

Local Code of Conduct for Blindern Secondary School



Blindern School has a local code of conduct that is grounded in Oslo Council's general regulations and which applies to all pupils. We are concerned with creating a good environment for working and learning that is characterized by peace and quiet, orderly behaviour, respect for others and concentration on school work. Blindern is to be an inviting school to attend for everyone, where we thrive, show respect for one another and have the desire to learn.

The Code contains rules of behaviour and specifies which measures are to be taken if a pupil breaks those rules. Our aim is to ensure that pupils leave with a good record of discipline and behaviour and a minimum of absence. We are concerned with pupils' well-being and learning. We set clear and reassuring boundaries that are maintained daily to ensure a good and safe learning environment.

Our six rules at Blindern:

1. Be punctual for lessons

- All teaching starts on time and classroom doors are closed.
- Lateness is registered with a mark against discipline (*orden*).
- Lateness in excess of 15 minutes is registered as one teaching hour of absence.
- This rule applies in all circumstances, irrespective of traffic delays, with the exception of public transport incidents.

2. Come to lessons prepared and with all necessary materials

- In order that you gain the full benefit of all teaching, you must come prepared to lessons.
- Inform your teacher in advance if, for any reason, your homework could not be completed.
- You have an obligation to familiarize yourself with the learning platform ItsLearning and to gain an overview of your timetable, homework and other activities.
- Lack of preparation and uncompleted homework will result in a mark against discipline.
- Should you repeatedly come unprepared to class or fail to attend lessons and/or assessments, a possible consequence is that there will not be a sufficient basis to award a grade in the subject(s) concerned.

- Ensure that you always have all necessary materials with you to lessons, such as PC, books, pen and notebook.
- You may retrieve materials after a lesson begins if the teacher allows it but you will receive a mark against discipline for forgotten materials.

3. Always deliver work on time

- Work must be delivered before the deadline the teacher has set.
- Inform your subject teacher in advance if you are unable to deliver work on time.
- If you deliver work after the deadline has passed, and without informing your subject teacher in advance, it will not be assessed. This may have consequences both for formative and summative assessment in a subject. In addition, you will receive a mark against discipline.
- Materials borrowed from the School must be returned at the agreed time; otherwise, you will be billed for the materials.

4. Maintain focus on your subjects and be orderly during lessons

- A state of peace and quiet during teaching contributes to a good learning environment.
- You have a duty to be active in lessons and not to engage in irrelevant and distracting activities such as inappropriate talking, using social media, playing games and spending time on your mobile phone. It is up to the teacher to decide whether and when you will use your PC.
- In the case of repeated disruption of teaching, disturbance of other pupils or use of ICT equipment for anything other than the teacher has specified, a mark against behaviour will be given.
- Mobile phones are always to be kept in your bag set to silent mode.
- For use of a mobile phone during lessons, a mark against discipline will be given.
- Pupils who disrupt teaching to a high degree may be assigned alternative teaching outside the classroom (*Opplæringsloven §3-8*).

5. Leave classrooms tidy and keep the School clean

- Classrooms are to be tidied after each lesson. Tidy up after yourself and place your chair neatly behind your desk.
- After the last lesson in a classroom for the day, chairs are to be placed upon desks.

- Everyone has a responsibility to keep the School clean and tidy and everyone must make a continual contribution towards this goal.
- Lists are published that additionally specify a rota of pupils'/classes' tidying duties. These duties consist in tidying the canteen and outdoor areas and reminding fellow pupils to clean up after themselves.
- (A good physical working environment is dependent on everyone's taking care of the School's assets, buildings and inventory.)

6. Be friendly and respectful of your fellow pupils and the School's staff

- Treat your fellow pupils, teachers and other members of staff in the School with respect, irrespective of background and world view.
- Be friendly and attentive to your fellow pupils.

A tobacco-free school

The School is snuff (*snus*) and tobacco-free under Norwegian law. The ban applies throughout the School's premises for pupils, staff and visitors. For pupils, the ban also applies outside of the School premises during school hours. It therefore applies during break times, free periods and school-led excursions.

Absence from planned assessments

In the case of absence from planned tests and assessments, the subject teacher must always be informed in advance that you are unable to attend. Absence that is not so reported will lead to a mark against behaviour and no opportunity to retake the assessment will be given.

Grades in discipline and behaviour

The purpose of assessing discipline and behaviour is:

- To contribute to each pupil's socialization
 - To ensure a healthy psychosocial environment
 - To give guidance to pupils with a view to promoting their continued development
- The assessment of your discipline and behaviour has as its primary function not to reprimand and control you but to act as a vital element in your development of social competence and the building of positive relations among pupils, and between pupils and their teachers.
 - The assessment exists to contribute to your development of social skills and your knowledge of how to behave in a community. The basis for

assessment of discipline and behaviour is the degree to which you act in accordance with the School's Code of Conduct.

Assessment of discipline

- The assessment of your discipline is tied to the School's and Oslo Council's regulations; thus, it concerns the extent to which you are punctual and prepared for lessons, the quality of your working routines and the extent of your effort.
- This assessment has rather less to do with how you conduct yourself.
- Typically, the reduction of a grade in discipline is considered in cases where 8-10 or more marks against discipline have been registered during a semester.
- A warning to this effect is sent after 5 such marks have been registered.

Assessment of behaviour

- The assessment of your behaviour is tied to the School's and Oslo Council's regulations; thus, it concerns how you behave towards others in the school community, including your fellow pupils, teachers and other members of staff.
- A relevant factor is whether you show consideration and respect for other pupils. Bullying, harassment, disruption of teaching, cheating (or attempted cheating) and failure to follow teachers' instructions are further relevant factors in the assessment of behaviour.
- It is additionally regarded as a matter of objectionable behaviour to be absent from organised assessments without informing your teacher in advance.
- Typically, a grade in behaviour is reduced as the result of repeated transgression of one or more rules. A grade in behaviour may also be reduced on the basis of an isolated incident, if this constitutes an especially serious breach of a rule. Such breaches may include examples of cheating, harassment of fellow pupils and teachers, vandalism and similar incidents.
- The reduction of a grade in behaviour is always given consideration in cases where 6-8 marks against behaviour have been registered during a semester. A warning to this effect is sent as soon as 3-4 such marks have been registered.