

Acceptable Behaviour Contract (ABC)

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Acceptable Behaviour Contract

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What is an Acceptable Behaviour Contract?

An Acceptable Behaviour Contract (ABC) is a voluntary agreement between Epsom and Ewell High School and a named individual. Their aim is to stop anti-social behaviour in our school.

What kind of behaviour warrants an ABC?

Any type of anti-social behaviour can be addressed by an ABC and they usually follow on from other interventions such as verbal and written warnings, and often as a result of senior leadership and / or support service interventions. The types of behaviour addressed could include:

- vandalism
- petty theft
- graffiti
- abusive behaviour
- racial abuse and discriminatory behaviour
- persistent bullying
- harassment
- inciting others to carry out acts of harassment or bullying
- the inappropriate use of social media, photographs and video to make threats or cause offence to others

An ABC is particularly useful at tackling unacceptable behaviour in its earliest stages so as to prevent the behaviour from escalating. They demonstrate to perpetrators the school's determination to tackle the problem.

How do you organise an ABC?

As the ABC is a voluntary agreement organised through the learning opportunity centre or the senior leadership team.

An ABC is a useful tool for tackling unacceptable behaviour in young people; their parents or guardians also sign the agreement.

What are the terms of a contract?

The purpose of an ABC is to allow the student to change their behaviour in order to succeed at Epsom and Ewell High School. The terms of each contract will be made on an individual basis depending on the need for it. The terms of the contract may be both positive and negative. For Epsom and Ewell High School for example the ABC may prohibit the association with other individuals or ban someone from certain areas of the school.

For young people it may also include co-operating with the learning opportunities centre and can be linked with rewards.

What happens if a contract is breached?

As the ABC is a voluntary agreement there are no legal sanctions attached to breaches of the contract. We rely on the goodwill of the candidate and their willingness to change their behaviour, pressure from parents and the intervention of school staff and, if necessary, external agencies all working together. If the offending behaviour continues and cannot be addressed by further discussions and interventions the process may move through other phases such as fixed term or a recommendation for permanent exclusion.

To breach an ABC, or the failure to sign one when requested, demonstrates an unwillingness or inability to address or change the offending behaviour and these actions may be used in any future exclusion process.