



## 1 Adcote School Terms and Conditions

### Introduction

**1.1 Terms and Conditions:** These terms and conditions reflect the custom and practice of independent school for many generations and together with:

1.1.1 the letter of offer;

1.1.2 the conditions of award if applicable;

1.1.3 the acceptance form; and

1.1.4 the fees list.

They form the basis of a legally binding contract between the Parents/Guardian and the School for the provision of educational services. These terms and conditions are intended to promote the education and welfare of pupils and the stability, forward-planning, proper resourcing and development of Adcote School.

**1.2 Variations:** these terms and conditions, the conditions of award and the fees list are subject to change from time to time.

**1.3 Prospectus and Website:** The School's prospectus and website are not contractual documents. Please see clause 11.5 for further information. The School website contains a number of policies and procedures which can be viewed by Parents/Guardian. Printed copies are available from the School on written request.

**1.4 Fees and Notice:** The rules concerning fees and notice are of particular importance and are set out in Section 4 and Section 9.

**1.5 Managing Change:** Adcote School, as any other school, is likely to undergo a number of changes during the time your child is a pupil here. Please see Section 11 for further details of the changes that may be made and the consultation and notice procedures that will apply

## 2 Terminology

**2.1 School or We or Us:** means the legal entity carrying on as the School (Adcote School for Girls, registered address: Little Ness, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY4 2JY) as now or in the future constituted (and any successor).



**2.2 Head Teacher:** means the Head Teacher of the School who, as the Chief Executive Officer, is responsible for the day-to-day running of the School.

**2.3 Parents/Guardian or You:** means any person who has signed the acceptance form. The Parents/Guardian are legally responsible, jointly and severally, for complying with their obligations under these terms and conditions. Fees payable by a third party (for example, an employer, grandparent, step-parent without parental responsibility or third party credit provider) will be subject to a separate agreement between the School, the Parents/Guardian and the third party. Please also see clause 4.3 and clause 11.6.

**2.4 Parental Responsibility:** Those who have parental responsibility (i.e. legal responsibility for the child) are entitled to receive relevant information concerning the child whether or not they are a party to this contract unless a court order has been made to the contrary, or there are other reasons which justify withholding information to safeguard the best interests and welfare of the child.

**2.5 Pupil:** means the child named on the acceptance form. The age of the pupil will be calculated in accordance with British custom.

### **3 Admission and Entry to the School**

**3.1 Registration and Admission:** Applicants will be considered as candidates for admission and entry to the School when the registration form has been completed and returned to us. Admission will be subject to the availability of a place and the pupil and the Parents/Guardian satisfying the admission requirements at the relevant time. **Admission** occurs when the Parents/Guardian accept the offer of a place. **Entry** occurs on the date when the pupil attends the School for the first time under these terms and conditions.

**3.2 Equality:** The School is a mainstream, boarding and day School for girls aged from 7 - 18 years. The School welcomes staff and children from many different ethnic groups, backgrounds and creeds. Human rights and freedoms are respected. At present, our physical facilities for the disabled are limited but we will do all that is reasonable to ensure that the School's culture, policies and procedures are made accessible to children who have disabilities and to comply with our legal and moral responsibilities under equality legislation in order to accommodate the needs of applicants and pupils who have disabilities for which, after reasonable adjustments, we can cater adequately.

**3.3 Offer of a Place and Deposit:** A deposit (**acceptance deposit**) as shown on the fees list for the relevant year will be payable when Parents/Guardian accept the offer of a place. The acceptance deposit will be retained in the general funds of the School until the pupil leaves and will be repaid by means of a credit without interest to the final payment of fees or other sums due to the School



on leaving, unless stated otherwise in these terms and conditions or unless the Parents/Guardian wish to donate the acceptance deposit to the Friends of Adcote.

Admission occurs when the Parents/Guardian accept the offer of a place. Adcote School requires confirmation of acceptance within 14 days. An invoice for the deposit will be sent with the offer and once this is paid and the acceptance returned, the place will be confirmed and you will receive our full joining details.

**3.4 Additional Deposit:** For reasons of administration, the right is reserved to require payment by Parents/Guardian of an additional deposit (**additional deposit**), as shown on the fees list for the relevant year, in the case of a pupil whose normal residence is outside the United Kingdom. The additional deposit will be retained in the general funds of the School until the pupil leaves and will be repaid by means of a credit without interest to the final payment of fees or other sums due to the School on leaving, unless stated otherwise in these terms and conditions.

## 4 Fees

**4.1 Fees:** may include alone or in combination any of the registration fee, the deposit, tuition fees, boarding fees, fees for extra tuition, other extras such as house charges, travel, clothing and equipment, photographs or other items ordered by the Parents/Guardian or the pupil or charges arising in respect of educational visits, or damage where the pupil alone or with others has caused willful loss or damage to School property or the property of any other person (fair wear and tear excluded), or bank charges arising from default in fees payment or late payment charges if incurred.

The Parents/Guardian shall also be liable to pay all costs, fees, disbursements and charges including legal fees and costs reasonably incurred by Adcote School in the recovery of any unpaid invoices regardless of the value of the claim.

**4.2 Payment of Fees:** The Parents/Guardian jointly and severally agree to pay the Fees applicable to each term directly to the School. Except where a separate agreement has been made between the Parents/Guardian and the School for the deferment of payment of fees, fees for each term are due and payable as cleared funds before the commencement of the School term to which they relate. If an item on the fees invoice is under query, the balance of that fees invoice must be paid.

**4.3 Payment of Fees by a Third Party:** An agreement with a third party (such as an employer, grandparent, step-parent without parental responsibility or third party credit provider) to pay the fees or any other sum due to the School does not release the Parents/Guardian from liability if the third party defaults and does not affect the operation of any other of these terms and conditions unless an express release has been given in writing, signed by the Bursar. The School reserves the right to refuse a payment from a third party.



**4.4 Indemnity:** The Parents/Guardian shall indemnify the School against all losses, expenses (including legal expenses) and interest suffered or incurred by the School if the School is required to repay all or part of any sum paid to it by a third party credit provider on behalf of the Parents/Guardian.

**4.5 Refund or Waiver:** Save where there is a legal liability under a court order or under the provisions of this agreement to make a refund, fees will not be refunded or waived if:

4.5.1 the pupil is absent through illness; or

4.5.2 a term is shortened or a vacation extended; or

4.5.3 the pupil is released home before or after public examinations or otherwise before the normal end of a term; or

4.5.4 the School is temporarily closed due to adverse weather conditions or exceptional circumstances; or

4.5.5 for any reason other than exceptionally and at the sole discretion of the Head Teacher in a case of genuine hardship.

See also Section 10 for information about events beyond the control of the parties.

**4.6 Exclusion for Non-Payment:** The School reserves the right to exclude the pupil on three days' written notice if fees are overdue for payment. If the pupil is excluded for a period of 28 days, they will be deemed withdrawn without notice and a term's fees in lieu of notice will be payable in accordance with Section 9. Exclusion in these circumstances is not a disciplinary matter and the right to a Governors' Review will not normally arise. The School may withhold any information, examination results, character references or property while fees remain overdue but will not do so in a way that would cause direct, identifiable and unfair prejudice to the legitimate rights and interests of the pupil.

**4.7 Late Payment:** Save where alternative provisions for the payment of interest are contained in a separate consumer credit agreement made between the Parents/Guardian and the School, simple interest may be charged on a day-to-day basis on fees which are unpaid. The rate of interest charged will be at up to 5% above the Bank of England base rate per month accruing on a daily basis which represents a genuine pre-estimate of the cost to the School of a default. The Parents/Guardian shall also be liable to pay all costs, fees, disbursements and charges including legal fees and costs reasonably incurred by the School in the recovery of any unpaid Fees regardless of the value of the School's claim.



**4.8 Part-Payment:** Any sum tendered that is less than the sum due and owing may be accepted by the School on account only. Late payment charges may be applied to any unpaid balance of fees, as set out in clause 4.7.

**4.9 Appropriation:** Save where the Parents/Guardian expressly state the contrary, the School shall allocate payments made to the earliest balance on the fees account. The Parents/Guardian agree that a payment made in respect of one child may also be appropriated by the School to the unpaid account of any other child of the Parents/Guardian.

**4.10 Instalment Arrangements:** An agreement by the School to accept payment of current and / or past and /or future fees by instalments is concessionary and will be subject to separate agreement(s) between the Parents/Guardian and the School. Where there are inconsistencies between these terms and conditions and those of any instalment agreement or invoice issued by the School to the Parents/Guardian (as applicable), the terms and conditions of the instalment agreement or the invoice shall prevail.

**4.11 Composition Schemes:** An arrangement under which a lump sum advance payment of fees is made by or on behalf of the Parents/Guardian will be the subject of a separate agreement.

**4.12 Scholarships and Bursaries:** Every scholarship, exhibition, bursary or other award or concession is a discretionary privilege, subject to high standards of attendance, diligence and behaviour on the pupil's part and to the Parents/Guardian treating the School and its staff reasonably. The terms on which such awards are offered and accepted will be notified to Parents/Guardian at the time of offer. Any value attached to a scholarship shall be deducted from fees before any bursary or other concession is calculated or assessed. A copy of the School's remissions policy is available from the School on written request

If your child has been awarded a scholarship or bursary, your liability will be for the amount of fees due after taking account of that award. An award may be withdrawn with immediate effect if, in the opinion of the Head Teacher your child's attendance, progress or behaviour no longer merits the continuation of the award but 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. The School reserves the right to review all awards of scholarships/bursaries on an annual basis.

It is the policy of the School to review scholarships and bursaries annually, and upon entering 6<sup>th</sup> form all scholarships and bursaries will be re-assessed, and changes taking place from the anniversary of a pupil's start at the School. However, the School reserves the right to review remissions given or impose surcharges at any time in the event of a sudden and unpredictable change in the Schools running costs if circumstances warrant it.

**4.13 Fees Increases:** Fees are reviewed annually and are subject to increase from time to time. If the Parents/Guardian receive less than a Term's notice of a Fees increase greater than 10% they may give to the School written notice of withdrawal of the pupil within 21 days and will not be liable to pay fees in lieu of notice and the acceptance deposit and additional Deposit, if paid, will be refunded without interest less any sums owing to the School.



**4.14 Information About Fees:** The Parents/Guardian consent to the School making enquiries of the pupil's previous schools for confirmation that all sums due and owing to such schools have been paid. The Parents/Guardian also consent to the School informing any other school or educational establishment to which the pupil is to be transferred if any Fees of this School are unpaid.

**4.15 Anti-Money Laundering:** From time to time the School may need to obtain satisfactory evidence such as sight of a passport of the identity of a person who is paying fees.

## 5 Educational matters

**5.1 Provision of Education:** The School will do all that is reasonable to provide an educational environment and teaching of a range, standard and quality which is suitable for each pupil and to provide education to at least the standard required by law in the particular circumstances. The School cannot guarantee that the pupil will achieve their desired examination results or that results will be sufficient to gain entry to other educational establishments.

**5.2 Organisation of the Curriculum:** We reserve the right to organise the curriculum and its delivery in a way which, in the professional judgement of the Head Teacher, is most appropriate to the School community as a whole. Our policy on class sizes may change from year to year and from time to time and will depend mainly on the mixture of abilities and aptitudes among the pupils. If the Parents/Guardian have specific requirements or concerns about any aspect of the pupil's education or progress they should contact the pupil's tutor, or other appropriate member of staff, as soon as possible, or contact the Head Teacher in the case of a serious concern.

**5.3 Progress Reports:** The School shall monitor the pupil's progress and shall report regularly to the Parents/Guardian by means of grades, full written reports and Parents/Guardian' meetings.

**5.4 Sex Education:** The pupil will receive health and life skills education appropriate to their age in accordance with the curriculum from time to time unless the Parents/Guardian have given formal notice in writing that they do not wish the pupil to take part in this aspect of the curriculum.

**5.5 Public Examinations:** The Head Teacher may, after consultation with the Parents/Guardian and the pupil, decline to enter the pupil's name for a public examination if, in the exercise of their professional judgement, the Head Teacher considers that by doing so the pupil's prospects in other examinations would be impaired and / or if the pupil has not prepared for the examination with sufficient diligence, for example, because the pupil has not worked or revised in accordance with advice or instruction from their tutors.

**5.6 Reports and References:** Information supplied to the Parents/Guardian and others concerning the progress and character of the pupil, and about examination, further education and career prospects, and any references shall be given conscientiously and with all due care and skill but otherwise without liability on the part of the School.



**5.7 Learning Difficulties:** The School shall do all that is reasonable to detect and deal appropriately with a learning difficulty which is considered to be a "special educational need". The School staff are not, however, qualified to make a medical diagnosis of conditions such as those commonly referred to as dyslexia, or of other learning difficulties.

**5.8 Screening for Learning Difficulties:** The screening tests available to Schools are indicative only: they are not infallible. The Parents/Guardian will be notified if a screening test indicates that the pupil may have a learning difficulty. A formal assessment can be arranged by the School at the Parents/Guardian' expense or by the Parents/Guardian themselves.

**5.9 Information about Learning Difficulties:** The Parents/Guardian shall notify the Head Teacher when completing the School's confidential information form and subsequently in writing if they are aware or suspect that the pupil (or anyone in their immediate family) has a learning difficulty and the Parents/Guardian must provide the School with copies of all written reports and other relevant information. The Parents/Guardian will be asked to withdraw the pupil, without being charged fees in lieu of notice if, in the professional judgement of the Head Teacher and after consultation with the Parents/Guardian and with the pupil (where appropriate), the School is unable to provide adequately for the pupil's special educational needs. The School reserves the right to charge for the provision of additional teaching.

**5.10 Moving up the School:** It is assumed that if the pupil satisfies the relevant criteria at the time they will progress through the School and will ultimately complete the Upper Sixth Year (Year 13). The Parents/Guardian will be consulted if there appears to be any reason why the pupil may be refused a place at the next stage of the School. The Parents/Guardian must give a term's notice in writing (i.e. before the end of the Spring Term) in accordance with the provisions about notice in Section 9 below if they do not intend the pupil to proceed to the next stage of the School, or a term's fees in lieu of notice will be payable.

**5.11 School's Intellectual Property:** The School reserves all rights and interest in any copyright, design right, registered design, patent or trademark (**Intellectual Property**) arising as a result of the actions or work of the pupil in conjunction with any member of staff and / or other pupils at the School for a purpose associated with the School. The School will acknowledge and allow to be acknowledged the pupil's role in the creation / development of intellectual property.

**5.12 Pupil's Intellectual Property:** The Parents/Guardian consent for themselves and (so far as they are entitled to do so) on behalf of the pupil, to the School retaining the pupil's original work until, in the professional judgement of the Head Teacher, it is appropriate to release the work to the pupil. Certain coursework may have to be retained for longer than other work in order to reduce the risk of cheating. We will take reasonable care to preserve the pupil's work undamaged but cannot accept liability for loss or damage caused to this or any other property of the pupil by factors outside the direct control of the Head Teacher or staff.



**5.13 Educational Visits:** By signing the acceptance form or agreeing to be bound by these terms and conditions the Parents/Guardian' consent to the pupil taking part in any educational visit, including CCF and Duke of Edinburgh Award activities.

Educational visits which:

5.13.1 cost more than £50; or

5.13.2 require overseas travel; or

5.13.3 involve an overnight stay of more than one night away from the School; or

5.13.4 occur during a School vacation; or

5.13.5 involve some element of high risk or adventure activity (other than normal CCF, Duke of Edinburgh Award activities) will be subject to a separate agreement. The cost of such a visit will be payable in advance. The pupil shall be subject to School discipline in all respects whilst engaged in an educational visit. All additional costs (such as medical costs, taxis, air fares, or professional advice) incurred to protect the pupil's safety and welfare, or to respond to breaches of discipline, will be added to the fees invoice. The School reserves the right to prevent the pupil from taking part in an educational visit while overdue fees remain unpaid.

## 6 Pastoral Care

**6.1 The School's Commitment:** We will do all that is reasonable to safeguard and promote the pupil's welfare and to provide pastoral care to at least the standard required by law in the particular circumstances. We will respect the pupil's human rights and freedoms which must, however, be balanced with the lawful needs and rules of the School community and the rights and freedoms of others.

**6.2 Complaints:** Any question, concern or complaint about the pastoral care or safety of a pupil or any educational issue or other matter connected to the School must be notified to the School as soon as practicable. A copy of the School's complaints procedure can be supplied on request. See also clause 8.18.

**6.3 Pupil's Rights:** The pupil, if of sufficient maturity and understanding, has certain legal rights that the School must observe. These include the right to give or withhold consent in a variety of circumstances and certain rights to confidentiality and, usually, the right to have contact with their Parents/Guardian. If a conflict of interest arises between the Parents/Guardian and the pupil, the rights of, and duties owed to, the pupil will in most cases take precedence over the rights of, and duties owed to, the Parents/Guardian.





**6.4 Head Teacher's Authority:** The Parents/Guardian authorise the Head Teacher to take and / or authorise in good faith all decisions which the Head Teacher considers on proper grounds will safeguard and promote the pupil's welfare. Please see Section 7.

**6.5 Ethos:** The ethos of the School is to foster good relationships between pupils and between members of staff and pupils. Bullying, harassment, victimisation and discrimination will not be tolerated. The School and its staff will act fairly in relation to the pupil and the Parents/Guardian and we expect the same of the pupil and the Parents/Guardian in relation to the School or its staff.

**6.6 Physical Contact:** The Parents/Guardian, consent to such physical contact with the pupil:

6.6.1 as may accord with good practice; or

6.6.2 as may be appropriate and proper for teaching and instruction; or

6.6.3 for providing comfort to the pupil in distress; or

6.6.4 to maintain safety and good order; or

6.6.5 in connection with the pupil's health and welfare.

The Parents/Guardian also consent to the pupil participating in contact and non-contact sports and other activities as part of the normal School programme or extra-curricular programme. The Parents/Guardian acknowledge that while the School will provide appropriate supervision the risk of injury cannot be eliminated.

**6.7 Disclosures:** The Parents/Guardian must, as soon as possible, disclose to the School in confidence:

6.7.1 any known medical condition, health problem or allergy affecting the pupil;

6.7.2 any history of a learning difficulty on the part of the pupil or any member of their immediate family;

6.7.3 any disability, special educational need or any behavioural, emotional difficulty and / or social difficulty on the part of the pupil;

6.7.4 any family circumstances or court order which might affect the pupil's welfare or happiness;

6.7.5 any concerns about the pupil's safety;

6.7.6 any change in the financial circumstances of the Parents/Guardian in receipt of a bursary from the School.

**6.8 Confidentiality:** The Parents/Guardian authorise the Head Teacher to override their own and (so far as they are entitled to do so) the pupil's rights to confidentiality, and to impart confidential information on a need-to-know basis where necessary to safeguard or promote the pupil's welfare or to avert a perceived risk of serious harm to the pupil or to another person at the School. In some



cases, members of staff may need to be informed of any particular vulnerability the pupil may have. The School reserves the right to monitor the pupil's use of:

6.8.1 e-mail;

6.8.2 the internet; and

6.8.3 mobile electronic devices.

See also the School's policy on acceptable use of IT and e-mail.

**6.9 Special Precautions:** The Head Teacher needs to be aware of any matters that are relevant to the pupil's safety and security. The Head Teacher must therefore be notified in writing immediately of any court orders or situations of risk in relation to the pupil for whom any special safety precautions may be needed. Parents/Guardian may be excluded from School premises if the Head Teacher, acting in a proper manner, considers such exclusion to be in the best interests of the pupil or any other member of the School community.

**6.10 Leaving School Premises:** The School will do all that is reasonable to ensure that the pupil remains in the care of the School during School hours but we cannot accept responsibility for the pupil if they leave School premises in breach of School rules. The School is not legally entitled to prevent a pupil aged 16 years or over from leaving School premises during School hours.

**6.11 Residence During Term Time:** The pupil, except when boarding, is required during term time and at weekends, exeats (permitted periods of time away from School) and half term, to live with the Parents/Guardian or a legal guardian or with an education guardian acceptable to the School.

The Head Teacher must be notified in writing immediately if the pupil will be residing during term time under the care of someone other than the Parents/Guardian.

**6.12 Communications from Parents/Guardian:** Communications or instructions from one of the Parents/Guardian or any person with parental responsibility shall be deemed by the School to be received from both Parents/Guardian. This requirement does not apply to the giving of notice for the cancellation of the place or the withdrawal of the pupil from the School. Those persons who are required to consent to or to give notice of cancellation or withdrawal are set out in clause 9.2.

**6.13 Absence of Parents/Guardian:** When both Parents/Guardian will be absent from the pupil's home overnight or for a 24 hour period or longer, the Head Teacher must be told in writing the name, address and telephone number for 24 hour contact with the adult who will have the care of the pupil.

**6.14 Education Guardians:** The Parents/Guardian if resident outside the United Kingdom must before entry appoint an education guardian for the pupil in the United Kingdom who has been given legal authority to act on behalf of the Parents/Guardian in all respects and to whom the School can apply for authorities when necessary. The School can accept no responsibility for the pupil when they are in the care of the Parents/Guardian or the education guardian. The



Parents/Guardian or the education guardian must make holiday arrangements, including travel to and from the School, in advance. The responsibility for choosing an appropriate education guardian rests solely with the Parents/Guardian. The Parents/Guardian are responsible in each case for satisfying themselves as to the suitability of an education guardian. The Parents/Guardian shall immediately on appointment provide the School with up to date contact details for the appointed education guardian and shall immediately notify the School of any changes to those details.

**6.15 Photographs or Images:** By signing the Acceptance Form or agreeing to these terms and conditions the Parents/Guardian consent to the School obtaining and using photographs or images of the pupil for:

6.15.1 use in the School's promotional material such as the prospectus, the website or social media;

6.15.2 press and media purposes;

6.15.3 educational purposes as part of the curriculum or extra-curricular activities.

We would not disclose the home address of the pupil without the Parents/Guardian's consent. If the Parents/Guardian do not want the pupil's photograph or image to appear in any of the School's promotional material they must make sure the pupil knows this and must notify the Head Teacher in writing immediately, requesting an acknowledgement of their letter.

**6.16 Transport:** The Parents/Guardian consent to the pupil travelling by any form of public transport and / or in a motor vehicle driven by a responsible adult who is duly licensed and insured to drive a vehicle of that type.

**6.17 Pupil's Personal Property:** The pupil is responsible for the security and safe use of all their personal property including money, mobile phones, locker keys, watches, computers, musical instruments and sports equipment, and for property lent to them by the School.

**6.18 Insurance:** The Parents/Guardian are responsible for insurance of the pupil's personal property whilst at School or on the way to and from School or any School-sponsored activity away from School premises.

**6.19 School's Liability:** Unless negligent or guilty of some other wrongdoing causing injury, loss or damage, the School does not accept responsibility for accidental injury or other loss caused to the pupil or the Parents/Guardian or for loss or damage to property.

## **7 Health and Medical Matters**

**7.1 Medical Declaration:** The Parents/Guardian will be asked to complete a confidential information form concerning the pupil's health and must inform the Head Teacher in writing if the pupil develops any known medical condition, health problem or allergy, or will be unable to take



part in games or sporting activities, or has been in contact with anyone with an infectious or contagious disease.

**7.2 Medical Care:** If a boarder the pupil must be registered on the list with the local Doctor while a pupil at the School. The Parents/Guardian must comply with the Doctor's recommendations which may include a reasonable decision to release the pupil home when they are unwell.

**7.3 Medical Examination:** The pupil will have a routine medical examination with the local Doctor or other doctor appointed by them, usually during the first term at the School. Arrangements can be made on request for the Parents/Guardian to be present but this is subject to the pupil's consent if the pupil is of sufficient maturity and understanding.

**7.4 Pupil's Health:** The Head Teacher may at any time require a medical opinion or certificate as to the pupil's general health where the Head Teacher considers it necessary as a matter of professional judgement in the interests of the pupil and / or the School community. The pupil if of sufficient age and maturity is entitled to insist on confidentiality which can be overridden in the pupil's own interests or where necessary for the protection of other members of the School community.

**7.5 Medical Information:** Throughout the pupil's time as a member of the School, the Doctor shall have the right to disclose confidential information about the pupil if it is considered to be in the pupil's own interests or necessary for the protection of other members of the School community. Such information will be given and received on a confidential, need-to-know basis.

**7.6 Emergency Medical Treatment:** The Parents/Guardian authorise the Head Teacher to consent on their behalf to the pupil receiving emergency medical treatment including blood transfusions within the United Kingdom, general anaesthetic and operations performed by the National Health Service or at a private hospital and where certified by an appropriately qualified person as necessary for the pupil's welfare and if the Parents/Guardian cannot be contacted in time.

## **8 Behaviour and Discipline**

**8.1 School Regime:** The Parents/Guardian accept that the School will be run in accordance with the authorities delegated by the Board of Directors to the Head Teacher. The Head Teacher is entitled to exercise a wide discretion in relation to the School's policies, rules and regime and will exercise those discretions in a reasonable and lawful manner, and with procedural fairness when the status of the pupil is at issue.

**8.2 Conduct and Attendance:** We attach importance to courtesy, integrity, good manners, good discipline and respect for the needs of others. The Parents/Guardian warrant that the pupil will take a full part in the activities of the School, will attend each School day, will be punctual, will work hard, will be well-behaved and will comply with the School rules about the wearing of uniform and general appearance.



**8.3 School Rules:** The School rules which apply are set out in the Student Handbook, Parent and Pupil Guides, the School website and other documents published from time to time. The Parents/Guardian are requested to read these documents carefully with the pupil before they accept the offer of a place.

**8.4 School Discipline:** The Parents/Guardian accept the authority of the Head Teacher and of other members of staff on the Head Teacher's behalf to take all reasonable disciplinary or preventative action necessary to safeguard and promote the welfare of the pupil and the School community as a whole. The School's disciplinary policy which is current at the time applies to all pupils when they are on School premises, or in the care of the School, or wearing School uniform, or otherwise representing or associated with the School.

**8.5 Investigative Action:** A complaint or rumour of misconduct will be investigated. The pupil may be questioned and their accommodation or belongings may be searched in appropriate circumstances. All reasonable care will be taken to protect the pupil's human rights and freedoms and to ensure that the Parents/Guardian are informed as soon as reasonably practicable after it becomes clear that the pupil may face formal disciplinary action, and also to make arrangements for the pupil to be accompanied and assisted by the Parents/Guardian, education guardian or a teacher of the pupil's choice.

**8.6 Procedural Fairness:** Investigation of a complaint that could lead to expulsion, removal or withdrawal of the pupil in any of the circumstances explained below shall be carried out in a fair and unbiased manner. All reasonable efforts will be made to notify the Parents/Guardian or education guardian so that they can attend a meeting with the Head Teacher before a decision is taken in such a case. In the absence of the Parents/Guardian or education guardian, the pupil will be assisted by an adult (usually a teacher) of their choice.

**8.7 Divulging Information:** Except as required by Law, the School and its staff shall not be required to divulge to the Parents/Guardian or others any confidential information or the identities of pupils or others who have given information which has led to the complaint or which the Head Teacher has acquired during an investigation.

**8.8 Drugs and Alcohol:** The pupil may be given the opportunity to provide a biological sample under medical supervision if involvement with drugs is suspected, or a sample of breath to test for alcohol consumed in breach of School rules or policy. A sample or test in these circumstances will not form part of the pupil's permanent medical record.

**8.9 Sanctions:** The School's current policies on sanctions are available to the Parents/Guardian on request before they accept the offer of a place. Those policies may undergo reasonable change from time to time but will not authorise any form of unlawful activity. Sanctions may include a requirement to undertake menial but not degrading tasks on behalf of the School or external community, detention for a reasonable period, withdrawal of privileges, gating, removal or suspension, rustication or alternatively being removed or expelled.

**8.10 Definitions of Sanctions:** The definitions in this clause apply in these terms and conditions.



**Expulsion:** means that the pupil is required to leave the School permanently in circumstances described in clause 8.11

**Gating:** means that the pupil is confined to the School premises for a limited period of time (usually during a weekend) but without further disciplinary consequences.

**Removal:** means that the permanent removal of the pupil from the School is required in circumstances described in clause 8.13.

**Rustication:** means the release of the pupil to their home or to an education guardian for a specified period of time (usually a weekend) but without further disciplinary consequences.

**Suspension:** means that the pupil is sent or released home for a limited period as either a disciplinary sanction or pending the outcome of an investigation or pending a Governors' Review.

**Withdrawal:** has the meaning set out in clause 9.9.

**8.11 Expulsion:** The pupil may be formally expelled from the School if it is proved on the balance of probabilities that the pupil has committed a very grave breach of discipline or a serious criminal offence. Expulsion is reserved for the most serious breaches. The Head Teacher shall act with procedural fairness in all such cases. The Head Teacher's decision to expel shall be subject to a Board of Directors' Review if requested by the Parents/Guardian. The Parents/Guardian will be given a copy of the Review procedure current at the time. The pupil shall be suspended from the School pending the outcome of the review. See clause 8.16 and clause 8.17.

**8.12 Fees Following Expulsion:** If the pupil is expelled, there will be no refund of the registration fee, deposit or of fees for the current or past terms. There will be no charge to fees in lieu of notice but, save for any contrary provisions in any other agreement made between the Parents/Guardian and the School, all arrears of fees and any other sums due to the School will be payable.

**8.13 Removal in Other Circumstances:** The Parents/Guardian may be required to remove the pupil permanently from the School or from boarding if, after consultation with the Parents/Guardian and if appropriate the pupil, the Head Teacher is of the opinion that:

8.13.1 by reason of the pupil's conduct, behaviour or progress, the pupil is unwilling or unable to benefit sufficiently from the educational opportunities and / or the community life offered by the School; or

8.13.2 if the Parents/Guardian have treated the School or members of its staff unreasonably;

then in these circumstances, and at the sole discretion of the Head Teacher, withdrawal of the pupil by the Parents/Guardian may be permitted as an alternative to removal being required. The Head Teacher shall act with procedural fairness in all such cases, and shall have regard to the interests of the pupil and the Parents/Guardian as well as those of the School. The Head Teacher's decision to require the removal of the pupil shall be subject to a Board of Directors' Review if requested by the Parents/Guardian.



The Parents/Guardian will be given a copy of the review procedure current at the time. The pupil shall be suspended from the School pending the outcome of the review. See clause 8.16 and clause 8.17.

**8.14 Fees Following Removal:** If the pupil is removed or withdrawn in the circumstances described in clause 8.13, the provisions relating to Fees shall be as set out in clause 8.12.

**8.15 Leaving Status:** The School reserves the right to record the leaving status of the pupil on the pupil's file immediately after expulsion or removal or withdrawal.

**8.16 Board of Directors' Review:** The Parents/Guardian may request a review by the Board of Directors of a decision to expel or require the removal of the pupil from the School or from boarding (but not a decision to suspend the pupil unless the suspension is for 11 School days or more or would prevent the pupil taking a public examination). The request shall be made as soon as possible and in any event within seven days of the Head Teacher's decision being notified to the Parents/Guardian. The Parents/Guardian will be entitled to know the names of the Board who make up the review panel and may ask for the appointment of an independent panel member nominated by the Board and approved by the Parents/Guardian, providing such approval not to be unreasonably withheld.

**8.17 Review Procedure:** The Head Teacher will advise the Parents/Guardian of the procedure (current at that time) under which a Board of Directors' Review shall be conducted by a panel of three (including an independent member if requested). If the Parents/Guardian request a Board of Directors' Review, the pupil will be suspended from School until the review procedure has been completed. While suspended, the pupil shall remain away from School and will have no right to enter School premises during that time without written permission from the Head Teacher. A Board of Directors' Review will be conducted under fair procedures in accordance with the requirements of natural justice.

**8.18 Complaints Procedure:** A complaint about any matter of School policy or administration not involving an expulsion or removal of the pupil must be made in accordance with the School's complaints procedure, a copy of which is available on request. Every reasonable complaint shall receive fair and proper consideration and a timely response.

## 9 Provisions About Notice

**9.1 Term:** means the period between and including the first and last days of the relevant School term.

**9.2 Notice:** means (unless the contrary is stated in these terms and conditions) a term's written notice given by:

9.2.1 both Parents/Guardian; or

9.2.2 one of the Parents/Guardian with the prior written consent of the other parent; and



9.2.3 any other person with parental responsibility

before the first day of Term addressed to and received by the Head Teacher personally or the Bursar on the Head Teacher's behalf. It is expected that the Parents/Guardian will consult with the Head Teacher before giving notice to withdraw the pupil.

**9.3 A Term's Written Notice:** means notice given **before the final teaching day of a term** and expiring at the end of the following Term. For example, if a student wishes to leave at the end of the summer term notice must be served before the final teaching day of the spring term.

A Term's Written Notice must be given if:

9.3.1 the Parents/Guardian wish to cancel the place after acceptance; or

9.3.2 the Parents/Guardian wish to withdraw the pupil who has entered the School; or

9.3.3 the Parents/Guardian or the pupil wish(es) to transfer from boarding to day status; or

9.3.4 following the GCSE year or AS Level year, the pupil will not return for the following year even if they achieved the required grades.

**9.4 Fees in Lieu of Notice:** in circumstances where the Parents/Guardian have not given a term's written notice, fees in lieu of notice means fees in full at the rate applicable for the next term following withdrawal and not limited to the parental contribution in the case of a scholarship, exhibition, bursary or other award or concession. One term's fees in lieu of notice represents a genuine pre-estimate of the School's loss in these circumstances, and sometimes the actual loss to the School will be much greater. This rule is necessary to promote stability and the School's ability to plan its staffing and other resources.

**9.5 Cancellation:** means the cancellation of a place at the School which has been accepted by the Parents/Guardian and which occurs before the pupil enters the School or where the pupil does not enter the School. Please see clause 3.1 for details of when entry to the School occurs.

**9.6 Cancellation Rights:** All sales are final and cannot be cancelled following acceptance.

**9.7 Cancelling Acceptance:** The cancellation of the place after acceptance can cause long-term loss to the School if it occurs after other families have taken their decisions about schooling for their children. A genuine pre-estimate of loss is fees for between one and five years. Nonetheless, the School agrees to limit the liability of the Parents/Guardian to:

9.7.1 one term's fees at the rate payable for the term of entry, payable as a debt if less than a term's written notice of cancellation has been given. The school reserves the right to offset the acceptance deposit and additional deposit, if paid, against the term's fees; or

9.7.2 the acceptance deposit and the additional deposit if more than a term's written notice has been given. Cases of serious illness or genuine hardship may receive special consideration on written request.





**9.8 Withdrawal:** means the withdrawal of the pupil from the School by the Parents/Guardian or the pupil with or without notice required under these terms and conditions at any time after the pupil has entered the School. Please see clause 3.1 for details of when entry to the school occurs. See also clause 4.6 and clause 9.9.

**9.9 Withdrawal by the Parents/Guardian:** If the pupil is withdrawn on less than a term's written notice, or excluded for more than 28 days for non-payment of fees as set out in clause 4.6, fees in lieu of notice less the acceptance deposit will be due and payable as a debt immediately. The School reserves the right to offset the additional deposit, if paid, against the term's fees.

**9.10 Prior Consultation:** It is expected that the Parents/Guardian, will consult personally with the Head Teacher or with the Head Teacher's authorised deputy before notice of withdrawal is given by the Parents/Guardian.

**9.11 Change of Boarding to Day Status:** The Parents/Guardian must first obtain the express permission of the Head Teacher in writing if the Parents/Guardian or the pupil wishes to change from boarding to day status. At the discretion of the Head Teacher, the School has the right to postpone or refuse a transfer request and the Head Teacher will consider the best interests of the pupil and the School in reaching the decision. Any such place is subject to the availability of places. Once permission has been received the Parents/Guardian must give a term's written notice of the change. If a term's written notice is not received the difference between the rate applicable for the current type of place and the new type of place for the next term will be payable as a debt immediately.

**9.12 Discontinuing Extra Tuition:** A term's written notice is required to discontinue extra tuition or a term's Fees for the extra tuition will be immediately payable in lieu as a debt.

**9.13 Termination by the School:** The School may terminate this agreement on one term's notice in writing sent by ordinary post. The School will not terminate this agreement without good cause and full consultation with the Parents/Guardian and also the pupil (if of sufficient maturity and understanding). The registration fee and the deposit, if paid, will be refunded without interest less any outstanding balance of fees.

## **10 Events Beyond the Control of the Parties**

**10.1 Force Majeure:** An event beyond the reasonable control of the School or the Parents/Guardian is a force majeure event and shall include such events as an act of God, fire, flood, storm, war, riot, civil unrest, act of terrorism, strikes, industrial disputes, outbreak of epidemic or pandemic of disease, failure of utility service or transportation.

**10.2 Notification:** If either the School or the Parents/Guardian is prevented from or delayed in carrying out its contractual obligations by a force majeure event, that party shall immediately notify the other in writing and shall be excused from performing those obligations while the force majeure event continues.



**10.3 Continued Force Majeure:** If a force majeure event continues for a period greater than 90 days, the party who has provided notification under clause 10.2 shall notify the other of the steps to be taken to ensure performance of its contractual obligations.

**10.4 Termination:** If the force majeure event continues for a total period greater than 120 days, the party in receipt of notification under clause 10.2 may terminate this contract by providing at least three working days' notice in writing to the other party.

## 11 General Contractual Matters

**11.1 Data Protection:** By signing the acceptance form or by agreeing to be bound by these terms and conditions the Parents/Guardian on behalf of themselves and, so far as they are able, on behalf of the pupil consent to the processing by the School of personal information including:

11.1.1 financial information relating to the Parents/Guardian;

11.1.2 biometric information relating to the pupil;

11.1.3 sensitive personal information relating to the Parents/Guardian and / or the pupil; as is deemed necessary for the legitimate purposes of the School.

**Biometric Information:** By signing the School's acceptance form, the Parents/Guardian consent to the School obtaining and using the pupil's biometric information in the form of thumbprint recognition as part of an automated biometric recognition system. If one of the Parents/Guardian wishes to withdraw consent to the processing of the pupil's biometric information they shall make the other Parent and the pupil aware of this and shall notify the Head Teacher in writing immediately, requesting an acknowledgement of their letter.

**11.2 Change:** The School, as any other, is likely to undergo a number of changes during the period of this agreement. For example, there may be changes in the staff, and in the premises, facilities and their use, in the curriculum and the size and composition of classes, and in the School rules and procedures, the disciplinary framework, and the length of School terms. In addition, there may be the need to undertake a corporate reorganisation exercise and / or a merger or change of ownership may be necessary. For these reasons, the benefit and burden of this agreement may be freely assigned to another party at the discretion of the School.

**11.3 Consumer Protection:** Care has been taken to use plain language and to give clear explanations in these terms and conditions. If any words alone or in combination infringe the Unfair Terms in Consumer Contracts Regulations 1999 or any other provision of law, they shall be treated as severable and shall be replaced with words which give as near the original meaning as may be fair.

**11.4 Consultation:** It is not practicable to consult with the Parents/Guardian and the pupil over every change that may take place. Whenever practicable, the School will use reasonable



endeavours to ensure that the Parents/Guardian will be consulted and where possible given at least a term's notice in writing of:

11.4.1 a change of policy; or

11.4.2 a change in any physical aspect of the School which would have a significant effect on the pupil's education or pastoral care; or

11.4.3 a change of ownership of the School.

**11.5 Representations:** The School's prospectus and website describe the broad principles on which the School is operated and gives an indication of its history and ethos. Although believed correct at the time of publication, the prospectus and website are not part of any agreement between the Parents/Guardian and the School. If the Parents/Guardian wish to place specific reliance on a matter contained in the prospectus, website, or on a statement made by a member of staff or a pupil they should seek written confirmation of that matter from the Head Teacher.

**11.6 Third Party Rights:** Only the School and the Parents/Guardian are parties to this contract. Neither the pupil nor any third party is a party to this contract and shall not have any rights to enforce any term of it.

**11.7 Interpretation:** These terms and conditions supersede any previously in force and will be construed as a whole. Headings, unless required to make sense of the immediate context, are for ease of reading only and are not otherwise part of the terms and conditions.

**11.8 Jurisdiction:** This contract was made at the School and is governed exclusively by the Law of England and Wales however the parties may submit such disputes to the courts within any other jurisdiction as they see appropriate.

Adcote School: a Company Limited by Guarantee

Registered in England, Company Number: **10067403**



### Schedule 1 Data Protection Information Notes

1. The School holds information about you and your child including exam results, parent and guardian contact details, financial information, biometric information in the form of thumbprint recognition and details of medical conditions. This information is kept electronically on the School's information management system or manually in indexed filing systems.
2. These notes refer to the **processing** of information. Processing is a catch-all term and means obtaining or recording information or carrying out any operation on the information such as storing or using the information or passing it on to third parties.
3. The School processes information about you and your child in order to safeguard and promote the welfare of your child, promote the objects and interests of the School, facilitate the efficient operation of the School and ensure that all relevant legal obligations of the School are complied with. Examples may include: the School keeping details of medical conditions from which your child may suffer so that staff will be able to respond appropriately in the event of a medical emergency, and / or the School processing financial information obtained from you or from third parties such as credit reference agencies or the School using biometric information in the form of thumbprint recognition for pupils to record access to boarding houses, library issue, etc.
4. The School may process different types of information about your child for the purposes set out above. That information may include:
  - a. medical records and information, including details of any illnesses, allergies or other medical conditions suffered by your child;
  - b. personal details such as home address, date of birth and next of kin;
  - c. information concerning your child's performance at School, including discipline record, School reports and examination reports;
  - d. financial information including information about the payment of fees at this School or any other School.
5. Where in the professional opinion of the Head Teacher it is deemed necessary we may share information with certain third parties.
6. We may, in order to verify your identity and so that we can assess your application for the award of a bursary or for credit in contemplation of an agreement for the deferment of fees, search the files of any licensed credit reference agency who will keep a record of that search and details about your application. This record will be seen by other organisations which make searches about you. Failure to supply information may result in a refusal of an award or credit.