



## **After-School Care Policy**

<b>Next review due</b>	<b>July 2026</b>
<b>Last review</b>	<b>July 2025</b>
<b>Reviewed by</b>	<b>Mrs Catherine Miller, Head of School</b>
<b>Approved by</b>	<b>Dr Julie Smith, Chair of Governors</b>

## **AFTER-SCHOOL CARE POLICY**

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## Purpose of the Policy

This policy aims to ensure that there is clarity about the nature of the Conifers House School offer, and in particular after-school care.

## Legislation and Statutory Guidance

This policy complies with legal requirements and expectations. [Length of the school week - non-statutory guidance](#)

All schools maintained by the local authority and special schools not maintained by the local authority are required to:

- Meet for at least 380 sessions or 190 days during any school year to educate their pupils
- Operate two sessions on every school day divided by a break in the middle of the day

The minimum expectation for a state-funded mainstream schools, with effect from September 2023, is to deliver a minimum school week of 32.5 hours. The 32.5-hour minimum expectation includes the time in each day from the official start of the school day (i.e. morning registration) to the official end to the compulsory school day (i.e. official home time). The 32.5-hour minimum includes breaks and lunch times as well as teaching time and any extracurricular activities that all pupils are expected to attend. It does not include optional before or after school provision.

However, the expectation does not apply to pupils in:

- early years and 16-19 education (including school sixth forms), or
- specialist settings (special schools and alternative provision), due to the varying needs of their pupil cohorts and the particular operational challenges they may face

## School Opening Hours

While there is no set minimum expectation from the DfE of specialist settings like Conifers House School; we are ambitious for our students and believe it is beneficial for them to follow the similar length of school week as those in mainstream schools.

Our school opening hours are therefore:

Monday	09.00 to 15.00
Tuesday	09.00 to 15.00
Wednesday	09.00 to 15.00
Thursday	09.00 to 15.00
Friday	09.00 to 15.00

## After-School Care

Almost all of our students arrive and depart from school in transport provided by the local authority. This significantly restricts the practicality and viability of before and after-school clubs.

We expect that Conifers House School students attend and fully participate in all activities and opportunities that are created for them in their individualised learning programmes throughout the 32.5-hour week offered. In meeting their needs in this way, we therefore do not offer after-school care.

We will, however, regularly reflect on community demand and wherever possible aim to meet the needs

of parents and children.

## **Monitoring Arrangements**

This policy will be reviewed by the Headteacher annually. At every review, the policy will be approved by the Governing Board.

## **Links with Other Policies**

This policy links to the following policies and procedures:

- Attendance Policy
- Curriculum Policy
- SEND Policy
- Teaching and Learning Policy