



Gospel Oak School

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27th October 2023

Our Ref: CCZ/KHA/659

Your Ref:

Dear Parent/Carer,

It has been wonderful seeing the hard work, tenacity and drive shown by our students across this long first Half Term. I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your support with your child, something which is crucial in ensuring that the learning conversations at school are embedded with you at home.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of some key information.

Uniform

We are extremely proud of the high standards of uniform our students uphold. Thank you to the parents and carers who continue to support us daily with maintain the high standards we set in terms of students wearing the correct uniform. We have noticed the following issues in our uniform checks and I would ask that you spend Half Term talking to your child and impressing upon them the need for setting the highest standards in terms of their own “personal brand” in how they present themselves.

- All students should be wearing a tie at all times. Students who lose their tie will be asked to replace it at a cost of £5. This can be added to their account if you wish.
- Blazers are to be worn at all times and not kept in bags.
- Formal black trousers or a formal knee length skirt must be worn.
- Formal black shoes must be worn. Students will be asked to remove shoes that do not comply with our uniform policy and we will provide alternatives to wear. Failure to comply will be addressed using our Behaviour Policy.
- False eyelashes and nail extensions should not be worn.
- Jewellery and metalwork should be conservative; nose piercings should not be worn. Clear plastic studs can be used to retain openings and these are inexpensive.
- Hairstyles and hair colour should be in line with expectation. Scratches, lines and patterns cut into hairstyles are not permitted; extreme hair colours are similarly prohibited.

After Half Term, we will be focusing on uniform and setting our standards. Please ensure that your child arrives back after half term in full adherence to these reasonable expectations.

You can use this link to access our Uniform section of the school website: [Uniform – Gospel Oak School](#)

Student conduct

Thank you to those parents who continue to support us with behaviour; we are a kind, compassionate and empathic school, but also one which sets the highest standards in terms of student behaviour and when students make poor choices, our Behaviour System is on hand to remedy this and realign students' behaviours. The vast majority of our students behave in a mature, delightful way and we thank you for your support with this.

A reminder to all parents/carers that we take a robust stance on student refusal. Students cannot refuse the reasonable expectations and instructions from staff members. Students who make these poor choices will be suspended and their place in Gospel Oak could be in jeopardy.

Students needing to be removed from a lesson and "parked" in another will lose their social time in our Reflection Room, either at break or lunch; department detentions will be issued and these will be followed up by Year Teams. We ask for your support with detentions which should be a short-term measure as students realign with our expectations.

Our Behaviour Policy is being redrafted and further information will be sent out in due course.

Punctuality and Attendance

Arriving late to school and to lessons is very disruptive for the teacher and other class members. It also means students themselves miss important input from teachers. All students must arrive at school in readiness for Form Time at 8:30am. In order to facilitate this, we recommended that they arrive at school for 8:20am each morning. Students who are late after 8:30am receive a breaktime detention; this is crucially important social time which they are precluded from if they are unable to arrive to school on time.

Attendance to school, each and every day, is critical to your child's success and there is a direct correlation between student attendance and their overall outcomes. The following table shows the amount of valuable learning time that is missed due to poor school attendance in one academic year.

Attendance During One Year	Equivalent Absence in Days	Equivalent in Weeks	Number of Lessons Missed
95%	9 days	2 weeks	45 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	95 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	145 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	190 lessons
75%	48 days	10 weeks	240 lessons
70%	57 days	11.5 weeks	285 lessons
65%	67 days	13.5 weeks	335 lessons

It is important that you are aware of your child's attendance status. We will contact you when your child's attendance meets a concerning threshold; this is designed to highlight to you the impact of your child's absence on their learning and progress and ask for your support in facilitating their attendance.

Mobile Phones

Mobile phones are not permitted in school. Where mobile phones are needed for before/after school reasons, they should be switched off and not used throughout the day. Mobile phones will be confiscated if seen and held in school until the end of the day when you will be asked to collect them.

Local Community

We often receive positive messages from those who live and work in the local community. We want to ensure that we are good neighbours for those who live locally, and we would like your support in reinforcing the importance of good conduct on their journey to and from school. I would like to remind parents/carers that you should not be parking on the school markings outside the school gate and should not aim to use the visitors' car park for pick up and drop off – this causes congestion and is a safety risk for our students.

Thank you for taking time to read and consider the information contained here. We are proud of our students and staff and know that as supportive parents and carers, you will continue to support us in our mission to provide your child with the first-class education they deserve and the best possible life chances.

With every good wish for a restful and joyous Half Term break,

With Kind Regards



Christopher Czepukojc
Principal