

20 July 2018

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

As the current school year draws to a close, we are looking forward to the start of a new year in September. There has been much to celebrate this year; attendance and punctuality have improved and there has been a noticeable improvement in uniform standards. All of these elements are important factors in ensuring that St Dunstan's continues to go from strength to strength and make us all even more proud to be a part of our wonderful school community.

To foster even greater improvement in the new school year, I wanted to write to you to ensure that expectations are very clear for September. Part of our teaching and learning journey is to prepare students to understand and follow the rules when they are out in the workplace after leaving school and therefore, we have clear standards for behaviour, appearance and attendance which I have detailed below.

As you will be aware, the vast majority of students at St Dunstan's are charming and cooperative. We expect this to continue next year. As a reminder, we have simple rules - students should do as they are asked first time, speak to others politely and complete all work to the best of their ability. Please remind your children of these rules so that our pleasant learning environment is maintained and all can thrive.

Mobile phones are not allowed out in lessons unless the teacher gives express permission e.g, to take a photograph of examples on the board. I have been concerned by the amount of unpleasantness that has occurred via social media. Please remind your children that nothing should be posted on social media that can cause distress to others. It is illegal to share photos of others without their permission.

The standard of uniform has improved significantly which is most pleasing. As a reminder, uniform should be as detailed on the document included with this letter. Trainers are not acceptable as everyday foot wear; black shoes should be worn by all students. Please do not purchase jersey 'stretch skirts' or skin tight/jeans style trousers as these are not part of our uniform. Likewise, there is an official school PE kit and this should be worn for PE lessons. If students arrive at school in incorrect uniform or with the wrong PE kit, they will be loaned the correct uniform/kit for that day in line with our partnership policy. Failure to adhere to this policy will result in isolation for the day as is the case in all of the partnership schools.

Part of the uniform policy covers make up, jewellery and hairstyles. A single stud in each ear and a wristwatch are allowed. Rings and bracelets should not be worn in school; students will be asked to remove these if worn to school – they will be kept in the office and returned at the end of the school day. Facial piercings of any kind are not allowed in school for students or staff. Extreme hairstyles including colours are not acceptable in school. Facial piercings that cannot be removed or extreme hairstyles will result in isolation; again this is the policy across the partnership and is part of the home/school agreement. Please do not allow your child to have facial piercings or an extreme hairstyle during term time.

I have been pleased to see an improvement in attendance; being in school is the most effective way of improving progress and achievement. Students should aim to be in school every day; learning is enhanced when all lessons are attended! Of course, we recognise that sometimes illness is such that students need to stay at home. However, the national average for attendance is 96% and our aim is to achieve or exceed this to enable students to make the very best progress of which they are capable. Please support your child by ensuring that they are in school every day.

Linked to attendance, we have seen a significant improvement in punctuality this year. Students should be on site by 8:45 am at the latest every morning to ensure they are in registration promptly at 8:50 am. Morning registration is a vital part of the day for receiving important notices and having a calm start. Please help us to support your child by encouraging them to be on time every day. We do operate

a late gate procedure whereby the student entrance to the site is closed at 8.50. For those who are late, there will be lunchtime detentions in operation. Up to 9:00 am will incur a 10 minute detention, up to 9:20 am will incur half an hour. Anything after 9:20 am will incur a half hour detention at lunchtime and an after school detention. Obviously, we would prefer not to be giving detentions but we all need to be in the habit of being punctual for life after school. Please ensure that your child is on site by 8.45 am so that they have a calm start to the day.

In order to be prepared for effective learning, students need the correct equipment in school with them every day. As a bare minimum, they should bring:

- A blue or black pen
- A green pen
- A pencil
- A ruler
- A rubber
- A calculator
- A compass
- A protractor and set square
- A reading book

If we can all ensure that students are following the school rules, we will have another happy and successful year.

I wish you all a very happy summer holiday and look forward to seeing students, in the correct uniform, with the right equipment and on time on Wednesday 5 September 2018.

Yours sincerely



L. Bevan
Assistant Headteacher