



Parent Contract

2023



SUTTON VALENCE SCHOOL

Sutton Valence Senior School

Sutton Valence Preparatory School

Terms and Conditions

What these terms cover

These are the terms and conditions on which we provide educational services.

Why you should read them

Please read these terms carefully before you accept our offer of a place at the School for your child. These terms tell you who we are and how and on what basis the School will provide educational services.

In these terms you will see some parts written in bold, or that are otherwise highlighted to make them stand out. This is in an effort to draw certain provisions to your specific attention because they are important to the good management and operation of the School and our provision of educational services.

If you think there is a mistake in these terms, or if anything in these terms is unclear or you would like to have further explained to you, then please contact the Bursar to discuss.

1. Definitions

(a) *Meanings of some words and phrases we use in these terms and conditions*

In these terms and conditions some words and phrases have particular meanings and it is helpful to ensure certainty and consistency to have them defined. Such defined terms are set out below and when used in these terms and conditions they shall have the meaning given to them here. Please take note of them.

"Acceptance Form" means the form provided by the School for parents to complete when accepting a place for their child at the School;

"child" means a child of whatever age admitted by the School to be educated, and includes any pupil aged 18 or over;

"Complaints Procedure" means the School's procedure for handling complaints from parents, as amended from time to time for legal or other substantive reasons, or in order to assist the proper administration of the School. It does not form part of the contract between you and the School. A copy of the most up-to-date procedure is on the School's website and is otherwise available from the School at any time upon request;

"**contract**" has the meaning given in Clause 1(c) below;

"**deposit**" means the amount set out and referred to as the deposit in the Acceptance Form (and that is separately set out in the Schedule of Fees);

"**fees**" means the termly fees set out in the Schedule of Fees;

"**FIA Terms and Conditions**" means the supplemental terms and conditions relating to the School's fees in advance scheme;

"**Head**" or "**Headmaster**" means, as applicable, the person appointed by the Governors of the School from time-to-time to be responsible for (or to share in the responsibility for) the day-to-day running of the School, including anyone to whom such duties have been delegated. The term "**Headmaster**" is used to refer to the person appointed to this role at the Senior School. The term "**Head**" is used to refer to the person appointed to this role at the Preparatory and Pre-Preparatory School;

"**Schedule of Fees**" means the published note of the School's prevailing fees notified to you from time to time and a copy of which remains available on the School's website and from the School at any time upon request;

"**School Rules**" means the rules, policies and procedures of the School as may be amended from time to time for legal, safety or other substantive reasons, or in order to assist the proper administration of the School. A copy of the then current version of the rules, including as set out in *Guidelines for Life at Sutton Valence School*, is provided to each child on entry and is sent to parents with the Acceptance Form. Parents will be given notice of subsequent changes to the rules;

"**term**" means a term of the School as notified to parents from time to time;

"**a term's notice**" means **written** notice given not later than the first day of the term preceding the term to which the notice relates¹;

"**terms and conditions**" means these terms and conditions as may be amended from time to time for legal, safety or other substantive reasons, or in order to assist the proper administration of the School;

"**we**" or the "**School**" means the legal entity carrying on as the School as identified in Clause 1(b) below; and

"**you**" or the "**parents**" means each person who has signed the Acceptance Form as a parent of the child, or a person who with the School's express written consent replaces a person who has signed the Acceptance Form.

In these terms and conditions we sometimes provide illustrative examples to try and provide you with a better understanding and appreciation of what we are referring to. We do this by using the words "**for example**", "**includes**" or "**including**" and, because we do

¹ So if, for example, a term's notice is required to withdraw your child from an co-curricular activity with effect from the start of the *summer* term (which is the term to which the notice relates) then **a term's notice** means you need to tell us in writing about the withdrawal, at the latest, on the first day of the *spring* term immediately before.

not intend for the examples given to be exhaustive, when we do use these words it means that the examples that are given are not exclusive or limiting examples of the matter in question.

Also in these terms and conditions we use headings to introduce the separate provisions. These headings are for ease of understanding only.

(b) *Who we are*

We are United Westminster Schools Foundation trading as Sutton Valence School (including, as the context requires, the Pre-Preparatory School, Preparatory School, the Senior School), a registered charity in England and Wales with charity registration number 309267. Our registered office is at Alexandra House, 55a Catherine Place, London, SW1E 6DY.

(c) *Our contract with you*

The **Acceptance Form**, the **Schedule of Fees**, the **School Rules**, the **FIA Terms and Conditions** and these **terms and conditions** (as in each case may be varied from time to time) form the terms of an agreement (the "**contract**") between you and the School. It is not intended that the terms of the contract shall be enforceable by your child or by any other third party.

2. **Acceptance and Deposit**

(a) *How you accept our offer of a place*

An offer of a place for your child at the School is accepted by your submitting the completed Acceptance Form and paying the deposit.

(b) *The non-refundable status of the deposit*

The deposit is **not refundable** if your child does not take up a place at the School. The exception to this is where the School fills the vacancy created by your child's withdrawal, in which case the School shall refund the deposit to you less its costs in administering your dealings with the School or a reasonable estimate of those costs².

(c) *How we use the deposit*

The deposit will form part of the general funds of the School until it is credited without interest to the final payment of the fees or other sums due to the School on your child's leaving.

Please read this next section carefully - it deals with what you need to do if you wish to withdraw your acceptance of a place **before** your child joins the School and what happens if you withdraw at that stage.

The cancellation of a place which has been accepted can cause losses to the School, especially if it occurs after other families have taken their decisions about schooling for their children as it means we are less likely to fill the place. This is why we require the period of notice referred to here for a withdrawal, and why different consequences follow depending on whether we get that period of notice or not.

² You should be aware that in the event of a late withdrawal it is very unlikely that the School would be able to find a replacement.

3. **Withdrawing your Acceptance of a Place before your child joins the School**

(a) *The period of notice we require*

If you wish to withdraw your acceptance of a place **after** submitting the Acceptance Form and paying the deposit but **before** your child starts at the School you must give us written notice before the first day of the term immediately preceding the term in which your child was due to start.

This means that if, for example, your child is due to start at the School in September at the start of an academic year then you would need to tell us in writing that you wish to withdraw your acceptance of a place on or before the first day of the preceding summer term (ie, the final term of the previous academic year).

(b) *If we receive that period of notice*

If you provide that period of notice, you will lose the deposit (subject to repayment under Clause 2(b) above, if the resulting vacancy is filled by the School) but no further fees will be payable.

This means that the School will retain the deposit and not refund it to you unless and until the vacancy created by the withdrawal of your child has been filled (and, if it is to be refunded, then an amount will be deducted from the deposit to cover the School's costs in administering your dealings with the School or a reasonable estimate of those costs). In any event, in such circumstances you are not required to pay any further fees or other amounts to the School.

(c) *If we do not receive that period of notice*

If you do not provide us with notice before the first day of the term immediately preceding the term in which your child was due to start (or if no notice is provided at all), a term's fees shall be payable by you and shall become due and owing to the School as a debt. The term's fees shall be charged at the rate applicable for the term immediately preceding the term when your child was due to start. The School shall credit the deposit you have paid (without interest) to the payment of the term's fees you will owe us (and you hereby acknowledge and agree that the School shall be entitled to retain the deposit on account of payment of the term's fees). Where applicable, such fees shall be reduced to take account of any scholarship or bursary awarded to you.

4. **School Fees, Supplemental Charges and Payment**

(a) *What the fees include*

All the costs incurred in the usual course of the education by the School of your child, including the provision of any necessary educational materials shall be met by the fees unless otherwise notified to you by the School at any time (either in the Schedule of Fees or otherwise).

(b) *What the fees do not include: supplemental charges*

We refer to any items charged to you that are supplemental to the fees (that is, items that are payable by you to the School in addition to the fees) as **supplemental charges**. By way of example, stationery and materials used in Art, Design Technology and Home Economics classes, co-curricular activities (such as private music lessons, trips and visits) in which you agree in advance your child may participate will be supplemental to items met by the fees and charged for accordingly. In addition, all public examination charges shall be charged as supplemental to the fees. Additional charges incurred by the School in

providing for the special educational needs of your child may also be charged as supplemental to the fees. Separate terms and conditions apply to individual music lessons and are available from the Director of Music.

Please read this next section carefully - it deals with your responsibility to pay the fees and supplemental charges.

- (c) (i) *Who is responsible for ensuring payment*
Each of you who has signed the Acceptance Form is liable for and must ensure that all of the fees and supplemental charges due are paid to the School. This is because our contract applies to all of you together and each of you on your own. Each of you remains liable to the School for all of the fees and supplemental charges due **unless and until** the School has expressly agreed in writing with each of you to look exclusively to any other person for payment of the fees and or any supplemental charges. *Each person who signs the Acceptance Form has an individual responsibility to ensure that, between them, the fees and supplemental charges owing to the School are paid. In practice what this means is that if fees or supplemental charges have not been paid to the School then, in order to recover the outstanding payments, the School can seek payment of the full amount outstanding from any person with parental responsibility.*
- (ii) *How can one person remove themselves from their payment responsibility*
A person who has signed the Acceptance Form may withdraw from this contract with the School by submitting a term's notice **and provided that** they have obtained the prior written consent of **both the School and the other person, or people, who has signed the Acceptance Form.**
- (iii) *How bursary etc awards are treated*
If your child has been awarded a scholarship or bursary, your responsibility will be to pay for the amount of fees due after taking account of that award. **An award may be withdrawn in accordance with (or by reference to) the terms upon which such award is made and or if, in the opinion of the Headmaster or the Head, your child's attendance, progress and or behaviour no longer merit the continuation of the award. Any such withdrawal of an award will not operate so as to increase the fees due in respect of a term which has already commenced.** Where it appears likely to the Headmaster or the Head that, for academic reasons, an award may be withdrawn from your child, you shall be notified in advance. If within fourteen (14) days following the withdrawal of a scholarship or bursary your child is withdrawn from the School, no fees in lieu of notice will be payable by you.
- (d) *How the fees are charged and payment requirements*
Each term's fees are charged separately and the fees payable in respect of each term fall due for payment by you on the first day of that term. Each term's fees will be included in an invoice sent to you (or such other person(s) the School may have agreed separately shall pay the fees under Clause 4(c)(i) above). The fees must be paid in full by a credit or debit card through the School's website, by cheque, direct debit or by direct bank transfer on or before the first day of the term to which the invoice relates. **We may not allow your child to attend the School if you do not pay on time.**

The School may agree that the term's fees that are or will fall due in relation to any term can be paid in four (4) equal instalments. If the School does agree to do this in relation to any term's fees then the School and those responsible for paying those fees will agree separately in writing the amount of each term's fees that is to be deferred and the anticipated schedule of instalments by which the deferred amount is to be paid. In such circumstances, the agreed amount for each term is to be paid by direct debit in not more than four (4) instalments (unless otherwise agreed in writing by the School). The School shall issue a separate invoice and schedule of instalments relating to the fees due in respect of each term, which shall be evidence of the separate agreement for the payment of that term's fees.

(e) *Payment of supplemental charges*

All supplemental charges for each term (and for other unpaid supplemental charges that were agreed during the previous term) will be invoiced separately and included in the invoice for the next term that shall be sent to you before the start of the that term. **All such supplemental charges must be paid in full by cheque, direct debit or direct bank transfer on or before the first day of the then forthcoming term.**

Please read this next section carefully - it sets out what rights we have, and what action the School may take, if fees and or supplemental charges are not paid in accordance with these terms and conditions.

(f) (i) *Non-payment of fees: refusal to attend School*

We reserve the right to refuse to allow your child to attend the School or to withhold any references while fees remain unpaid or there is a persistent failure by you to pay the fees on time.

(ii) *Non-payment of supplemental charges: refusal to participate in the relevant activity*

We reserve the right to refuse to allow your child to participate in the relevant co-curricular activity, or sit the relevant public examination(s), while the applicable supplemental charge for that activity or examination(s) remains unpaid.

(iii) *We can charge interest if you pay late*

If you do not make any payment to the School by the due date for payment (see Clauses 4(d) and 4(e) above) we may charge interest to you on the overdue amount at the rate of three (3) per cent a year above the base rate from time-to-time of the School's bank. Unless we tell you otherwise in writing, this interest shall accrue on a daily basis from the due date until the date of actual payment of the overdue amount, whether before or after we obtain a court judgment against you. **You must pay the School the interest together with the overdue amount.**

(iv) *We can recover our costs for recovering late or non-payments*

Unless we expressly agree otherwise in writing with you, you will be responsible for paying the costs we incur in recovering, or attempting to recover, any unpaid fees or supplemental charges from you (including reasonable legal costs, and in any event being such costs that would be allowable by the courts if judgment was made in the School's favour).

- (v) *We can notify other educational institutions of your outstanding payments*
You consent to our informing any other school or educational establishment to which you propose to send your child of any outstanding fees or supplemental charges.

Please read this next section carefully - it sets our right to increase the fees during the course of your child's time at the School.

- (g) *Our ability to increase the fees*
We will review our fees during the course of your child's education (usually annually) and may increase them. Notice of an increase in the fees will be sent to you before the end of the penultimate term before the increase is to take effect. This will allow you time to consider the increase and, if you wish to withdraw your child from the School before the proposed increase is set to take effect, then you have sufficient time to provide the required term's notice of withdrawal to the School under Clause 5(a) below.
- (h) *Fees and supplemental charges will not be reduced due to your child's absence*
Fees and any agreed supplemental charges will not normally be reduced or refunded as a result of absence due to illness or otherwise. If your child takes study leave at home before or during public examinations, or stays at home following those examinations, no reduction of fees will be made in respect of such periods spent at home.
- (i) *How fees are discharged under our 'Fees In Advance' scheme, and your continued responsibility to pay any outstanding or additional amounts still owed to the School*
Where you have entered into an agreement incorporating the FIA Terms and Conditions (such that you have made a capital payment in respect of all or part of the fees due under this contract) we will administer such capital sum to meet the fees pursuant to the FIA Terms and Conditions *provided that* you meet the difference between the amount per term applied by us under the FIA Terms and Conditions and the total fees and supplemental charges due in respect of your child each term under this contract. For the avoidance of doubt, we shall provide a termly statement of account in respect of the fees and supplemental charges and the difference shall be payable in accordance with the terms of this contract.

Please read this next section carefully - it sets out what period of notice we require from you if you wish to (i) withdraw your child from the School, (ii) change the nature of your child's place at the School, or (iii) remove them from participating in an activity for which there is a supplemental charge.

Due to the termly organisation and allocation of resources we will charge you if you do not provide us with the required period of notice to cover the School's losses. In such circumstances we require you to pay us a sum equivalent to the fees and/or supplemental charges you would have paid had the required period of notice been given – we refer to the relevant sum as "fees in lieu of notice".

5. Notice Requirements

(a) *Notice to withdraw your child from the School*

If you wish to withdraw your child from the School (other than at the normal leaving date), you shall either give a term's notice to that effect or shall pay to the School a term's fees in lieu of notice, at such rate as would have been charged for the final term of provision if a term's notice had been given. *This means that if, for example, you wish to withdraw your child with effect from the start of the autumn term (ie, at the start of an academic year) then you would need to tell us in writing that you wish to withdraw your child on or before the first day of the preceding summer term (ie, the final term of the preceding academic year).*

(b) *Notice to change your child's place at the School*

If you wish to change your child's place at the School from a full time or part time boarding place to a day place or from a full time to a part time boarding place you shall either give a term's notice or shall pay to the School the difference between the boarding or full time boarding and the day or part time boarding fees in lieu of notice, at such rate as would have been charged for the final term of provision if a term's notice had been given. If you wish to change from flexi boarding to full time boarding, part time boarding, or a day place, you still need to give us notice so we can make the necessary arrangements, but you will not need to pay fees in lieu of notice if you do not provide a full term's notice.

(c) *When the relevant amount in lieu of notice must be paid*

In cases under (a) or (b) above, the appropriate sum in lieu of notice will become payable by you to us as a debt on the first day of the term which would have been the final term of provision if a term's notice had been given.

(d) *Notice to withdraw your child from participating in an activity covered by a supplemental charge*

If you wish to withdraw your child from an activity charged for as supplemental, you shall either give a half-term's notice to that effect or shall pay to the School as a debt a half-term's charges for the activity in which your child has ceased to participate.

(e) *Withdrawal part-way through a term does not reduce the amount you owe to the School*

The School's affairs are organised on a termly basis and it is not possible for you to reduce the amount of fees or supplemental charges due, or to obtain a refund of fees or supplemental charges, by withdrawing your child or by your child's ceasing to participate in an activity part-way through a term.

6. School Rules

(a) *Your child must comply with the School Rules*

It is a condition of remaining at the School that you and your child comply with the School Rules. In addition, you promise to ensure that your child attends School punctually and that your child conforms to any rules of appearance, dress and behaviour as we may issue from time to time (if not already included within the School Rules).

- (b) *We may undertake drugs testing of your child*
The School may undertake drugs testing of pupils in accordance with its drugs policy as set out in the School Rules. The drugs policy has been adopted with the aim of safeguarding the health and safety of all pupils.
- (c) *Monitoring your child's email communications, internet use, and use of social media*
The School may, subject to applicable data protection legislation, monitor your child's email communication, internet use and use of social media. We may do this for various reasons, including ensuring compliance with the School Rules or where it is appropriate for the School to do so (or indeed necessary) in connection with the School's legal and/or other duties and responsibilities or other legitimate purposes or good practice requirements.

7. Suspension, Exclusion and Required Removal

- (a) *The Headmaster's or the Head's discretion to suspend or exclude your child from the School*
The Headmaster or Head may in their discretion suspend or, in serious or persistent cases, expel your child from the School if they consider that your child's conduct or behaviour (including behaviour or conduct outside School) is unsatisfactory and the suspension or exclusion is in the School's best interests or those of your child or other children.
- (b) *Where you can find examples of offences punishable by suspension or expulsion*
The School Rules set out examples of offences likely to be punishable by suspension or expulsion. These examples are not exhaustive and the Headmaster or the Head may decide that suspension or expulsion for a lesser offence is justified where there has been previous misbehaviour. All aspects of your child's record at the School may be taken into account.
- (c) *The Headmaster's or the Head's discretion to require you to remove your child from the School*
The Headmaster or the Head may in their discretion require you to remove your child from the School if they consider that:
 - (i) your behaviour or conduct (or the behaviour or conduct of one of you): is unreasonable; and or adversely affects (or is likely to adversely affect) your child's or other children's progress at the School, or the wellbeing of School staff; and or brings (or is likely to bring) the School into disrepute; and or is not in accordance with your obligations under this contract or because we have a legal right to end the contract because of something you have done wrong;
 - (ii) your child's attendance or progress is unsatisfactory and, in the reasonable opinion of the Headmaster or the Head, the removal is in the School's best interests and or those of your child or other children.
- (d) *What happens if your child is suspended, excluded or removed from the School*
Should the Headmaster or the Head exercise his or her right under either Clause 7(a) or Clause 7(c)(i) above you will not be entitled to any refund or remission of fees or supplemental charges due (whether paid or payable). Also, where your child is expelled or you are required to remove your child from the School, the deposit will be forfeited meaning that the School will retain the deposit. If your child is expelled from the School, fees in lieu of notice will **not** be payable and any prepaid fees and or supplemental charges

for the period after the expulsion will be refunded. If you are required to remove your child from the School as a result of the Headmaster or the Head exercising their discretion under Clause 7(c)(ii), then fees in lieu of notice will not be payable and any prepaid fees and or supplemental charges for the period after the removal (including, if applicable, the deposit held by the School) will be refunded.

(e) *Your right to have disciplinary matters or decisions reviewed*

You are entitled to have any serious disciplinary matters or decisions taken by the School and or the Headmaster or the Head under this Clause 7 reviewed. Any such review shall be governed by the Complaints Policy.

8. The School's Obligations

(a) *The period of your child's schooling*

Subject to these terms and conditions, the School will accept your child as a pupil of the School from the time of joining the School until the end of his or her preparatory schooling (for children entering Sutton Valence Preparatory School) and until the end of his or her secondary schooling (for children entering Sutton Valence Senior School). However, the School shall not be obliged to permit your child to enter Sutton Valence Senior School from Sutton Valence Preparatory School or, if at Sutton Valence Senior School, the Sixth Form, unless the School is satisfied that it is appropriate to do so, having regard to his or her academic attainments and all other relevant circumstances. Pupils at Sutton Valence Preparatory School will be required to undertake the same procedures for entry to Sutton Valence Senior School as all external candidates. The Senior School may make a decision as to whether your child may join the Sixth Form after the results of GCSE or equivalent examinations are known, and may make entry to the Sixth Form conditional upon the results of such examinations. Furthermore, entry into the Upper Sixth Form will be conditional upon the achievement of satisfactory grades in the AS level or equivalent examinations taken in the Lower Sixth Form.

(b) *The scope of our duty to exercise reasonable skill and care for your child's education and welfare*

While your child remains a pupil of the School, we will exercise reasonable skill and care in respect of his or her education and welfare. This obligation will apply during school hours and at other times when your child is permitted to be on School premises or is participating in activities organised by the School. **We cannot accept any responsibility for the welfare of your child while off the School premises unless he or she is taking part in a School activity or otherwise under the supervision of a member of School staff.** The School shall adhere to and comply with the *National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools* (applicable from time to time) published under the Children Act 1989 (as amended or superseded).

(c) *Consent to participation in contact sports and similar activities*

Unless you notify us to the contrary, you consent to your child participating, under supervision, in contact sports and in other normal sports and activities which may entail some risk of physical injury. The School's approach to physical contact with pupils is set out in the *Positive Handling Policy*, a copy of which is on the School's website and is otherwise available from the School at any time upon request.

- (d) *What happens if your child needs urgent medical attention*
If your child requires urgent medical attention while under the School's care, we will if practicable attempt to obtain your prior consent. **However, if it is not practicable to contact you we will make the decision on your behalf if, for example, consent is required for urgent treatment recommended by a doctor or other medical practitioner (including anaesthetic or operation, or blood transfusion (unless you have previously notified us you object to blood transfusions)).**
- (e) *Our right to make changes at the School*
Our prospectus and the *Guidelines for Life at Sutton Valence School* describe the broad principles on which the School is presently run. However, from time-to-time it may be necessary to make changes to any aspects of the School, including the curriculum or the manner of providing education for your child (including by providing such education remotely (whilst your child remains at home, for example, where the School is required to close the School premises)).
- (f) *We will give you notice of significant changes*
We will give you notice of any changes that we regard as significant to your child's education prior to the end of the penultimate term before the change is to take effect. This will allow you time to consider the proposed change and, if you wish to withdraw your child from the School before the proposed change is set to take effect, then you have sufficient time to provide the required term's notice of withdrawal to the School under Clause 5(a) above.
- (g) *Monitoring your child's progress at the School*
We shall monitor your child's progress at the School and produce regular written reports. **We shall advise you if we have any concern about your child's progress but we do not undertake to diagnose dyslexia or other conditions.** A formal assessment can be arranged either by you or by the School at your expense.
- (h) *Religious observance*
Religious observance at the School shall be conducted in accordance with the School's Vision and Mission Statements. The School forms part of an educational charity, one of whose objects is that religious instruction is in accordance with the principles of the Christian faith.

9. The Parents' Obligations

- (a) *We require your co-operation*
In order to fulfil our obligations under this contract and to maintain a constructive and good faith relationship with you, we, the Headmaster or Head and School staff need your co-operation, including in particular by you fulfilling your own obligations under this contract.
- (b) *Examples of the co-operation and assistance we require*
You shall co-operate with the School and School staff in good faith, and including in particular by:
- (i) maintaining a constructive relationship with School staff (including in instances where the School is exercising its rights and performing its obligations under this contract);

- (ii) encouraging your child in his or her studies, and giving appropriate support at home;
 - (iii) keeping the School up-to-date and informed of matters which affect or may affect your child (including circumstances which arise at any time that affect or may affect your ability to pay the fees and supplemental charges for your child);
 - (iv) ensuring that all details or other information notified or otherwise disclosed to the School about you and or your child are accurate, truthful and not misleading and that relevant details and information (or changes to it) are not withheld;
 - (v) providing cooperation and assistance to the School so that your child can participate in, and benefit from, the School's provision of education (including where the School may wish or need to provide such education remotely); and
 - (vi) attending meetings and keeping in touch with the School where your child's interests so require.
- (c) *You must notify us of your child's health/medical conditions or special educational needs*
It is a condition of your child's joining the School that you complete and submit to the School a medical questionnaire in respect of your child. You must inform the School of any health or medical condition, special educational need(s), disability or allergy that your child has or subsequently develops, whether long-term or short-term, including any infections. You must also provide us, whether upon further request by the School or otherwise, any reports or other materials relevant to any of the same.
- (d) *Circumstances where we may require you to keep your child away from School*
 If the School so requires due to a health risk either presented by your child to others or presented to your child by others or by reason of a virus, pandemic, epidemic or other health risk, you undertake to keep your child at home and not permit him/her to return to the School until such time as the health risk has passed. Where it is considered appropriate in such circumstances we will try to continue providing education to your child remotely during such period (including, for example, by sending you/your child work assignments electronically or by post).
- (e) *You must notify us of any special arrangements needed for your child*
 You must inform the School of any situations where special arrangements may be needed in relation to your child, including in relation to their education or welfare.
- (f) *You must notify us of any court orders that relate to, or that may impact upon, the provision of education to your child; and provide us with copies of them*
 You must inform the School if, at any time prior to or during your child's time at the School, a court order is put in place or an undertaking is given to a court in respect of (or relating to) your child's attendance at the School (including its premises) and or the School's provision of education to your child. These would include any court order or undertaking given to a court which may deal with or impact upon in any way: (i) your child's living and/or contact arrangements; (ii) your child's education, welfare and/or upbringing; and or (iii) the payment of fees and/or supplemental charges. In any such circumstances you shall (whether upon request or otherwise) promptly provide the School with copies of the relevant court order(s) or undertaking(s) (or the relevant parts thereof).

- (g) *We require you to nominate a 'responsible adult' for us to contact in your absence*
It may also be a condition of your child's joining the School that, where required (such requirement being made known to you by the School prior to your child joining the School), for example where you live outside of the UK, you complete and submit to the School a parental absence form for your child³. Amongst other things this form will nominate a 'responsible adult' for your child who will be delegated the authority by you to make decisions relating to your child if the School is not able to contact you. The form will also require you to register your child with a *guardian agency* accredited by the *Association for the Education and Guardianship of International Students* (AEGIS).
- (h) *We are entitled to expect that parents have consulted with each other regarding decisions relating to your child*
You (and each of you as the holders of parental responsibility for your child) acknowledge and agree that, prior to and during your child's time at the School, the School is entitled to assume that you have consulted with each other so far as decisions regarding your child are concerned. Accordingly, except under Clause 9(i) below, you (and each of you) accept that the School is entitled to treat:
- (i) any instruction, authority, request or prohibition received from one of you as having been given on behalf of both of you; and
 - (ii) any communication from the School to one of you as having been given to both of you.

Please read this next section carefully – it sets out who needs to sign a notice of withdrawal of your child.

- (i) *We are entitled to require that notices of withdrawal must be signed by all persons with parental responsibility*
A notice of withdrawal of your child served under this contract (ie, under any of Clauses 3(a), 4(c)(iii), 4(g), 5(a) or 5(b)) must be in writing and signed by each of you as the holders of parental responsibility for your child (and the School shall be entitled not to accept such notice unless and until all holders of parental responsibility for the child have signed such notice).
- (j) *You must notify us of your child's absence from School*
The Headmaster or Head must be informed in writing of any reason for your child's absence from School. Wherever possible the School's prior consent should be sought for absence from the School.
- (k) *Parents must notify us if they will be absent for a period of time*
If at any time during your child's time at the School you (or either of you) will not be in the United Kingdom at any time or will otherwise be absent from your main residential address for a period of longer than three (3) consecutive School days, then you must inform the School in writing and provide the details required by the School as a result, including the name and contact details for a 'responsible adult' for the period of your absence.

³ The parental absence form is intended to identify someone with whom appropriate arrangements for pupils can be made, and taking decisions in respect of them, where those with parental responsibility for the child are based overseas or are otherwise absent for extended periods.

(l) *Raising concerns with the School and making formal complaints*

If you have cause for concern as to a matter of safety, care, discipline or progress of your child you must inform the School without undue delay. Complaints should be made in accordance with the Complaints Policy. A copy of the most up-to-date version of the Complaints Policy is on the School's website and is otherwise available from the School at any time upon request.

10. Insurance

Your responsibility to make your own insurance arrangements

You must make your own insurance arrangements if you require cover for your child's property while at School or for the payment of fees due to absence of your child or closure of the School premises. Your child is included in an obligatory personal accident insurance scheme, the charge for which is included in the fees.

11. How we may use Personal Information: References, Confidentiality and Data Protection

(a) *Your consent to us providing a reference for your child*

You consent to our supplying information and a reference in respect of your child to any educational institution which you propose your child may attend. Any reference supplied by us shall be confidential. We will take care to ensure that all information that is supplied relating to your child is accurate and any opinion given on his or her ability, aptitude for certain courses and character is fair. However, we cannot be responsible for any loss you are or your child is alleged to have suffered resulting from opinions reasonably given, or correct statements of fact contained, in any reference or report given by us.

(b) *Your consent to us using information relating to your child for certain purposes connected with the running of the School*

You consent to us making use of information relating to your child (including photographs and video recordings), and (where appropriate) relating to you, whilst your child is at the School and after he or she has left for the purposes of:

- (i) managing relationships between the School and current pupils or parents and fulfilling our obligations under the contract with you;
- (ii) promoting the School to prospective pupils or parents;
- (iii) publicising the School's activities; and
- (iv) communicating with the School community and the body of former pupils.

In respect of (ii), (iii) and (iv), this includes use of such information by the School in or on the School's prospectus (in whatever format or medium it is produced or made available), the School's website(s) and (where appropriate) the School's social media channels.

(c) *You are required to update us of changes to information held, or in circumstances relating to, you and or your child*

You must:

- (i) confirm (or update, if necessary), when requested, such information (and or documentation) about (or relating to) you and or your child that is held by the School; and
 - (ii) inform the School of any change to your or your child's circumstances (including, where applicable, in connection with your child's entitlement to enter, reside and or study in the United Kingdom), or to information about (or relating to) you or your child that has previously been notified to the School, including relevant contact details.
- (d) *As a Tier 4 sponsor we need your consent to us providing certain information to UKVI*
 In order to comply with our responsibilities as a licensed sponsor under Tier 4 of the Home Office's points-based system for immigration purposes, you consent to us notifying and or supplying information relating to you and or your child's right to enter, reside and or study in the United Kingdom to the *United Kingdom Visas and Immigration* (UKVI) unit of the Home Office (and to do so whether we actually sponsor your child or not).
- (e) *We will send information (eg, School reports) about your child to all persons with parental responsibility, as a matter of course*
 You agree that those persons who have parental responsibility for your child are entitled to receive certain information about your child from the School (including School reports, correspondence and other materials relating to his or her progress, development and or education generally). The School shall therefore disclose such information as a matter of routine to such persons *unless* the School is restricted from doing so by a court order (or similar direction) or by any other legal requirement or obligation (for example, under the Data Protection Act 1998 (as amended or superseded)).
- (f) *The Data Protection Act 1998 and your consent to our processing of your or your child's personal data*
 The School will process personal data about you and your child in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 (as amended or superseded). You consent to us processing such personal data:
- (i) as set out in this Clause 11, and in the School's *Data Protection Policy* which is available on the School's website, as may be amended from time to time;
 - (ii) in order to comply with any court order or legal, regulatory or good practice requirement; and
 - (iii) to perform our obligations under this contract, and where otherwise reasonably necessary for the School's purposes.

12. Intellectual Property Rights

Recognising these rights

We shall recognise any intellectual property rights created, generated or owned by or vested in your child.

13. Changes in Ownership, etc

The circumstances in which we may transfer this contract to someone else

For the purposes of constitutional changes to the School (including changes to the legal entity that owns and runs the School) or amalgamation of the School with another we may transfer the undertaking of the School to another person or organisation. We will notify you to let you know if we plan to do this and we will ensure that the transfer will not affect your rights under this contract. We may transfer our rights and obligations under this contract in connection with any such transfer and/or amalgamation.

Please read this next section carefully - *it sets out the rights we have, and that you have, to cancel this contract early (that is, before the normal leaving date for the end of your child's schooling).*

14. Cancellation of this Contract

(a) *Our rights to end the contract*

The School may end this contract at any time by notice in writing to you, without any obligation to return any deposit or fees paid to you, if:

- (i) you do not make a payment to us when it is due and you still do not make payment within fourteen (14) days of us reminding you that such payment is due;
- (ii) your child is expelled from the School;
- (iii) you are required to remove your child from the School, including circumstances where you (as opposed to your child) act in such a way as to give the Headmaster or Head cause to require you to remove your child from the School under Clause 7(c)(i) of this contract;
- (iv) you (or any of you) make a serious misrepresentation of facts or circumstances to us, or you (or any of you) withhold important information from us, about you and or your child or that is relevant to the provision of education by the School to your child (such as misrepresenting at any point in time (and whether by act, omission or withholding of information on your part) that you and or your child is legally entitled to enter, reside and or study in the United Kingdom when in fact you or your child is not);
- (v) you fail or refuse to complete and submit to the School a medical questionnaire in respect of your child and or you fail or refuse to complete and submit a parental absence form where this has been required;
- (vi) you (or any of you):
 - (aa) are unable, following our request, to demonstrate that you will be able to pay the fees and supplemental charges due under this contract;
 - (bb) are otherwise unable to pay your debts as they fall due;
 - (cc) are the subject of a bankruptcy petition or order;
 - (dd) you enter into an individual voluntary arrangement; or

- (vii) you otherwise do not comply with (ie, you breach) your obligations under this contract such that we have a legal right to end the contract because of something you have done wrong or, in the Headmaster's or Head's reasonable discretion, the School is not able to provide, or is compromised in providing, the educational services it needs to in satisfaction of its obligations under this contract.
- (b) *Your rights to end the contract*
You may end this contract at any time by notice in writing to the School if:
 - (i) you have a legal right to end the contract because of something we have done wrong; or
 - (ii) the School becomes insolvent or goes into liquidation or receivership or administrative receivership or is wound-up for any reason.
- (c) *When this contract will end if not terminated early*
For the avoidance of doubt, this contract shall end at the end of your child's schooling which may be at the end of Year 6 at Sutton Valence Preparatory School or of the Fifth Form if your child does not meet any requirements imposed under Clause 8(a) for entry to Sutton Valence Senior School or the Sixth Form respectively.
- (d) *Ending the contract will not affect any accrued rights*
Once this contract ends, it will not affect any legal rights or obligations that either you or we have that may already have arisen. After this contract ends, you and we will keep any rights we have under general law.

15. Events outside of our, or your, control

- (a) *What we mean by an event outside of our or your control*
We mean any event beyond either your or our reasonable control including, by way of example and for the avoidance of doubt, acts of God, war, riot, civil commotion, compliance with any law or governmental order, rule, regulation or direction (including that of a local authority), accident, fire, flood, storm, pandemic or epidemic of any disease, terrorist attack, chemical or biological contamination. In the remainder of this Clause 15 we shall refer to these as an "**event**".
- (b) *What happens if we are affected by an event outside of **our** control*
If an event beyond our control arises which prevents or delays the School's performance of any of its obligations under this contract, the School shall give you notice in writing specifying the nature and extent of the circumstances giving rise to the event. Provided that the School has acted reasonably and prudently to prevent and or minimise the effect of the event, the School will not be responsible for not performing those of our obligations which are prevented or delayed by, and during the continuance of, the event. To the extent reasonably practicable in the circumstances, the School shall try during the continuance of the event to continue to provide educational services (including by providing appropriate educational services remotely).
- (c) *Events lasting more than six (6) months*
If the School is prevented from performing all of its obligations as a result of an event for a continuous period of more than six (6) months, the School shall notify you of the steps it

plans to take to ensure performance of the contract after such period and you shall then, following receipt of such notice, be entitled to end this contract on written notice to the School and without giving a term's notice or paying fees in lieu of notice.

(d) *What happens if your child is affected by an event outside of **your** control*

Subject to Clause 4(h), if your child is physically unable to attend (or is likely not to be physically able to attend) the School due to reasons caused by an event, you shall give the School notice in writing of such circumstances and the following provisions shall apply:

- (i) in consultation and cooperation with the School you shall do everything you reasonably can to minimise the impact of the event in order to continue to perform your obligations under this contract in any way that is reasonably practicable in the circumstances; and resume the performance of the obligations as soon as reasonably possible;
- (ii) in circumstances where, following the efforts made and steps taken under (i) above, your child is not able to participate and benefit from any level of provision of education by the School then you shall not be responsible for failing to perform your obligations (including the obligation to pay fees, pro-rated accordingly) during the continuance of the event; and
- (iii) if the event continues to prevent your child from attending the School or being able to participate and benefit from any level of provision of education by the School for more than six (6) months you shall discuss with the School a solution by which this contract may be performed and, following such discussions, you shall be entitled to cancel the contract on written notice to the School and without giving a term's notice or paying a term's fees in lieu of notice.

16. Communications between you and the School

(a) *Notices must be in writing*

When this contract requires you or the School to give notice of something to the other then, unless we agree otherwise, this should be done in writing.

(b) *We will use the contact details held by the School to contact you*

Communications (including notices) will be sent by the School to you at the address(es) shown in our records, or using your other contact details included in our records. **You must notify the School of any change of address(es) or other contact details.**

(c) *How to provide written notice to the School*

Notices that you are required to give under these terms and conditions must be **in writing** addressed to the Headmaster or Head and either:

- (i) sent by email to the School;
- (ii) delivered by hand to the School;
- (iii) sent to the School by recorded or other form of registered post requiring a signature upon receipt as proof of delivery; or

(iv) otherwise sent to the School's address by first or second class post.

In light of the importance under this contract of serving certain notices on or before a particular deadline (and the consequences that follow if you do not do so) we recommend that if you send us notices under any of Clauses 3, 4(c)(iii), 4(g), 5(a), 5(b) or 5(d) of these terms and conditions (4), you telephone us to confirm safe receipt if you have not received an acknowledgement from us 48 hours after sending the notice.

17. The Law that applies to this contract and where legal proceedings may be brought

(a) *The law that applies to this contract*

The contract between you and the School is governed by English law and either you or the School must bring legal proceedings in respect of this contract in the English courts.

(b) *Rights in relation to the enforcement of this contract*

If we choose not to enforce any part of this contract, or delay enforcing it, this will not affect our right to enforce the same part later (or on a separate occasion) or the rest of this contract. And, if we cannot enforce any part of this contract, this will not affect our right to enforce the rest of this contract.

18. Changes to these Terms and Conditions

Reserving the right to change these terms and conditions

We reserve the right to change or add to these terms and conditions from time to time for legal, safety or other substantive reasons or in order to assist the proper delivery of education at the School. The School will send you notice of any such modifications prior to the end of the penultimate term before the modifications are to take effect.

⁴ ie, those provisions dealing with **withdrawing** your child from the School or otherwise changing your child's place at the School or the activities that your child is undertaking at the School

