affected. The appendix gives further detail about attendance and the law.

The third statement refers to the increase in **vaping and in some cases the use of banned substances** by our young people, this is continually being highlighted in the national news. The long-term effects of vaping are under investigation by medical scientists. Vaping was intended for those people who wanted to give up smoking. This statement provides information and useful links to websites for parents to view.

We hope that these statements are useful and that the information makes it clear as to how schools will support the child as well as indicate to parents/carers how they can support their child at home and in the wider community. Experience indicates that when the school and home, work in partnership issues are resolved more quickly, usually with a successful outcome. Each school has a code of conduct that explains how the school, works with their stakeholders.

These statements set out the shared principles and expectations of the Havant Federation of Schools. Each school will implement these principles in accordance with its own published policies and

procedures.

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

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