



18 March 2022

Dear Parents / Carers

ROOKS HEATH SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS: REMINDER TO OUR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

Firstly, I would like to thank all the parents and carers who have really supported all students to be at school every day and on time. We have seen a drastic reduction in the number of lates to school in the last few weeks and our attendance is above the national average. This is fantastic news as it demonstrates that parents and carers of Rooks Heath students care and understand the importance of good attendance and punctuality. Well done to all the students who have made this step and to all who have always upheld such high standards of attendance and punctuality.

I am, writing to you as the parents and carers of our students to inform you that I have recently held a meeting with my senior leadership team to address a few areas which seem to be letting the school down and has the potential to undo the good progress of our school. The letter is long but holds vital information and reminders.

It is disappointing to note that we have a small number of students who are failing to meet the expectations at Rooks Heath School. We have noticed that there are students who are displaying a number of concerning behaviours.

I want to be very clear: **poor behaviour and attitudes at school will not be tolerated.**

I am confident that the majority of our parents want us to have this as our approach. Parents and carers want a safe school. Parents and carers want a caring school. Parents and carers want a school where their child will be happy, thrive and succeed.

We have very high expectations and respectfully also expect all our parents and carers to collaborate with us to ensure we educate all the children academically and socially. This means that if your child fails to follow our school rules, or breaches the school's Behaviour for Learning policy, we will apply the appropriate sanctions. We expect all our parents to be effective by speaking with their children and reminding them of the elements of good learning behaviours and exceptional character.

You will all remember that you and your child signed our Home-School Agreement when you joined Rooks Heath. A representative of the school also signed. This demonstrates that we are working together for the benefit of your children. The aim is to ensure we support every child to strive to be their best and to achieve the highest level of success so they may leave us as confident, well-rounded, educated individuals, ready for their next steps.

Please see below a summary of the specific points for students in our Home-School agreement which we would like you to read through again with your children:



General

- Be ON TRACK every day in every way.
- Adhere to the classroom code of conduct.
- Be polite, well-behaved and respectful towards others.
- Attend school regularly.
- Be on time to school and lessons.
- Follow staff instructions, when first directed.
- Undertake class work and homework to the best of my ability.
- Have my Link Book, and all necessary equipment, at all times.
- Use school equipment in a responsible manner.
- Keep electronic devices at home or switched off, in my bag, out of site, while on school premises.
- Move around the school quietly and calmly.
- Keep the school clean, tidy and free from damage.
- Comply with all school policies, as detailed on the school website.
- Achieve excellence by ensuring the quality of my work is Good Every Time.

Uniform

- Wear full and correct school uniform, as per the Uniform Policy.
- Wear full and correct uniform on journeys to and from school, and during the school day.
- Wear correct clothing for PE lessons and other activities, as directed by staff.

Behaviour in the Corridors/In and Out of lessons

- Walk on the left in corridors and on stairs.
- Behave safely – not to run, scream, push or shove.
- Place all litter in the bins.
- Consume food/drink in designated areas only.
- Not chew gum while on school premises

If any child is unable to uphold this agreement, please note that this will be addressed in the appropriate ways applying our Behaviour for Learning policy. We are counting on you to support this from your end at home and outside school hours. The full Home-School Agreement document can be found on our website [here](#).

When I joined in 2019, I wrote to all parents to introduce myself, my vision for the school and include a reminder of what we expect in order to sustain the good progress and reputation of our school. Parents of children in years 7 and 8 would not have read this letter so allow me to share with you all once again some of the information I shared then.



Uniform

We are a uniformed school and we want to continue to see our students wearing their uniform with pride. The Rooks Heath uniform is easily identifiable and wearing it demonstrates that we are a community that values good appearance, respect for ourselves and our identity. We have high expectations of our students and therefore any student wearing incorrect uniform items will be challenged at school. We may need to phone you to ask you to bring in correct uniform for your child to wear. We know that parents value schools that place an emphasis on order and remain true to their values so we know that you will support us in upholding our uniform procedures as you have agreed to in the 'home-school agreement'. Students who refuse to wear or adjust their uniform to our regulations will face a sanction as per our Behaviour for Learning Policy. In only the most exceptional circumstances will we accept a reason from parents or carers who must call the school. Please note that after the Easter break, students **must not** wear outdoor coats or jackets in the classroom and blazers must **always** be worn.

Equipment

'Education is your passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today'. All students are expected to come to school prepared and ready to learn every day. This means they must arrive with the equipment they need to be successful learners. This includes a full set of stationery, PE kit, a reading book, their school link book and an appropriate school bag large enough to carry everything they need.

Travel to and from school

Your children are our school. Our reputation is built upon the attitudes, behaviours and appearance of all the students as they travel to and from school. Please remind your children to exhibit their best social behaviours as they travel to and from school. If your child uses public transport, please also remind them to be safe whilst travelling. It is important that all our students leave home early enough to arrive on time and go directly home immediately at the end of the school day. Staff are on duty for up to 15 minutes at the end of each day. Students who are loitering beyond this time are no longer the responsibility of school staff. Please ensure your children go straight home.

Mobile phones

We recognise that mobile phones and other portable devices are important to our students for contacting parents and carers and as a safety precaution that can be used to and from school. We also recognise that mobile phones can be appropriately used as learning tools. We will not ban mobile devices from the school premises; however, recent research suggests that the use of mobile phones can have a detrimental effect on student outcomes. Mobile phones affect behaviour; they can be a major distraction and can be used to bully and harm others. We do not allow the use of personal mobile phones, headphones or personal digital devices on the premises at any time during the school day. These items will be confiscated if seen, locked away in our Student Support Hub and returned to students after 24 hours. The only exception to this will be if a teacher specifically asks for students to use their mobile phone in a lesson for the purposes of learning. If you need to contact your child urgently, please phone the school Reception and the message will be passed on to your



child. Please note that any mobile phone or digital device brought into school remains the responsibility of the student. For parents of our year 7 cohort, we recommend the purchase of a simple mobile phone and not a smart phone.

We recognise that we are emerging from very difficult and disrupted learning experiences due to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. However, we must re-instil the routines and behaviours that allow everyone in the school community to enjoy school life.

Finally, a note about **communication**. To keep you informed about school events and notices, our main format of communication is electronic. Letters are posted in the Current Information section of our website. We also continue to post letters and reports on SIMS Parent app or via email. Please ensure we have your current working email address. Please note that all parents and carers must have activated and have access to the SIMS parent app. If you have any difficulties, please contact the school where a member of staff will offer support. We want a 100% connection to every parent and carer through this platform.

Thank you for taking the time to read to the end of this letter and for reading all our communication.

As always, my letter will be for the few. The majority of our school community work together for the sake of our children. Now let us all ensure that we achieve excellent standards in all areas.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Miriam Manderson
Headteacher