



# Newfield School



## Period 6 Arts and Sporting Exemptions Policy

|                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Author          | Headteacher    |
| Date of issue   | September 2025 |
| Date for review |                |

### DOCUMENT CONTROL

*Unless there are legislative or regulatory changes in the interim, this policy will be reviewed every 3 years. Should no substantive changes be required at that point, the policy will move to the next review cycle.*

When reading this policy, please note that the Headteacher's decision is final, alongside any staff member with delegated responsibilities. The Period 6 Arts and Sporting Exemptions Policy is to be read alongside the Attendance Policy, Behaviour Standards Policy is to be read alongside the Family Handbook, Rewards Policy and Exclusion Policy.

## **Equality Impact Assessment**

Under the Equality Act 2010 we have a duty not to discriminate against people on the basis of their age, disability, gender, gender identity, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief and sexual orientation.

This policy has been equality impact assessed and we believe it is in line with the equality Act 2010 as it is fair, it does not prioritise or disadvantage any pupil and it helps to promote equality at Newfield School.

## **Period 6 Arts and Sporting Exemptions Policy**

### **1. Policy Aims**

1.1. This policy applies to pupils in Year 11 who are seeking exemption from any Period 6 lesson due to Art/Sporting commitments. Applicants are advised to read the enclosed carefully and collect an application via Student Services. Details can then be handed in at school to Student Services or emailed to [enquiries@newfield.sheffield.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@newfield.sheffield.sch.uk).

### **2. Policy Background**

2.1. The Period 6 Arts and Sporting Exemption Policy is a whole school policy and applies to all pupils who are eligible under the guidelines stated below. The school acknowledges its duty to support pupils in fulfilling their individual talent and we believe exceptional individuals should be nurtured to ensure they reach their potential. We want to support and encourage pupils who are flourishing in their fields.

2.2. Please note that the Headteacher's decision on individual applications is final. Should parents/carers be unhappy with a decision, they can contact school.

### **3. Rationale**

3.1. The school will consider an exemption from school attendance for pupils participating in Arts/Sports - determined by the Headteacher on a case-by-case basis. It is important we look at each individual case to assess the context and commitment required. Newfield School is keen to support its pupils in achieving exceptional levels of performance in sport and the arts. Where possible, we will honour pupil commitments.

3.2. Exemption is offered for eligible sporting programs which include regional, national and international sports organisations which run coaching for athletes and national sports squads in which pupils have been selected to participate. These should be higher level than a local team pupils sign up for.

3.3. Eligible Arts is defined as an opportunity for a pupil to participate in an event or program that is beyond the opportunities that Newfield School offers. For example, this might relate to a regional, national or international musical/dramatic/artistic organisation.

### **4. Eligibility**

4.1. You are considered to be exempt if you are:

- 4.1.1. Regularly competing in national or regional level competition;
- 4.1.2. Performing in accredited coaching programs at regional, national or international level;
- 4.1.3. Recognised as being in the top 10% of your discipline in the region, the country or internationally as identified by the discipline's governing body;
- 4.1.4. Performing with a professional theatre company, orchestra or equivalent.

## 5. Applying for Exemption

- 5.1. The school will only consider exemptions once it has received the following:
  - 5.1.1. A supporting letter from an accredited individual (e.g. a coach, musical director) or an approved governing body outlining the child's aptitude in the relevant discipline;
  - 5.1.2. A letter from a parent/carer outlining the duration of absence and any supporting evidence they feel supports their child's application for an exemption;
- 5.2. All applications must be submitted to [enquiries@newfield.sheffield.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@newfield.sheffield.sch.uk) by Monday 21 July 2025.

## 6. Applications Approval Criteria

- 6.1. Applications may not be approved if:
  - 6.1.1. A pupil's attendance falls below 95%;
  - 6.1.2. The school believes the pupil is under-performing academically;
  - 6.1.3. A pupil has behavioural concerns.

## 7. Approved Applications

- 7.1. If an application is approved a formal letter will be sent to parents and carers detailing the arrangement formally and stating a date for review.
- 7.2. If an application is not approved a formal letter will be sent to parents and carers detailing the reason for not successfully meeting the requirements of exemption formally.

We will look to showcase pupil achievements at school and on the school website. There is an option to select this on the form.

## Appendix A

### Gifted and Talented Attendance Exemption Application

|  |           |            |              |             |           |
|--|-----------|------------|--------------|-------------|-----------|
| Pupil Name   |           |            |              |             |           |
| Character Development Group                          |           |            |              |             |           |
| Area of Arts/Sports                                  |           |            |              |             |           |
| Contact Name   |           |            |              |             |           |
| Contact Name's Email                                 |           |            |              |             |           |
| Contact Name's Telephone                             |           |            |              |             |           |
| Requirements Specified and Reasons                   | Monday P6 | Tuesday P6 | Wednesday P6 | Thursday P6 | Friday P6 |
| Specific Dates for Events                            |           |            |              |             |           |
| Brief Synopsis of Involvement - Supporting Statement |           |            |              |             |           |
| Date Submitted                                       |           |            |              |             |           |
| Signed   |           |            |              |             |           |
| Print Name   |           |            |              |             |           |