



HOUSE POLICY

This policy relates to all sections and activities of the school e.g. the Senior School, the Junior School (including EYFS), Wrap Around Care, Offsite Activities and School run Holiday Activities or Clubs.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 At Red House School, we have always been immensely proud of our House system and the pupils are fiercely loyal to their academic Houses.

1.2 The Red House School House system has been developed and introduced to address the following:

- The need to include pupils and foster a strong sense of belonging immediately upon joining Red House and build on the sense of school community and collegiality.
- Supporting anti-bullying policies by providing an array of opportunities for members of different ages to interact.
- The importance of providing more opportunities for pupils to take responsibility and develop leadership skills.
- Providing opportunities for all pupils to involve themselves in worthwhile activities that are not necessarily athletic in nature but reflect the values of contemporary society.

1.3 From Autumn Term 2023, pupils in Years 7-9 have been allocated to House form groups in their year group, based on their academic houses: Castle, Ragworth and Whorlton. This will be rolled out to Years 10-11 over a two-year period.

2 THE HOUSE SYSTEM AT RED HOUSE

2.1 Staff, governors and pupils from Year 3 entering the school become a member of one of the three Houses: Castle, Ragworth and Whorlton. Prior to Year 3, in EYFS and KS1, they have Teams and a Team Cup, which 'Team of the Week' win each week for the most points.

2.2 Family members usually belong to the same house.

2.3 Each House has a team of staff attached, as well as a team of House Captains/Vice Captains from Years 10 and 8.

2.4 Pupils quickly form loyalties to their House and achieve a true sense of belonging.

2.5 The House system acts as a link between the different age groups in the school, providing them with opportunities for working and playing together.

3 BENEFITS OF THE HOUSE SYSTEM

3.1 There are many significant benefits of our House system, notably in the following areas:

3.2 Leadership: The House system gives the pupils many opportunities not just to mix with House members within their form, but also with the younger and older years, and it gives rise to many more chances for leadership opportunities and cooperation within School. For example, Senior and Junior House Captain.

3.3 Collaboration: The House system gives children of all ages the opportunity to work together; creating a truly cohesive environment. It is not only pupils who are allocated a House, staff are also involved. Each member of staff will be assigned to one of the three academic Houses.

3.4 Competition: The House system allows the opportunity for our pupils to enter into competitions with their peers, and this competing has numerous academic benefits, as well as social advantages. Competition enhances collegiality and encourages our pupils to improve and strive to be their very best. Related to this, the House system is inclusive of all learning types and interests.

3.5 Identity: Friendly competition, via academic Houses, is also good for unity and collegiality, and developing an enhanced sense of belonging.

3.6 Developing resilience: The House system provides a structure that is designed to help pupils function to the best of their ability in school and enrich each pupil's personal life by developing resilience, prompting independence, helping pupils make responsible choices, increasing their ability to function as a group and offering guidance and support in preparation to meet the intellectual, social and emotional demands of life as a young adult.

4 HOUSE EVENTS

4.1 House teams compete in the following competitions throughout the School year (this list is not exhaustive, and may be subject to change):

- Sport (Rugby, Football, Netball, Hockey, Cricket, Athletics, Tennis, Swimming, etc.)
- Music
- Drama
- Debating
- House Maths Challenge
- House Board Games Competition - Teams of 4 from each House battle it out over Chess, Draughts, Snakes & Ladders and Connect 4 to see who will be crowned the House Board Games Champions.
- House Spelling Bee
- House 'Bake Off'
- The Big Draw (art competition)
- House Robotics competition
- House charity events
- House community initiatives

4.2 Regular House meetings are held when preparing for sporting, music, drama, and other Inter-House events, and when deemed necessary by the Staff Heads of Houses, the Head and the Senior Management Team (SMT).

4.3 Weekly House Point totals for each House are calculated and celebrated in Friday's Merit and Celebration assemblies. Privileges are given to the House winners each week, e.g. line up first for tuck-shop.

Reviewed by: Mr T Thorogood and Miss C Thompson
November 2023

APPENDIX 1: THE ROLE OF THE YEAR 10 HOUSE CAPTAINS

1.1 Purpose of the role

- To demonstrate a presence around the School as a school leader, wearing the House badge with pride and essentially being a positive role model for other pupils.
- To provide guidance and information to pupils across the year groups with respect to inter-house events and competitions, fundraising for charity and service to others.

1.2 Areas of responsibility

1.2.1 To attend and actively contribute to regular meetings held with the Head of the House System and other team members.

1.2.2 To contribute to the writing of a House action team plan that records 3 key priorities for the year. These will include areas relating to:

- House Charity including the organisation of fund-raising activities.
- The organisation of Inter-House competitions and contributing to the evaluation process.
- Monitoring the implementation and impact of the school rewards system.

1.2.3 To support the Head of the House System and the staff House team in raising the profile of the House across the school community and the wider local community.

1.2.4 To assist the Head of the House System and the staff House with the organisation of Inter-House competitions, including:

- The format of the competitions.
- The promotion of the competitions.
- Attending and supervising at the events.
- Contributing to the pupil evaluation of inter-house competitions

1.2.5 To promote charitable donations and associated fundraising activities within each of the House Form groups, as well as the organisation of large, school focused fundraising events and developing a social scene within the House

1.2.6 To be innovative and creative in the development of further opportunities for involvement in activities by all pupils.