



Frequently Asked Questions

1. Can my child bring his / her mobile phone to school?

Yes, students can bring their mobile phones to school but they must be switched off throughout the day and they are the student's own responsibility. If a student needs to contact home he/she must come to the Year office where they can use the office phone.

If a student uses their mobile phone during the day it will be confiscated and taken to the Main Reception from where it can be collected at 3:30pm. If a phone is confiscated three times it must be collected from school by the student's parent/carer.

2. Can my child wear earrings for school?

No – jewellery is not permitted - studs can NOT be worn – earrings can NOT be worn with plasters over the top. If your child comes to school wearing earrings they will work in the Pastoral Centre and therefore will not attend lessons until the earrings are removed. Students are permitted to wear a discreet crucifix and a watch. Smart watches are not allowed.

3. Can the students wear their own coat to school?

No – students must wear an appropriate St Mary's College coat – please see uniform booklet for guidance on school coat options.

4. What colour socks / tights can my child wear?

Socks: plain white, black or grey. Tights: Neutral, black or grey.

5. What are the rules regarding shoes?

Sensible all black full shoe, no heels, NO TRAINERS OR BOOTS.

6. Are there any places to leave bags during the school day?

No – your child must be responsible for all of their belongings throughout the school day.

7. What do I do if my child loses something?

Your child must check at lost property (located in the medical room), in the Year 7 office and in all other areas where they have been before the item was lost – if all belongings are named with your child's FULL name it is likely that any misplaced items will be returned – if misplaced belongings are not named it is extremely doubtful that they will be returned to your child as it will be impossible to trace them in a large school with 1500+ students wearing the same uniform and PE kit.

8. What if my child has forgotten their PE kit or some homework?

*Your child must tell their teacher **before** the lesson – if this is difficult they must tell the Year 7 office who will support in getting a message to the appropriate member of staff prior to the lesson.*

Consequences may still be issued but at least the appropriate member of staff will be aware of the problem in advance.

9. How much homework do students get each week?

Your child will receive weekly homework from English and Maths and regular homework from other subject areas which will equate to roughly 2 hours of homework per week.

Year 7 students do not receive homework from Drama or PE.

10. Which language will my child study?

If your child is in the X half of the Year Group he/she will study French; if your child is in the Y half of the Year Group he/she will study German.

11. What do students do at lunch time?

At lunchtime students can eat their packed lunch or purchase a school dinner in the canteen. Once students have eaten they can attend lunchtime clubs (we encourage Year 7 students to attend at least two lunchtime clubs per week). Students also have access to the Year 7 Social Area at breaktime and lunchtime.

12. How does the cashless catering system work?

Each Year 7 student will be issued with a cashless catering card in September.

Parents/Carers will receive guidance regarding how to ensure your child's cashless catering card has sufficient money on it to purchase food from the canteen by adding funds online via ParentPay. Cashless catering cards can be credited using cash at revaluer machines in school but this can take some time due to queues so we advise ensuring funds are already on the account using the online system. If lost, the cost of replacing a cashless catering card is £2.

13. When are students allowed to go to the toilet?

Students are encouraged to go to the toilet at breaktime and lunchtime and between lessons if necessary. In the first few weeks teaching staff may allow Year 7 students to go to the toilet during lessons but Year 7 students are expected to manage this fairly quickly upon starting Secondary school.

14. Who do I tell about a medical issue?

The Year 7 office who will pass the information on to our School Healthcare Assistants based in the Medical room. Our Healthcare Assistants have a wealth of experience and are very skilled in discreetly supporting students with medical issues.

15. What is the procedure if my child has a medical appointment during school time?

Try to arrange medical appointments for after 2pm as this has the least impact on your child's education. If your child needs to attend a medical appointment during the school day please put a note in his/her planner detailing the time you will come to collect your child and brief reasons for the appointment. Your child must show the note to his/her Tutor who will send them to the Year 7 office for a 'Permission to leave school' slip. Your child must then show this slip to their teacher at the time he/she needs to leave and go to the Main Reception where they must sign out. You must come into the Main Reception to collect your child.

16. What if my child arrives to school late?

He/she must sign in at the Main Office then go to their lesson if it is beyond 9:10am. Before this your child must report to their Year Office and then go to their Form room. If there is not a genuine reason for lateness, your child will be issued with a late detention.

17. What do I do if I am worried about my child or there are issues in school or on the bus?

Contact the Year 7 office so that we can investigate any concerns, resolve the issues and offer support and reassurance.