



DIDSBURY

HIGH SCHOOL

Parent Guide for Year 6 to 7 Transition
September 2026

Contents

Attendance and punctuality	3
Behaviour	4
Uniform	6
Equipment	8
Payments	9
School Meals	9
Travel to and from school	9
Contacting school	10
The school day	10
Uniform suppliers	11
MCAS	11
Website	11

At Didsbury High School we understand that parents and carers want the very best for their children. We also understand that transitioning to secondary school is nerve-wracking for the parent as well as the child. We want to provide your child with an incredible school experience and education. We know that in order to do this we must hold our students to certain expectations and standards. We ask parents support us in upholding these. The key to real success is a positive partnership between school and home.

Attendance and Punctuality

At Didsbury High School we are committed to promoting the welfare of our students through regular school attendance. We know that every day of education lost can have a serious impact on students' attainment and overall progress in school. The link between good attendance and high levels of achievement is undeniable. Poor attendance and lateness may also be detrimental to the social adjustment and development of students.

We therefore expect parents/carers to ensure their child attends school and arrives on time.

When there are factors affecting a young person attending school regularly, we ask that parents and carers work closely with us so we can provide appropriate support and look to remove any barriers affecting attendance. This may involve additional support from external agencies where appropriate.

Absence

If your child is to be absent for any reason, [please contact the school](#) before 8.20am. A decision will be made by school as to whether the absence is authorised or unauthorised. To report absence, please text 07860 054398, email mychild@didsburyhighschool.org.uk or send a message to school via the MCAS app.

It is necessary for you to contact school each morning your child is absent unless we have a doctor's note for longer term illnesses. If we do not receive a text or email then the absence will be recorded as unauthorised.

If your child needs to leave school for any reason e.g. a medical appointment, a parent/carer must give prior notice and evidence of the appointment be provided for this absence to be authorised and for us to allow your child to sign out of school. Where possible, please use after school hours or Wednesday afternoon for these appointments.

Lates

Students who arrive late to school (after 8.20am) will be issued a detention at break time for a maximum of 15 minutes. If your child is late to school in the morning, for any reason, they must sign in at the main gate until 8.45am or at Reception if they arrive after 8.45am. You will receive a message if your child has arrived late to school.

Term-time holidays

The school's Attendance Policy states that 'parents/ carers will not take their child/children on holiday in term time'. Term time holidays will not be authorised. Should a student have an unauthorised holiday attendance code, totalling 5 days or more over a 10-week period, we will make a referral to Manchester Local Authority for an Education Penalty Notice to be issued.

Behaviour

The school aims to promote high standards of behaviour, self- discipline and learning through positive encouragement and reward. Where we see negative behaviour and behaviour that disrupts the learning of others we also have a robust consequence system. We ask parents/carers to support our staff with helping to reinforce our behaviour expectations.

Rewards

When your child does something well their teacher will recognise this by speaking to them in class, giving House Points and sending home Praise Postcards.

Rewards will be awarded for:

- Good work
- High quality PP&R
- Positive attitude
- Contributions to departments
- Participation in electives
- Good attendance and punctuality
- Consistently high standards of uniform and being equipped for all learning
- Displaying the qualities of a valuable member of school and wider community

Badges are awarded for outstanding contributions to our four cornerstones: Academic Aspiration, Competition & Physical Endeavour, Leadership & Service, and Culture, Creativity & Rhetoric. There are also badges for outstanding attendance and a prestigious Head of School badge.

Consequences

We adopt a firm but fair Behaviour Policy at Didsbury High School. The system we adhere to is the consequence system:

C1 – Formal Warning

C2 – 10 Minute detention at break or lunchtime

C3 – 30 Minute detention at lunchtime

C4 – 1 hour detention after school

C5 – Serious incident

In addition to lesson time, we have high expectations for behaviour around school. If a student does not behave appropriately around the school building, they will be issued with a 30 minute after-school detention the following day.

We also expect students to attend their lessons on time. If they are late to more than 3 lessons in a week, without good reason, they will receive an after-school detention.

Your child's teachers will record any consequence points electronically and you will be able to see these via the MCAS (My Child At School) App.

Behaviour for Learning

We also monitor closely students 'Behaviour for Learning' in lessons to make sure they are behaving in a way that will maximise their success in lessons.

This will involve how well-equipped students are; how quickly they start their work and how they continue to work throughout lessons. Additional rewards will be given to students who show consistently good 'Behaviour for Learning'. We will record instances where we believe that a student's behaviour for learning is preventing them from making good progress. This will allow the Head of House to put intervention strategies in place and alert parents/carers to this at an early stage.

Suspensions

Fixed-term suspensions and permanent exclusions can be applied as a sanction either for one-off serious incidents or for an accumulation of unacceptable behaviour.

All cases will be considered on an individual basis.

Prohibited items in school

We ask for your support in ensuring students do not bring certain items into school. These include:

Energy drinks and fizzy drinks

Aerosols

Chewing gum

Fidget toys / 'Squishies' - we have school approved concentration aids which will be issued via the SEND review process

Teachers will also confiscate any items which are preventing learning in the classroom or could in any way be deemed harmful.

Uniform

A high standard of personal appearance is expected of all students. We ask parents to support us in helping their child adhere to our uniform policy.

- For reasons of health and safety we do not allow students to wear jewellery in school with the exception of one pair of stud earrings. These must be removed for PE or any sport activities. We are aware that there may be occasions when some students request to wear religious symbols. These will be considered on an individual basis.
- Watches may be worn but these cannot be internet enabled.
- Make up must not be worn in Years 7 – 9.
- Coats and outdoor clothing must not be worn in the school building.
- Students must wear suitable school shoes. These school shoes should be black leather. Trainers and canvas footwear are not allowed, including sports branded footwear (there should be no obvious logos, stripes or colourful markings).



School uniform

- Black blazer with Didsbury High School logo
- White shirt, long or short-sleeved, with pointed collar
- School clip on tie
- Plain black v-neck jumper
- Plain black leather shoes
- Black trousers (tailored, not denim, corduroy or leggings) or Didsbury High School tartan pleated skirt (no shorter than three inches above the knee)
- Black socks, black or neutral tights must be worn
- Hijabs must be plain black or plain white
- House T-shirt – to be purchased from the school (details to follow)

PE kit

- Black and red Didsbury High School polo shirt
- Didsbury High School black and red sports shorts or plain black shorts, leggings, tracksuit bottoms.
- Black sports socks or white ankle/trainer socks
- Training shoes suitable for use on a 3G pitch and indoors– we recommend turf trainers (Astro's) as these can be used on both surfaces.
- Didsbury High School half zip sweatshirt (optional)
- Plastic/ Rubber soled football shoes (optional)

We strongly recommend purchasing uniform early in the summer to allow time for items to be delivered. There will be the option to buy uniform at our transition event.

Please note we have minimised the amount of Didsbury High School branded uniform to reduce the cost for families. The compulsory items of branded uniform are;

- School blazer
- School tie
- PE top

All other items of uniform are unbranded and can be purchased from supermarkets or provided by local charities (such as Wood Street Mission) for eligible families.

Equipment

Every student is expected to have the following items of equipment for every lesson:

- Black or blue pens
- Pencil (and a spare!)
- Eraser
- Pencil sharpener
- Ruler
- Calculator

Students should also carry with them a refillable water bottle.

Tippex/Liquid Paper is not allowed in school and must not be used in any school work.

For some subjects such as Maths, Food and Nutrition and Art there may be some additional items students need to purchase. If this is the case the items will be added to ParentPay and you will be informed of these items via a separate communication.

All students at Didsbury High School need a school bag. Children will find it very hard to organise themselves, and not lose their books and equipment, if they do not have one. The bag must be of a suitable size and durable enough to carry all the things they need for every lesson in a school day.

Students are expected to arrive at school fully prepared for the day ahead. Please encourage your child to prepare their bag the night before to make sure they have all the items they will need. We cannot interrupt learning to deliver forgotten items to students during lessons.

Payments

You may need to make payments to school for items such as lunch money, trips, and other resources. Please note that Didsbury High School operates a cashless system. Parents/ carers are asked to make payments via the MCAS (My Child At School) app.

Free School Meals

For information on entitlement to [free school meals](#) please visit the Manchester City Council website. From September 2026, all families in receipt of Universal Credit will become eligible for free school meals, regardless of income.

If you think your child may be eligible for Free School Meals or you are unsure whether you qualify, please complete the online application form [here](#).

Travel to and from School

Didsbury High School is situated in a residential area and as such the local roads can become easily congested and present a safety risk to our students and neighbours. As the majority of our students live in very close proximity to school we ask you encourage your child to walk or cycle to school. We have plenty of onsite bike storage, although bikes are left at your own risk and need to be secured using a bike lock.

There are a number of public bus routes that serve the area well. The school is also very close to Withington tram stop. To qualify for a child bus/tram fare, children aged 11 and over are required to carry an igo card. Further information can be found on the [TfGM website](#).

If it is absolutely necessary to drop off or collect your child by car we ask that you please park away from the school premises and in a manner that is considerate to our neighbours. There is no vehicular access to the school site at the end of the day.

Contacting School

Address

Didsbury High School
4 The Avenue
Manchester
M20 2ET

Contact

Tel: 0161 507 5600

mychild@didsburyhighschool.org.uk

www.didsburyhighschool.org.uk

Please only contact school by telephone for urgent matters. Our phone lines can get exceptionally busy and therefore need to remain available to those who need them most.

The School Day

Students must be at school by 08.20 and finish school at 3.15pm every day except Wednesday, when school finishes at 2.20pm. On a Wednesday there are no lessons in the afternoon. Year 7 students will participate in an elective from 1.25pm - 2.20pm.

Through the electives programme we aim to expose students to a rich and varied curriculum particularly in areas where there may otherwise be barriers to access. Our electives change every term and are centred around our cornerstones. Your child will do one elective per term and, over the course of the year, do an elective in each of the following three cornerstones;

- Competition and Physical Endeavour
- Culture, Creativity and Rhetoric
- Leadership and Service

The school term dates and holidays can be found on the school website under parents/carers information.

Uniform Suppliers

MCS Stores

220-222 Fog Lane, Didsbury Telephone: 0161 445 7740 Website: www.mcsstores.co.uk

Monkhouse Schoolwear

4-8 The Precinct, Cheadle Hulme, Cheshire, Cheadle SK8 5BE Telephone: 0161 4883410 Website: www.monkhouse.com

MCAS

The 'My Child at School' app is your easiest and most effective way of seeing what is happening in your child's school day. On there you will be able to see their lessons, their rewards and sanctions. It also is a quick and easy way to contact school and for school to contact you.

Download the app [here](#).

Website

Don't forget that we have a school [website](#) where you can find so much more information about DHS. On there we have links to our curriculum documents, policies and much, much more.