



Fairhills High School 2023 Year 7 and 8 Handbook

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Information in this subject selection handbook is correct as of 29/11/2022.

INTRODUCTION

The Fairhills High School Year 7 and 8 Handbook has been developed to assist and inform all Year 7 and 8 students, parents/carers and staff. All the relevant policies, procedures and requirements specific to Year 7 and 8 are outlined within this handbook. Students and parents are asked to read and familiarise themselves with the contents of this handbook. The handbook and other essential information and forms are located on the Fairhills High School website https://fairhillshs.vic.edu.au/

At Fairhills High School, Year 7 and 8 is the beginning of students' high school journey.

Students who have success in Year 7 and 8 have the following learning dispositions:

- Hard working in all areas of school life
- Attend school well over 95% of the time
- Set and review meaningful pathway goals
- Ask for help and use available supports
- Seek and respond positively to feedback
- Create strong and respectful relations with others
- Maintain a positive, healthy school and life balance

More specific details regarding Year 7 and 8 programs, guidelines and practices will be available on the school website.

2023 TERM AND KEY DATES

Term 1: Monday 30 January – Thursday 6 April

• Monday 13 March – Labour Day

Term 2: Monday 24 April – Friday 23 June

- Tuesday 25 April Anzac Day
- Monday 12 June Queen's Birthday

Term 3: Monday 10 July – Friday 15 September

Term 4: Monday 2 October – Tuesday 20 December

• 7 November – Melbourne Cup Day

SCHOOL INFORMATION

The partnership between a school and home is essential in supporting students throughout their educational journey. Throughout the year there will be many opportunities to become involved. The school aims to have ongoing contact with home, and this is done primarily through Compass portal. **Principal - Mr Ian Van Schie**

Middle School Assistant Principal – Ms Silvana La Leggia

Oversees all school matters in the Middle School (Years 7 - 9

Year 7 and 8 Team Leader – Ms Sarah Power

The Team Leader at each year level should be the first contact for most matters relating to courses, student wellbeing, attendance, and conduct. A Team Leaders first and foremost priority is to support all students to have a positive approach to all areas of schooling life.

Inspiring Curriculum & Pedagogy Leader – Michelle Nickels

Oversees Middle School teacher practice, development and curriculum initiatives

Other Contacts

Year 7 and 8 "Thrive" subject teachers - are an important support for students and assist them with their learning and broader skill development.

Individual subject teachers can be contacted directly about student progress.

Student Wellbeing Team - offers counselling and support to students on a wide range of concerns.

To speak with any of these staff, contact the General Office on (03) 9758 5022.

YEAR 7 AND 8 COMPLETION

Year 7 and 8 is viewed as an important link for students moving to the middle school from primary school. We aim to provide students with a broad, flexible, and engaging curriculum that gives them an opportunity for choice in the development of their courses of study.

Year 7 and 8 students are expected to demonstrate satisfactory progress in their learning across the curriculum and in particular the key core subjects of English and Mathematics. In order to progress into Year 9 students, need to satisfactorily complete a suitable number of units (core and elective) over both semesters of Year 7 and 8. A pass in a minimum of 12 units out of the 16 taken (including both semesters of English and Mathematics) is required for an automatic move into the next year e.g. Year 7 into Year 8. Individual student learning progress throughout each semester will be reviewed and pathway planning will be provided to support students potentially not being able to meet these requirements.

COMPASS

Compass is the student learning and management system used by Fairhills High School at https://fairhillshs-vic.compass.education/

It is the key communication system the school uses to provide information to students and families. Parents/Carers need to ensure they:

- 1. are able to log in
- 2. provide current email details
- 3. log in at least once a week to check student timetable, notices, activities, attendance and assessment details
- 4. follow up with the appropriate school contact if there are any concerns/issues
- 5. refer to the school's IT Department for support with Compass technical issues or to check log in details
- 6. use the Compass system to provide consent and pay for events and school fees

MATERIALS & LAPTOP DEVICES

The required learning materials are on the booklist (see link below) and it is essential that students take their textbooks and materials to every class as required.

https://fairhillshs.vic.edu.au/enrolment/booklists/

Students are required to bring their laptops to classes as required by their subject teachers. Students must make sure their laptops are fully charged and in good working order each day. Students experiencing technical difficulties with their school laptops need to promptly report the matter to the school's Technical Support Team at itsupport@fairhillshs.vic.edu.au

BEHAVIOURIAL EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to conform to the behavioural expectations set out in the Fairhills High School Student Management Plan. Our school values of Acting responsibly, Building relationships and Showing respect (ABS) form the focus of expectations related to student behaviour, and all Year 7 and 8 students are expected to consistently demonstrate these values in their involvement with all members of the school community.

Fairhills High School is fully committed to the School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) framework that brings together school communities to develop positive, safe, supportive learning cultures. As a SWPBS School we will implement the essential features of this approach to allow teachers and students more time to focus on relationships and classroom instruction.

MOBILE PHONES

The Mobile Phone policy clearly outline the process and expectations. Mobile phones brought to school are to be switched off and remain in lockers during the whole school day, including recess and lunchtime. Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school are required to securely store them in their lockers during school hours. Confiscation of a mobile phone seen in a student's possession will initially occur, with further consequences (including suspension) for refusal or repeated failure to follow the mobile phone policy.

When urgent contact is necessary, parents/carers are able to reach their child by calling the General Office any time during the school day.

ATTENDANCE/ABSENCE

100% attendance is compulsory for all students (unless an exemption has been granted). Daily attendance is important for all students to succeed in education and to ensure they do not fall behind both socially and developmentally.

Parents/Carers must ensure that their child attends school at all times when the school is open for instruction.

For absences where there is no exemption in place, the parent/carer must promptly provide an explanation on each occasion to the school. The Principal will determine if the explanation provided is a reasonable excuse under the Education and Training Reform Act 2006 (Vic).

The school is required to record attendance in every class and must record, in writing, the reason given for each absence. This is necessary so that the school can meet legislative requirements, meet its duty of care to students and meet the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) requirements. Students whose attendance is unsatisfactory may find that they are ineligible to pass the subject.

Students who fall below 90% attendance may be required to attend an attendance re-engagement meeting with their Team Leader and/or Assistant Principal.

PUNCTUALITY

Punctuality to each class is very important. Students are expected to arrive on time to each class with their necessary materials and laptop. Those who arrive late will be marked as late on the roll. Parents/carers are able to view their child's attendance and punctuality on Compass. Excessive lateness will be regarded as an absence and will impact on their unapproved absence rate.

BELL TIMES

Two different bell times run during the week:

- Monday, Wednesday and Friday
- Tuesday and Thursday (includes House Group)

Monday, Wednesday & Friday	Times
Period 1	8:40am-9:39am
Period 2	9:39am-10:38am
Recess	10:38am-10:58am (20 mins)
Period 3	10:58am-11:57pm
Period 4	11:57am-12:56pm
Lunch	12:56pm-1:36pm (40 mins)
Period 5	1:36pm-2:35pm

Tuesday & Thursday	Times
Period 1	8:40am-9:39am
Period 2	9:39am-10:38am
Recess	10:38am-10:58am (20 mins)
Period 3	10:58am-11:57pm
Period 4	11:57am-12:56pm
Lunch	12:56pm-1:36pm (40 mins)
House Group	1:36pm-1:49pm
Period 5	1:49pm-2:48pm

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HOMEWORK

The School requests that parents/carers monitor and encourage their children to complete regular homework and study. Parents/carers are asked to assist in establishing a suitable environment for study and conditions conducive to completing homework. This is essential for all students in order to complete set tasks given by teachers, as well as catch up on incomplete or missed work. At the Year 7 and 8 level completing all work and consistent study (including revision) is a key to the successful completing CATs.

Students who complete homework to a high standard in Year 7 and 8 are better prepared for the rigours and workload demands of Year 9 and can expect to spend between 1 to 2 hours of homework Monday-Thursday, and further study on weekends during key assessment periods.

Students should also complete independent study in preparation for Common Assessment Tasks (CATs)

It is essential that students create positive homework and study habits. These include:

- Removing all distractions e.g. mobile phones/TVs
- Studying in chunks of 25 minutes
- Use of a study timetable

ASSESSMENT

Common Assessment Tasks (CATs) are specific tasks which assess a student's level of understanding and achievement for a particular topic/unit of work based on the requirements of each subject. All Year 7 and 8 subjects are aligned with the Victorian Curriculum and three or four CATs will form the basis of assessment for each subject. At the start of each unit teachers will provide students with a course outline which includes assessment dates and conditions for each task. CAT dates and results will be recorded on Compass within the subject's learning tasks.

To achieve a Satisfactory (S) outcome for each CAT the student must:

- Produce work that meets the required standard
- Submit work on time
- Submit work that is clearly the student's own work

A student may receive a Non-Satisfactory (N) completion for a CAT if:

- Work is not of the required standard
- The student has failed to meet a school deadline for the assessment task, including where an extension of time has been granted for any reason, including special provision
- Work cannot be authenticated
- There has been a substantive breach of rules including school attendance requirements.

A student must achieve a result of 50% or above on a CAT to receive an S for a given area of work in all subjects.

REPORTING

The school strongly encourages parents/carers to access Compass at least once a week to monitor their student's progress. Compass provides results of assessment and learning tasks throughout the semester, as well as attendance data. If a parent/carer has any concerns they should contact the subject teacher or Year 7 and 8 Team Leader immediately.

Subject reports will be made available electronically via Compass for each student at the end of each semester.

Students are assessed in each subject against the Victorian Curriculum. Students will be awarded a Satisfactory (S) or Non-satisfactory (N) overall result in each Year 7&8 subject based on their successful completion of the CATs over the course of the semester. The number of successfully completed subject units will form the basis of the discussion during pathway and promotion interviews.

CAT BREACHES

A "breach" is any infringement that gives a student an unfair or unreasonable advantage in terms of assessment. If there is an alleged breach of a CAT a Year 7&8 panel will be created to investigate it.

A Year 7 and 8 panel consists of:

- A member of the Principal Team
- Year 7 and 8 Team Leader
- Subject Teacher
- A parent may be involved (but not in an advocate role)

A Year 7 and 8 panel has the power to impose the following consequences:

- Award the CAT an N
- The student to re-sit the task or complete a redemption task to receive an S
- If it is a second offence, (in any subject), the student will fail the subject

Breaches, (not an exhaustive list), which will result in disciplinary action are:

- Plagiarism
- Unauthorised use of technology
- Communicating with others
- Other breaches specified by the Middle School Leader

ABSENCE FROM A CAT

Students may not miss a CAT assessment session (including an exam) without approval. Approved absences may be granted for:

- An illness explained by a medical certificate
- An official school excursion
- An official sporting event
- Exceptional personal circumstances. Approval for these is given at the discretion of a Year 7&8 Team Leader.

If a student is absent for a CAT or exam they must:

- 1. Provide a medical certificate by handing it into the General Office within three working days of the assessment session
- 2. Complete the CAT/exam at a suitable time negotiated with the subject teacher.

A student will receive an unsatisfactory grade for the CAT if the above conditions are not met.

REDEMPTION PROCESS

If work submitted by a student for the assessment of a CAT does not meet the required standard for satisfactory outcome, ie. below 50%) the teacher/s of the subject will select a consistent approach from the following options:

- 1. Course work confirmation The student can demonstrate an understanding of the outcome through completion of specified classwork and homework.
- 2. Student teacher conference A student can verbally explain knowledge of the area. The teacher will also ask questions related to the area.
- 3. Identical or equivalent CAT A teacher may require a student to re-sit a CAT or complete a similar CAT. The re-sit will be completed in a prompt manner. The teacher must make a time available to assist the student in preparing for the redemption of a CAT.

Students have a maximum of two weeks to redeem after being informed of their score on the original CAT. In exceptional circumstances an extension may be approved by the Middle School Assistant Principal.

AUTHENTICATION

It is the responsibility of each student to ensure that there are no difficulties in authenticating their work. It is important that students keep drafts and preparatory work that leads into the completion of a CAT as required. Teachers must monitor and record each student's development of an Assessment Task, from planning to drafting, through to completion. The process of monitoring the development of a CAT requires the teacher to regularly sight the work and record the progression. The process of authentication will differ from subject to subject, and from task to task.

CHANGE OF SUBJECTS

A change of subject should not be taken lightly. Students must speak to their Year 7 and 8 Team Leader about possible elective changes. The student will be required to complete the change of subject form which must be signed by:

- 1. The student
- 2. Year 7 and 8 Team Leader
- 3. Parent/carer

No subject changes can be made unless the form is completed and signed by all the required people.

CURRICULUM

In the Middle School years, a core curriculum is studied to ensure steady progress towards VCE subjects. The Years 7 and 8 common curriculum is structured to enable students to experience a wide range of subjects, with a focus on the eight Victorian Curriculum Learning Areas:

- The Arts (Arts and Design, Drama and Music)
- English
- Health and Physical Education
- Humanities
- Language (Japanese)
- Mathematics
- Science
- Technologies (Digital Technology)

THRIVE program

To support our students to achieve their full potential the THRIVE program has been developed..

The THRIVE acronym is the beginning letter of a disposition that students need to develop for ongoing success in their teen and adult life.

Teenagers who THRIVE are: Happy, Resilient, Inquisitive, Valiant and Empowered.

The definition of THRIVE is to:

- Grow vigorously flourish
- To gain in wealth or possession prosper
- To progress toward or realise a goal despite or because of circumstances

UNIFORM

The wearing of the school uniform is compulsory for all students and students are required to comply with the Fairhills High School Uniform Dress Code.

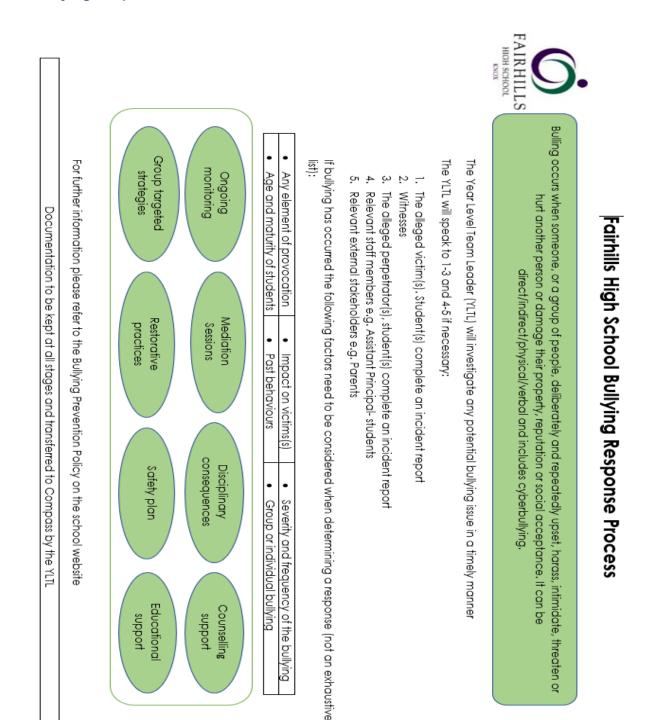
Students are required to wear their uniform neatly, respectably and correctly at all times including to and from the school and on all school excursions. The Fairhills High School uniform infringement process will apply to students who are out of uniform.

BULLYING PREVENTION

Fairhills High School is committed to providing a safe and respectful learning environment where bullying will not be tolerated. The School's aim is to empower all students to be an Upstander. Fairhills High School has a very clear response to allegations of bullying using the Fairhills High School bullying response process.

APPENDICES – POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Bullying Response Process



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Fairhills High School Uniform Infringement Process

1. First Infringement

- Students warned and reminded of student dress code
- Warning entered on Compass
- Parents informed via a Uniform Level 1 email/notification infringement notice

2. Second Infringement

- Student issued lunch-time detention
- Parents informed via a Uniform Level 2 email/notification infringement notice
- If a student does not attend the lunch-time detention it will be escalated automatically to the next Level

Third Infringement

- Thursday after school detention issued
- Parents informed via a Uniform Level 3 email/notification infringement notice
- If a student does not attend the after-school detention it will be escalated automatically to the next level

Fourth Infringement

- Sub-school Leader (MSL/SSL)/Team leader (TL) to phone home to discuss uniform concerns
- Record on Compass

5. Fifth Infringement

- One day internal suspension issued by the Sub-School Leader /TL Learning provided by teachers
- Parents informed via a Uniform Level 5 email/notification infringement notice

6. Sixth Infringement

A Parent meeting/conversation with the Principal

The appropriate presentation of a parent note to the Team Leader (TL) at the start of the day and the issue of a uniform pass will ensure that a student does not receive an infringement

The note should explain:

- The reason for the uniform issue
- When it will be fixed (no longer than five working days).
- If there is financial hardship the school can assist.
- Anything else deemed important

The note is not for infringements like facial piercings or hair colouring but for shoes, jackets and other like clothing. The student needs to show the communication to the TL at the beginning of the day, who will give the student an "out of uniform authorisation pass."

Inspiring and empowering members of our school community to achieve their full potential in an inclusive and supportive environment

Uniform Infringement Process



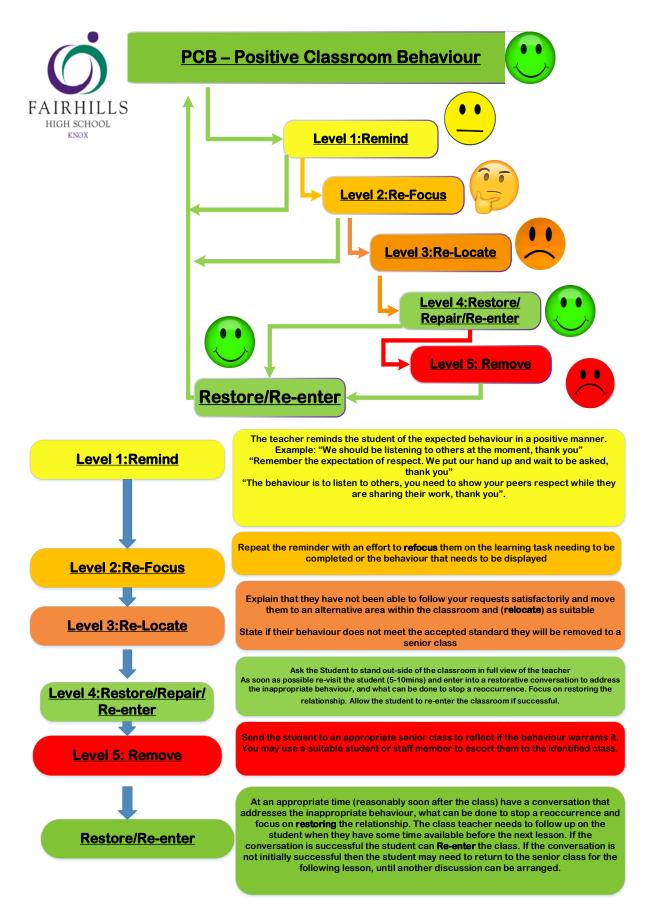
Student Management Plan

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3 Persistent medium level or high level	2 Persistent Iow level or medium	1 Low level	+	Infringement level	FAIRHILLS
 Not an exhaustive list Bullying Dangerous/violent behaviour Destruction of property Refusal to follow instructions Swearing towards a person 	 Not an exhaustive list Distracting others from learning Initial refusal to follow instructions Swearing- not towards a person Refusal to complete coursework Truant 	Not an exhaustive list Incomplete coursework Minor class disruptions Talking in class without permission Uniform Use of mobile phones	Not an exhaustive list Act Responsibly can be demonstrated by: Develop high expectations Lead by example Follow school rules Build Relationships can be demonstrated by: Be reliable & trustworthy Show integrity Show integrity Look after yourself, others and the school Use appropriate tone and language Develop a safe & caring environment	School Values (ABS)	Fairhills
TL MSL/SSL AP-Students Principal	Classroom teacher Teacher on duty	Classroom teacher All staff members	All staff members	Responsibility	s High Sch
 Implementation of strategies in line with the Department of Education's & FHS policies & procedures. Counselling Educational support Individual Education Plan/Safety & Behavioural Plan Referral/notification External Agencies/IRIS Alerts Suspension (internal & external) 	 Implementation of school policies & procedure e.g. Mobile phones Implementation of classroom agreement and management strategies Other strategies/actions suggested by the TL 	 Implementation of school policies & procedure e.g. Mobile phones Implementation of classroom agreement and PCB management strategies Other strategies/actions suggested by the TL 	Not an exhaustive list Verbal praise Compass award Communicate with Year Level Team Leader (TL) Communication with home Nomination(s) for the Awards night Leadership application Excellent school report	Actions and Strategies	Fairhills High School Student Management Plan
Compass TL (Parents) MSL/SSL (Parents) AP-Students (External Reporting) Principal (External reporting)	Compass Classroom Teacher TL	Compass Classroom Teacher Staff member	Compass Staff member who recognised the positive behaviour.	Reporting	

"Inspiring and empowering members of our school community to achieve their full potential in an inclusive and supportive environment."

Positive Classroom Behaviour Model



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Attendance Process

Inspiring nment.

ng and empowering mem	bers of our school community to achieve their full potential in an inclusive and supportive environ										
Fa	airhills High School – Attendance process										
STAGE 1	All staff communication										
	Clearly communicate high expectations around attendance										
> = 90%	 All staff promote message that 'every day counts' 										
class schl %	Accurately mark rolls through Compass Mativate students to attend through experience learning and strong relationships										
	 Motivate students to attend through engaging learning and strong relationships Reward and incentivise regular attendees with SWPB points 										
STAGE 2	Reward and incentivise regular attendees with SWPB points Teacher communication										
STAGE 2	 Teachers to speak to any student below 90% for class schl % 										
Del											
below 90% class schl %	Refer to Team Leader if required.										
class schi %											
STAGE 3	Team Leader communication										
UTROL U	• Team Leader to communicate with parents/carers attendance concerns, expectations										
below 85%	and attendance process.										
class schl %	 Parent/carer may wish to communicate further with the Team Leader to discuss 										
	possible support/concerns.										
STAGE 4	Attendance Strategies Meeting (ASM)										
	Team Leader/sub-school leader to communicate with parent/carer and set-up an										
	Attendance Strategies Meeting (ASM)										
	The ASM main aim is to set student-led SMART goals via an Attendance Strategies										
	Plan (ASP).										
	 A follow up ASM (6-8 weeks) may be required for ongoing support. 										
	If all goals on the ASP are achieved the student may										
	receive a satisfactory attendance result.										
STAGE 5	Unsatisfactory due to attendance communication										
	• The Team Leader informs the student and teacher(s) that an 'unsatisfactory due to										
	attendance' will be placed on their report. The student is expected to continue to										
	attend and complete the required learning to the expected level.										
	 The sub-school leader will inform the parent/carer via an emailed letter. 										
	The school will continue to support the student to attend and include:										
	Ongoing contact home by Attendance officer Eurther ASM										
	For chronic absenteeism										
	 Referral to the School Attendance Officer at the Department of Education 										
	Referral to Navigator program										
	 Police welfare check if the parent/carer is not responding. 										
STAGE 6	Appeal										
	A parent may wish to appeal the decision within 14 days by writing a letter to the Principal										
Appeal	outlining the reason(s) e.g. exceptional circumstances. The Principal may set up an appeal										
only if attendance	panel to investigate the information provided.										
is above 75%	Possible Outcomes										
	Anneal not exceeded Anneal exceeded										
	Appeal not successful Appeal successful										

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Student will receive an N on their report for attendance and is expected to continue to

attend to support their learning.

Student may meet attendance

unsatisfactory.

requirements. Conditions may be imposed.

Any breaches may result in an attendance

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			Show Respect		C		Kelationships	Build				Act Responsibly		School Values
Think carefully & communicate with kindness	We give others space and allow them to learn	We share school resources and use them correctly	We listen to and include others	Use the appropriate language & tone	Be an Upstander	Be kind to others	Be inclusive of all	Be friendly and helpful	Seek and give help	Be prepared and punctual	Use spaces and equipment for the intended purposes	Follow the rules and agreements of all spaces	Move, work and interact safety	At all times
		Place litter in bins	Look after displays	Use appropriate language				Look after your own and others' property		Put rubbish in bins	Walk in hallways	Line up quietly	Keep noise to a minimum	Hallways /Foyers
Follow entry and exit routines	Follow teacher instructions	Raise your hand for questions and responses	Use appropriate language & tone	Actively listen to others	Trust and support your teacher	Look after each other	Be encouraging of all	Work together positively	Follow entry and exit routines	Strive to do your best work	Engage in learning activities	Be punctual	Bring correct equipment	Learning Spaces Classroom
	Be mindful of personal space	Be calm and respect others	Use polite language	Be kind to others		Welcome visitors to the school	Be supportive of others	Use your manners and be courteous			Label all belongings	Line up and wait quietly to be helped	Behave in a manner that is safe for all	Admin/ Office
Keep area clean by using the correct bins	Wait your turn	Give others privacy	Use for toilet purposes only	Leave the seat clean and flush the toilet		Look out for younger students	Be friendly	Meet your friends in the yard		Return to class promptly	Follow correct hygiene procedures	Use toilets for their intended purpose	Let staff know of concerning behaviours	Toilets
	Take care of your devices	Use your device for its intended use	Only use devices when instructed to	Think before you publish or respond	Keep physical contact to a socially acceptable level	Use digital spaces to share understanding	Use social media for positive communication	Be aware of how your behaviour impacts on others	use them to enhance your learning	Be careful about what digital spaces you use	Leave your phone in your locker switched off	Post things within the law	Think before you post	On-line and Digital
Use outdoor furniture for sitting and eating	Use designated pathway and stains	Respect the garden beds	Use friendly positive language	Place litter in appropriate bin		Maintain personal space	Check in on someone if they appear upset	Follow teacher instructions	Contribute to a clean and tidy environment	Share the spaces	Play ball games on designated courts	Play 4-square in C- block & A -block courtyards	Stay within designated areas	Yard Duty Areas
	Treat wellbeing area with confidentiality – keep information private	Respect people's privacy	Follow instructions	Speak in a quiet, calm tone	Take opportunities to connect with others	Include and accept others	Make others feel safe	Use positive language			Maintain a quiet and safe space	Be open to receiving support	Speak to a trusted adult at school	Wellbeing Centre
	Respect umpiring decisions	Use appropriate language	Listen to instructions	Follow the gym rules		Show Sportsmanship	Share equipment with each other	Encourage each other			Use equipment safely and for the desired purpose	Take care of borrowed equipment	Wear the correct PE uniform	Gym
	Speak respectfully to staff and students	Give others personal space	Finish lunch before class	Say please and thank you			Only eat your own food	Help other students when they ask for help		Put waste into the correct bin	Queue and Travel in the correct direction	Maintain social distance	Calmly wait your turn	Canteen/

School Values FAIR HILLS

Lockers

Out in the Community

Finish up before end of music

Wear your uniform proubly

Keep locker areas free from mess

Be an Upstander

Keep your locker code private

Follow all instructions

Place your timetable visibly in your locker

Be a positive ambassador for the school

FAIRHILLS HIGH SCHOOL POSITIVE

BEHAVIOUR EXPECTATIONS

School Wide Positive Behaviour Matrix

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Speak politely in the shared space

Be aware of how your behaviours may impact others Smile at others

Smile & greet your locker neighbours Speak to your Team Leader with concerns

Take turns to access the locker space Keep your locker neat and organised Only touch and Unly touch and lock and locker

Use positive language and a calm tone Wear the school uniform correctly

Care for the environment & and put rubbish in bins

Be thankful – express your gratitude

Represent the school with pride