



17th May 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

RE: Success at St. Augustine's RC High School

As the new timetable approaches (Monday 5th June 2023) and our young people are readying to move to their next year in school; I wanted to congratulate them all on a successful year! They have shown resilience, commitment, and respect in achieving so much.

With the new timetable comes the opportunity for a fresh start. There will be new class teachers, subjects, and experiences to come! Here is a gentle reminder of the path to success, our expectations here at St. Augustine's. We have five areas that we ask learners to focus on, known as "The Basics": Uniform, Be on Time, Stay in Class, Mobile Phones Away and Pupil Co-operation.

Uniform – Safety and Equity issue

The St. Augustine's community is dedicated to supporting each other and keeping everyone safe. Our school uniform is the first and obvious way to distinguish members of our community. There have been several uninvited visitors to the school who have been identified through the lack of uniform.

In addition, as the cost-of-living crisis grows with more and more families being unable to afford some of the fundamentals including food and heat; school uniform provides an equitable way to attend school with everyone feeling included, safe and part of our community.

Learners must wear school uniform. All hoods should be down, and all hats removed when learners are inside the building. Please note that joggers are not permitted and 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

As a school we have sourced plenty of shirts/ blouses/ trousers/ skirts/ ties to support any learner into school uniform. “*The Store*” is open between 8am and 9am: auxiliary store on the ground floor between the canteen and the Performing Arts corridor; managed by Claire Gibson and Callum Bell. Please note any borrowed items can be returned to the *school library* at the end of the day.

Tutor/Period 1 staff will support any learner not in uniform by using “*The Store*”.

After 9am, if a learner is in class and does not have uniform then **staff will use Class Charts** to record this. Two occurrences in a week will result in a reflective conversation with a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Once a week, tutor staff will **reward** any learner in full school uniform with 5 House points.

Be on Time

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 and miss the important start of the learning. As a staff we will action this in the form of a consequence to emphasise the importance to engage fully with learning.

If learners are on the astro-pitch for break/lunch, then it is their responsibility to ensure they return to class on time. All lates will be recorded by class teachers through Seemis on a period-by-period basis including tutor time and period 1.

Any learner arriving after the “second” bell is deemed late and will be marked on Seemis as such. Staff will issue their own learning consequence to the relevant young people accordingly. We will also share the amount of lates with parents/carers.

As a support and to emphasise the importance, those learners returning late from break and lunch will automatically attend a restorative discussion in Social Subjects 1 classroom with our Depute Head Teacher: Mrs Baird at the start of the next lunch.

Stay in Class

Any learner who is out of class without permission from the class teacher will be issued a consequence by that staff member. The main vehicle for learning is lessons and the best resource we have are the experienced staff – learners must engage with this fully.

If there is a valid reason to leave the classroom then staff will ask for the learner’s phone and provide a note. Learners will also electronically log their absence from the lesson so we can track and provide support where needed. That said, we will try not to have learners leave the lesson – most reasons can wait till break or lunch. We are looking at ways of communicating this information to parents / carers.

We have a number of supports for our young people throughout the day, including timeouts and supervision. A recent trend that has appeared is using “Sick Bay” to disrupt learning.

There were 51 learners who left lessons on Tuesday (9th May) to visit “Sick Bay” and missed learning but were well enough. For future practice, if a learner is not well enough to attend class, we will seek to send the learner home (after contacting and agreeing with you).

Mobile Phones Away

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.

If a learner is seen with a mobile phone and/or ear buds in 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 the 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 ask that learners follow reasonable instructions asked of them promptly. Further discussions will always be accommodated.

Class Charts is software that we use to support communication with you about your child and what happens to them throughout the day. We ask that you engage with this and use the unique code to log in to your child’s account. These details will be sent separately to you. We will enhance our partnership working in making sure that your child is supported fully in achieving their potential.

Finally, as the new school year begins, I would really value your views on the school and suggestions for our community to move forward. Please complete this [short form](#) by 23rd May 2023.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



A. O’Doherty
Head Teacher