



Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

## RE: Standards at St. Augustine's RC High School

The pandemic has brought so many challenges and opportunities for us to learn and grow. I thoroughly enjoy sharing good news stories of our fantastic young people and how they have shown resilience, determination, commitment and care. These stories truly inspire me and remind me of how honoured I am to be a part of this community. I will continue to produce updates to celebrate these wonderful learners.

For now however, I must address a concern that staff and I have noticed build over the last two months. We have seen a lowering in the standards at St. Augustine's RC High School from more and more learners. The main concern is that these learners' own expectations of themselves have dropped with mediocre and substandard work being produced across the school.

We will reset our expectations from **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022**, and focus on these five key aspects:

1. Uniform
2. Timekeeping
3. Out of class
4. Inappropriate use of mobile phone
5. Pupil co-operation

### Uniform

We believe that uniform is an important part of ensuring our young people come to school ready to engage in their learning. It also is equitable with everyone wearing the same attire as well as an added security precaution.

Our school uniform focus is on having pupils wear completely black trousers, black denims or black skirt, white shirt, school tie, and completely black shoes. Learners can also wear a plain black jumper/cardigan. All jackets, hoodies and hats should be removed when entering the school building. If leggings are worn, there must be a skirt over them.

If any learner has an issue with sourcing appropriate uniform, then we can help – please contact Mrs. Gibson: [Claire.Gibson@st-augustines.edin.sch.uk](mailto:Claire.Gibson@st-augustines.edin.sch.uk)

With the support of period one teachers and the uniform function in class charts, any learner who does not have school uniform twice in one week will receive a Friday after school detention. This is to avoid any loss in learning or distraction from our primary goal of education.

### Timekeeping

We understand that learners can be caught out by one-off situations. There is an increasing trend that learners regularly show up to lessons late. If learners are on the astro-pitch for break/lunch, then it is their responsibility to ensure they return to class on time.

As a staff we will action this in the form of a consequence to emphasise the importance of being punctual. If a learner does not complete this then it will be escalated to a Friday after school detention.

### Out of class

Any learner who is out of class **without** written permission from the class teacher will be issued a consequence by that class teacher. The main vehicle for learning is lessons and these must be fully attended to maximise the impact. Please note that this only applies to learners who do not have a valid reason or their teacher's permission to be out of class.

### Inappropriate use of mobile phones

There is a growing amount of research that demonstrates the negative effect mobile phones can have in schools: <https://blog.innerdrive.co.uk/world-mobile-phone-research>

As a staff we have decided that no mobile phones should be in lessons whatsoever. Please note that all learners have a school iPad that will cater for any device needs within lessons.

If a learner is seen with a mobile phone and/or ear buds in a lesson, then the staff member will request the items to be put away and remind them that if out again they will be confiscated. If the items are seen again, then the staff member will ask for the item to be handed over. If this is done without any issue, then the item(s) will be returned at the end of the lesson.

If this must be escalated due to a lack of co-operation from the learner, then the item(s) will be confiscated till the end of the day and an appropriate consequence will be actioned.

### Pupil Co-operation

We welcome open dialogue and seek to build better engagement through understanding and discussion. As learning remains our priority, we welcome these discussions at times where it does not interfere in the learning of a class. Thus, we respectfully expect learners follow reasonable instructions asked of them promptly. Further discussions will always be accommodated at a more appropriate time.

Staff will give one warning and then set a consequence if any learner refuses to follow a reasonable instruction. Again, if this must be escalated due to a lack of co-operation from the learner, then an appropriate consequence will be actioned.

If any young person does not attend any Friday after school detention issued, then we will provide a learning environment away from their peers and distractions.

There is a re-scheduled Parent Council Meeting for **Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March at 6pm**. This will be part of the agenda and I welcome you to join us: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

I hope you will trust and support us as we reset the expectations for our learners. By having the focus on these five aspects and a clear escalation policy, I am confident that St. Augustine's will re-establish the high standards it is known for.

I pray that God keeps you and your families happy and healthy.

Yours faithfully,



A. O'Doherty  
Head Teacher