



DUKE'S SECONDARY SCHOOL

PARENT / CARER INFORMATION GUIDE

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW
ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S NEW SCHOOL.





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Welcome

All at Duke's Secondary School look forward to welcoming pupils into the new academic year. Information provided in this document should help to answer any questions you may have before the year commences.

Throughout your child's time at school we will often talk about the five key values that the school holds dear. In Matthew chapter 5 we read the following: "Let your light shine so that others may see the good things that you do and give glory to God in heaven." It is this passage from the Bible that has inspired us to think about light, and how we all let our light shine in everything that we do. We remember the word LIGHT through our five key values:

- Love
- Inclusivity
- Goodness
- Hope
- Truth








These are the key values by which we make our decisions in this school, and the ways in which we encourage our pupils to learn and develop as they grow into young adults. There is a light shining in each child who comes into the school, and we want to help fan that flame into a bright shining light! We look forward to helping you to let your LIGHT shine at Duke's School!







With best wishes,

Mr R Atkinson
Principal

Duke's Secondary School
Part of the NCEA Trust

ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
Duke's Secondary School Academy Road Ashington NE63 9FZ	01670 816 111
	WEBSITE
	www.dukes.ncea.org.uk
	EMAIL
	admin.dss@dukes.ncea.org.uk

Senior Leadership Team			
 <p>Mr Atkinson Principal</p>	 <p>Mr Line Deputy Principal</p>	 <p>Mr Blight Assistant Principal</p>	 <p>Mr Thompson Assistant Principal</p>
 <p>Mrs Gadsby Assistant Principal</p>	 <p>Mr Rhodes Assistant Principal</p>	 <p>Mrs Chima Assistant Principal</p>	

Pastoral Team		
 <p>Mrs Mitcheson Head of year 7 & transition lead</p>	 <p>Miss Matthewson Head of Y8</p>	 <p>Ms Spratt Head of Y9</p>
 <p>Miss Ireland Head of Y10</p>	 <p>Miss Graham Learning & Progress Manager and Head of Y 11</p>	 <p>Mrs Towers Head of Sixth Form and Careers</p>

 <p>Mrs A Young Early Help Lead</p>	 <p>Mrs Collin Additional Educational Needs Coordinator</p>	 <p>Sally Milner Chaplain</p>	 <p>Miss Cain Careers Education</p>
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Safeguarding

We aim to create a school learning environment where pupils feel secure, valued and are encouraged to talk in the knowledge that they will be listened to. We have a number of staff who have roles dedicated to ensuring that children are safe and those who are able to support in a range of different ways. We also work in partnership with the NHS, CYPS, and other agencies to support our young people where those needs cannot be met by the school.

Within Duke's Secondary School & Sixth Form we have two Designated Safeguarding Leads, and two Deputy Designated Leads. Any concerns should be reported to either **Mrs Gadsby** or **Mr Line** in the first instance, or if unavailable, to Mrs Young, Miss Graham or Mrs Towers – Sixth Form. Parents/Carers can reach these staff via the switchboard on 01670 816 111.



Mrs Gadsby
Designated Safeguarding Lead



Mr Line
Designated Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Young
Deputy Safeguarding Lead
Years, 7, 8 & 9



Miss Graham
Deputy Safeguarding Lead
Years 10 & 11



Mrs Towers
Deputy Safeguarding Lead
Sixth Form

Our Expectations

We have three golden rules at Duke's School. These are our "Three R's", and all pupils should strive to achieve these expectations every day at school.



Our rules are: Ready, Respectful and Responsible.

These rules were chosen as they are simple to understand and easily applicable to our everyday lives. Abiding by the rules will further enhance the positive and supportive culture we have at our school and maximise everyday learning opportunities. We believe that if students embrace being ready, respectful and responsible they will be equipped to meet the challenges that life has in store for them during their time at Duke's Secondary School and beyond.

Behaviour for Learning

We expect that all pupils will follow our school rules and when a member of staff raises their arm we expect the student to follow the LEARN procedure to ensure they are fully focused on the learning in the lesson.



Some pupils, however, may choose not to follow the rules and expectations of the school, and a series of sanctions are in place as a consequence for choosing behaviours which prevent our lights from shining.

Disruption Free Learning

We firmly believe that every child has the right to learn in a calm and orderly learning environment, and that no student has the right to disrupt the learning of others. Our goal is to ensure that teachers will have disruption free classrooms in which they can teach, and students will have disruption free classrooms in which they can learn. On a lesson by lesson basis, students will have one simple choice, to be in their classroom working hard, and progressing with their learning, or to be removed from their classrooms for the next 5 lessons on their timetable. If a student is removed from their classroom, they will continue their learning in the Learning Recovery Centre and their day will finish at 3.30pm. (If the removal from classroom occurs later in the afternoon the finish at 3.30pm will be moved to the next afternoon to give parents enough time to make arrangements)

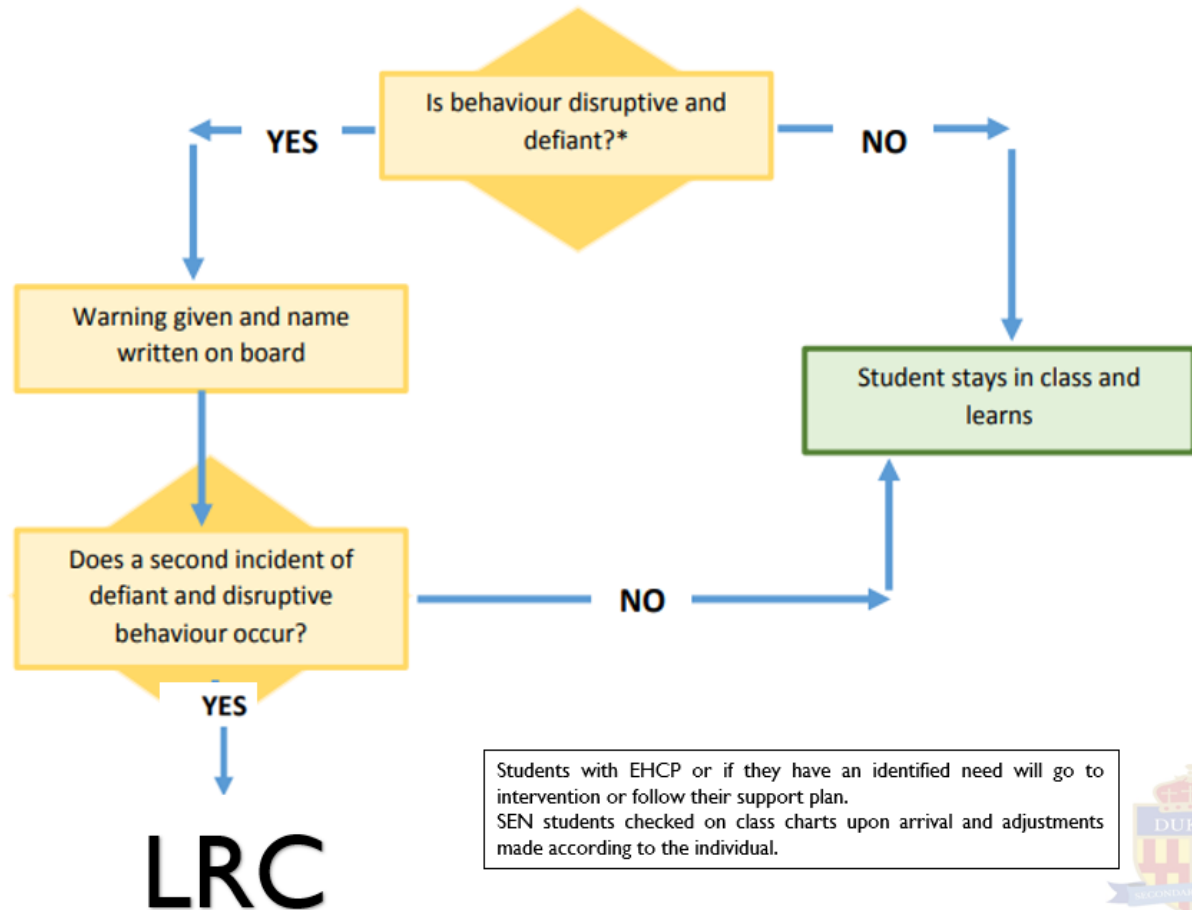
Conduct in lessons - Students are expected to:

- Line up quietly outside the classroom in the designated location prior to the start of the lesson
- Enter the classroom sensibly and get their planner, reading book and equipment out ready to learn
- Sit silently, and read their reading book whilst the register is taken
- Listen in silence whilst the teacher speaks, and respond to any questions when asked to do so
- Raise their hand to ask a question without calling out
- Work hard and engage in their learning, without disrupting the learning of any other students

Students will receive one warning should they cause disruption to learning during the lesson. Should the student cause any further disruption to learning, they will receive a second warning and they will be asked to leave the classroom and go to the Learning Recovery centre (LRC). Whilst in the LRC the students will be expected to work in silence and to follow all instructions given by the member of staff supervising the session. Students' complete work that is connected to the curriculum they follow at Duke's and will supplement the learning that they may miss by being in the LRC. In the LRC students will be given one warning to do the right thing before being issued with a Fixed Term Exclusion if they continue to cause disruption. We will also have a minimum amount of work that we expect students to complete in the LRC, if they fail to complete the required amount of work they will need to repeat that hour. The majority of students never visit the LRC or end up receiving a Fixed Term Exclusion. For most of our learners a single warning is all that is required to remind them of our expectations and to help them get back on track.

We know that for the vast majority of students this policy will not affect them at all, as we know they are conscientious and hardworking students. We are also confident that as parents and carers you will support this approach to ensuring the learning experience that your child has, is of the highest possible standard. We thank you in advance for your support in ensuring that Duke's is disruption free, and giving your child the best possible chances of achieving outcomes at the end of key stage 4 that they can be proud of.

Behaviour Management Binary Flowchart



Detentions

We believe that a detention has more of an impact if carried out on the day of the incident. In order to do this the school use Class Charts and the parent/carer will receive a notification from this app. In some circumstances contact with parent/carers will be made using telephone calls or text message however Class Charts is the default method of communication. We ask that parent/carers ensure that all contact numbers held by the school are current and updated when they change and parental engagement with Class Charts is essential so that you are fully up to date with your child's progress. Removal from lessons would be classified as a detention and the student's school day would finish at 3.30pm.

"Late Detentions" will be issued to pupils who arrive late without a reasonable explanation.

Detentions can be set for morning, break, dinner, after school or on a Saturday. This will vary depending on the severity of the incident.

Although parental consent is **not** required for detentions to be issued, the school will make every effort to contact parents/carers if an after school detention is issued. Our policies for behaviour comply with the Department for Education's advice for schools:

"parental consent is not a requirement for any school to keep a child in detention"

It is the responsibility of the parent/carer to put provisions in place for collecting a pupil after a detention.

If you have any concerns about the detention, please contact the Pastoral Team or the teacher who gave the detention.

If a pupil is involved in a serious incident, or a series of incidents, they may receive a Fixed-Term Exclusion. This is a very serious sanction, and is only applied for serious or continuous breaches of school expectations. If a child is excluded from school they are not able to attend school again until the reintegration meeting has taken place, and a behaviour contract will be issued. During the time of an exclusion the child must not be present in public places, and is the responsibility of the parent/carer to supervise.



ClassCharts is our online system which teachers and support staff use to track achievement and behaviour throughout the school day. We believe in working closely with parents/carers and one of the key benefits of using Class Charts is that we are able to securely share your child's achievement and behaviour report with you electronically and so keep you up to date in real-time.

Each child has a unique access code which we will issue to parents/carers. **Once you have been issued with a code you will need to create an account and enter the code here: <https://www.classcharts.com/parent/login>**

You can also find links to mobile phone apps for parents/carers from this page or in the Apple store or Google Play store. If you have more than one child in the school then you can enter additional codes once you have created an account and are logged in.

This gives you the opportunity to praise or sanction your child as you see fit based upon their performance in school. We realise that having access to more information about your child's behaviour may well lead you to having more questions or concerns about why or what has happened for your child to receive achievement or behaviour awards. However, it is important to remember that school staff deal with these matters on a daily basis and only rarely would the incident require us to contact parents/carers. If we have concerns about your child, a member of the relevant Key Stage Team will contact you as usual and we would encourage you to try to only contact the school if the behaviour event is of a serious nature.

Top Tips for using Class Charts

- Praise your child when they have been awarded positive points! It is important to reinforce the good things that pupils do each day.
- Try to use the reported behaviour as a discussion point with your child. If you are concerned about your child's behaviour, try setting positive targets for them to achieve. If you are still concerned you can, of course, contact the school and make an appointment to speak to a member of the Key Stage Team.
- The teacher reporting the behaviour is doing so as a professional who is present at that moment. We trust our staff to make accurate and professional decisions, and so we ask you to also trust us. Try not to challenge the school concerning reported behaviour where a child may have a different version of events, but discuss with your child and try to help them to understand how their behaviour impacts on others.
- Be patient with yourself! Using the information in Class Charts may raise concerns or questions, but the more you use it, the clearer it will become. If your questions remain after a few weeks, contact the school at that point for some support.

Equipment

Pupils must have a bag for their work and Chromebook if they have one, **a pen, pencil, ruler, rubber**, PE equipment and a clear water bottle. We have a stationery stall at school where pupils can purchase essentials at no profit.

We no longer provide a planner for students as we are moving towards a more digital approach for students to organise themselves at school. All homework and communication with their teachers will now be via students' Google Classroom. We believe that most students are confident in their use of Google classroom, however if they are not, or feel like they need extra help then they should contact Mr Thompson who will be happy to help with any issues

Mobile phones

Mobile phones are not allowed to be out in school. If they are heard or seen, even if not switched on, the phone will **be confiscated and taken to the LRC for collection** at the end of the day at 3:30pm after a detention has been completed. If this happens regularly, a parent/carer will be required to come in and collect the phone. We may also ask that the student hands the phone in to the head of year first thing on arrival to school.



If the pupil refuses to hand over their phone when asked by a member of staff, they will face a Fixed Term Exclusion from school.

It is against exam rules to have a mobile phone with you, even if switched off, during an exam. If a pupil has a phone with them during an exam the school has to report this to the exam board. When this happens, it is usual for the exam board to disqualify the pupil from that subject, meaning they will automatically fail.

While we accept that mobile phones are a part of daily life, and many parents/carers like to ensure their child is contactable on the way to or from school, there are many safeguarding and wellbeing reasons that support our stance on these phones not being out during the school day. We accept that pupils will carry mobile phones to and from school, but these are not permitted to be switched on or used at all during the school day. Deliberate use of mobile phones in school will be taken very seriously and students will face consequences.

Attendance

It is well known that there is a direct link between attendance and attainment at school. Students with 100% attendance are more than twice as likely to achieve five plus GCSE's grade 5 to 9. At Duke's we are committed to working with parents and carers to ensure all students achieve as high a level of attendance as possible. The Government regards at least 95% attendance as an expectation for all students; at Duke's, all students are set a target of achieving 100%, and where this is not possible at least 96%. This means that you should aim to ensure your child has no more than 7 days off in an academic year

For safeguarding reasons, Duke's has a responsibility to ensure that all students are accounted for during school hours. It is a requirement that Duke's students are in the school building before 8.30am. If a student has been marked as absent without a reason, a text message or an email will be sent home informing you that your child is not in school. (If a student is in school but not in registration, it is their responsibility to make sure they get a registration mark to avoid unnecessary contact with home). Please respond to the text or email as a matter of urgency with a reason for your child's absence. If your child is too ill to attend school, or will be absent for any other unplanned reason, please contact school providing the following information:

Day 1

Please contact school before 9.00am and provide a reason for your child's absence. Brief reasons for absence ("illness", "unwell", "poorly", "not feeling great" do not provide sufficient information about the absence) and estimated length of absence. You can do this by phoning school and speaking to the attendance team or by using the email address; attendance@dukes.ncea.org.uk

Day 2, 3 and 4

Contact before 9.00am to update us about the absence.

Day 5

Provide medical proof of the absence re. FAO Attendance Officer via email.

It is a parent/carer's responsibility to automatically provide this information. The absence will not be authorised without it. Proof could include a GP's appointment card, copy of prescription or proof of medication taken. Please note that we are aware that doctors do not routinely provide medical certificates, but if a student is absent for 5 days or more there is an expectation that they are ill enough for you to have consulted a medical professional and therefore there should be some proof that the consultation has taken place.

Medical Appointments

Routine medical and dental appointments should be arranged outside of school. Notification of appointments during any part of the school day should be communicated to school in advance. This information is requested:

- To allow registers to be pre-populated with the information so that class teachers are aware a student will be absent from their lesson
- To avoid time being spent trying to locate a student who is not in school for a genuine reason
- For safeguarding purposes, to help ensure the authenticity of an appointment

If your child needs to attend a medical appointment during the school day a note written and signed by a parent/carer will be required when signing either in or out at Reception on the day of the appointment. It would also be useful to have a copy of medical appointment cards/letters for a student's file to support conversations about issues relating to attendance. Please note that for safeguarding purposes, this information is required in addition to advance notification. **Students should only be out of school for the minimum amount of time necessary for the appointment; a full day's absence will not usually be authorised.**

Lateness & Punctuality

A pupil who arrives late but before the register has closed will be marked as late. A pupil who arrives after the register has closed will be marked as absent. **Students who are late arriving at school in the morning more than 2 times in a typical week will have to do a detention on a Tuesday or Thursday after school the following week. (This will take place from 3.00pm – 3.30pm)**

Monitoring Attendance

The attendance target for all students at Duke's secondary School is at least 96%. The Attendance Officer, Education Welfare Officer, Senior Leadership team, Heads of Year and tutors review student attendance and work together to improve attendance and punctuality. As part of the review process, communication may be sent home if an unusual pattern of attendance has been observed. If attendance falls below expectation, without good reason, we may have conversations with your child and/or contact you directly to discuss and agree a way forward to support their attendance.

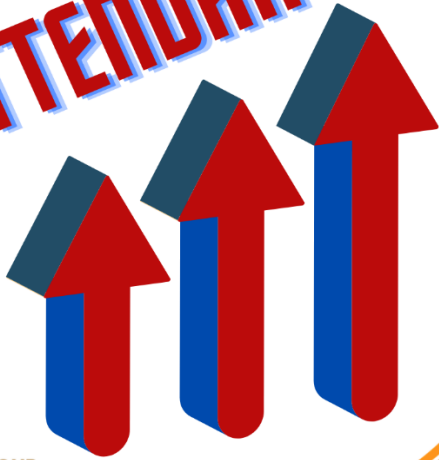
Rewards

We have termly individual and tutor group rewards and incentives in place to encourage and reward excellent attendance.

Thank you for your support with your child's attendance. At Duke's we want the best possible outcomes for all our students and excellent attendance will help them succeed in their future endeavours.



ATTENDANCE



YOU WOULDN'T BE LATE FOR WORK.

5mins late per day = 3 days lost learning

10mins late per day = 6.5 days lost learning

15mins late per day = 10 days lost learning

The bells rings at 8.30am.

Duke's Secondary #attendancematters

DID YOU KNOW....

Students with **100%** attendance are **more than twice** as likely to achieve **5+ GCSEs** grade 9-5

DUKE'S SECONDARY



Times of the Academic Day

All students to be in school for 8:30 for First Bell		
Start	Finish	Period
8:30	8:45	TUTOR
8:45	9:45	P1
9:45	10:45	P2
10:45	11:00	BREAK
11:00	12:00	P3
12:00	12:55	P4
12:55	14:05	Lunch / Enrichment / Tutor / Y11 Study (Lunch 35 mins)
14:05	15:00	P5
End of school day 15:00 – Mon to Fri (Inclusive)		

Holidays


Pupils should not be taken out of school for holidays during term time as it has a detrimental effect on their education, and can severely disrupt their progress and impact on their attainment levels. This not only affects the pupil who is absent, but impacts on the rest of the class as the staff have to provide extra support to bridge the knowledge gap. Leave of absence will only be granted in exceptional circumstances, and forms to request this can be collected from Reception or the Attendance Team and should be completed and returned to the school attendance officer.

Term Dates 2022-2023

HOLIDAY or OCCASION OF CLOSURE	DATE ON WHICH SCHOOL WILL CLOSE	DATE ON WHICH SCHOOL WILL REASSEMBLE
STAFF TRAINING DAY	MONDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2021	
SUMMER 2022	22 July 2022	6 Sept 2022 Year 7 only 7 Sept 2022 Whole School
October Mid-Term 2021	Friday 21 October 2022	Monday 31 October 2022
STAFF TRAINING DAY	FRIDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2022	
Christmas/New Year 2021/22	Friday 23 December 2022	Tuesday 10 January 2023
STAFF TRAINING DAY	MONDAY 9 JANUARY 2023	
Spring Mid-Term 2021	Friday 17 February 2023	Monday 27 February 2023
Easter 2021	Friday 31 March 2023	Monday 17 April 2023
MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY	MONDAY 1 MAY 2023	
Summer Mid-Term 2021	Friday 26 May 2023	Monday 5 June 2023
STAFF TRAINING DAY	FRIDAY 30 JUNE 2023	
Summer 2023	Friday 21 July 2023	

Uniform

We are pleased with how much pride our pupils take in their uniform. As a reminder, our uniform for Year 7 to 11 inclusive is:

A black blazer with Duke's School embroidered badge
<i>Optional:</i> a black v-neck jumper with Duke's School embroidered badge
A white shirt with top button.
A Duke's School tie for: New students enrolled Sept 22 onwards - Blue. For students already on roll a continuation of the school house tie colour as previous year.
Black smart trousers / skirt (Not denim, no leggings, no tight fitting trousers) Skirt length must be no shorter than 3 inches above the knee
Black or flesh coloured tights / Black or white socks – no trainer socks, there must be no gap between socks and trousers.
Black leather (or leather look) shoes (No trainers, plimsolls or boots) We will accept some forms of what are termed training shoes if they fit the description and image below. Again we reiterate only black leather look, no canvas or running trainers and no logos, the whole shoe must be plain black


PE Kit will be worn as follows:

Duke's School or plain black tracksuit bottoms / shorts / leggings (leggings must be plain black and without logos. If necessary a very small discreet logo will be accepted but brightly coloured or large logos, writing or flashing will not.)
Duke's School black and red sports top
Duke's School black and red hoodie
White or black socks
Trainers (no metal studs)
Black bobble for hair

Uniform is checked on arrival to school each morning and by staff throughout the day. If pupils choose not to wear appropriate uniform they will be given uniform to wear. As with any other rule, if a pupil refuses to follow school expectations they may be placed into the Learning Reflection Classroom (LRC) to work away from the rest of the school community until the issue is resolved.

We are happy to help advise you before purchasing items of uniform, and would encourage that if you have any questions about buying clothing/footwear please do contact the Key Stage Team as we do not want parent/carers to spend money on something that is not appropriate to wear.

Our clip-on ties are designed to be safe, durable and easy to put on. However, if clip-on ties are damaged, cut or defaced in any way, then the pupil will be required to buy a new one. If top buttons are removed from shirts then pupils will be asked to sew a new one on. If this does not happen then a needle and thread is provided for them to sew a button on during a break, lunch or an after school slot.

Uniform can be ordered online via the website **www.michaelsehgal.co.uk** (delivered to your home address for a small charge or delivered to the school for free) or by visiting the uniform shop at **Michael Sehgal & Sons Ltd, 28-40 Scotswood Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 7JB.**

Sometimes, parents/carers may request that some aspect of the uniform is changed due to a medical condition, such as shoes. Medical notes from a doctor are the only acceptable note in this circumstance. If pupils are not wearing the correct footwear then they will be asked to spend the day in the Learning Recovery Centre unless a pair can be dropped off by a parent/carer

A number of pupils wear other footwear to walk to school in and then change into their correct school shoes at the pupil entrance. This is particularly seen in winter months, where some pupils prefer to wear boots outside.

Helpful guidance on shoes

Shoes should be black leather or black leather looking, not suede. Trainers (unless they conform with the description and image in the uniform table) including Vans, plimsolls, high tops or boots are not appropriate for school. There should be no logo or colour on the shoe/sole of the shoe so the shoe should be all black. If pupils are not wearing appropriate shoes then they will be given a pair from our spare stock to wear.

If you are unsure about any item of uniform you are buying please contact the school to confirm what is acceptable - this is especially highlighted for shoes.

How to wear the uniform

- Pupils will wear a shirt which can tuck into their trouser / skirt line, fitted blouses are not allowed.
- Trousers must meet the shoe – there must be no gap between socks and trousers.
- Top buttons on the shirt will be buttoned at all times – if a top button has been removed, pupils will be asked to sew on a top button.
- All ties must be clip on and must be worn every day. If the clip-on tie has been destroyed or lost parent/carers will need to buy a new one.
- Skirts should be of an appropriate length (**hem 2 inches above the knee no shorter**) or the pupils will be asked to rectify it.
- Blazer and jumper sleeves should not be rolled up.
- Non uniform items such as outdoor coats must be removed when inside buildings.
- Caps are not allowed on site, other headgear must be removed within the buildings including hoods.

Hair

No hair colours, other than natural colours, are allowed. Completely shaved heads or shaved patterns are not permitted for any pupil, unless medically required. Hair accessories should be plain, and match hair colour, or be black. Accessories should be discrete, not bright, colourful or too big. Fashions change rapidly in hairstyles, however, the school will take a view on what it considers to be an extreme hairstyle as these are not permitted in school. The Principal's decision in this matter is final.

Makeup

We want pupils to focus on their learning, and to get on well with others in their classes and at social times. We do not want to encourage an environment where pupils are competing in terms of their appearance or how "fashionable" they look.

It is not deemed necessary for pupils of any age to feel that they should wear make-up. However, pupils may apply 'light touch' make-up if they wish to do so. This change from the previous policy follows reasonable requests from pupils over several years. This means that pupils can wear make-up that is not noticeable to the observer. For example, light moisturising foundation, light mascara, clear lip balm.

Where a pupil abuses this privilege, and wears too much make-up, they will be provided with face wipes and will be required to remove the excessive make-up. If this behaviour is repeated, further disciplinary sanctions will be applied due to the pupil refusing to follow the reasonable expectations of the school.

False eyelashes are not acceptable for school.

Pupils will often say that nail varnish is a way to express individuality and/or enhance the attractiveness of their hands. Many would like to wear bright and striking colours as fashions change. This is, like eye-catching make-up, not appropriate for the working environment of the school.

As with make up, pupils can wear nail varnish in light, natural colours. Any bright colours, patterns, nail art or other extreme uses of nail varnish are not permitted and pupils will be required to remove this. Pupils undertaking certain subjects, particularly vocational subjects that are examined, will be expected to comply with industry standards for health and safety, which may involve a requirement to remove all nail varnish.

For health and safety reasons, acrylics (extensions or false nails) are not permitted at all. Acrylics pose risks for pupils undertaking practical work in many subjects and can be trapped or ripped moving around the school through doors and corridors, causing considerable pain and upset. They can cause harm to others in practical work, for example in drama or PE. If a pupil comes to school wearing acrylics they will be placed in the LRC to minimise the risk to themselves and others until the extensions are removed.

Jewellery

Earrings:	Pupils may only wear one pair of small stud earrings in ear lobes only.
Watch:	A watch may be worn. Smart Watches are not permitted in school.
Other jewellery:	No other jewellery is permitted.

These items can pose a health and safety risk during the school day. Most pupils comply with this request, but for those who have to be asked to remove these items regularly then the jewellery will be confiscated and a parent/carer will need to come in and collect the item(s). Staff will check pupils at the beginning of the school day to ensure that they have come to school appropriately.

PE Kit and Participation Policy

Bringing PE kit to PE lessons is a non-negotiable expectation. If a pupil has a medical reason for missing the lesson backed up by a parental note or telephone call they do not need to take part in physical activity. However, they are still expected to change into the required kit so they can fulfil roles such as umpire/coach/timekeeper etc.

If a pupil has a medical condition that prevents them from taking part, they should have a note from home that is passed on to a member of the Key Stage Team. This will be confirmed and alternative arrangements will be made.

The following steps are in place for pupils who fail to bring kit to PE lessons:

- 1) First time is considered a mistake, verbal reprimand. Pupils are required to borrow kit from the PE Department.
- 2) Second time pupils are issued with a break time detention, or lunchtime depending. They are required to borrow kit from the PE Department.
- 3) Third time pupils are issued with an after school detention. Parents are contacted. They are required to borrow kit from the PE Department.
- 4) If all of the above have no effect, names are passed to the Key Stage Team. Parents are contacted.

If a pupil refuses to borrow kit then they will need to make up the lesson time missed.

House System

All pupils are placed into a “house” throughout their time at school. This house is the basis for the tutor group, internal competitions, sports day and many other activities. In normal circumstances, pupils in Years 7 to 11 will stay within the same house tutor group throughout their time at the school. They are placed into different groups for their subject lessons, which are based around academic ability.



Positive points that are achieved in lessons will go towards the house total, along with other house points awards throughout the year.

Buses

Information regarding public transport and the County Council is subject to change without our knowledge, therefore, the following information is correct at the current time but individual parents/carers should check directly with the bus company or council for final information.

Subsidised travel can be applied for through Northumberland County Council if you live in Lynemouth or Newbiggin.

The school transport team can be contacted by telephone on 0345 600 6400 (Contact Centre) or 01670 624839 (Direct Line) or by email: schooltransport@northumberland.gov.uk for issues/enquiries relating to transport to mainstream schools.

Or visit the website at:

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Education/Schools/School-transport-1/Transport.aspx#hometoschooltransport>

Arriva offers parents and pupils a more affordable way to pay for bus travel through their Arriva Student Direct Debit Scheme. This allows payments to be spread monthly for an academic year ticket. The ticket includes travel during term time, half term, weekends and evenings, giving more value for money. If you do not qualify for subsidised travel then this scheme could be ideal for you.

For more information please go to <http://www.arrivabus.co.uk/> Search for school transport.

Pupils who arrive at school on the Lynemouth or Newbiggin buses are expected to come straight into the school building once they leave the bus and not to go off site.

Those pupils using the Lynemouth or Newbiggin buses should also recognise that school expectations cover their journey on those buses, and that any incidents of behaviour which are below our expectations will be dealt with using the Behaviour for Learning process. Students who cause serious disruption on the buses or damage the buses may be banned from using the buses by the bus company.

Cashless Catering

Our canteen is a cash free zone. There are cash points throughout the building where pupils can credit money on to their account. These machines **do not** give change so if a note is given all of it must be placed onto the pupil account. Pupils can check any machine to see how much money they have left on their account during morning, break and lunch times. It is their responsibility to make sure they have enough credit to pay for their meals.

Alternatively you can pay for school meals via the iPayImpact system. All new students will receive a letter with a unique code for parents to register and use this system.

Lunch costs around £2.40 for a main meal and dessert or a main meal and a drink. Pupils are also able to buy drinks and snacks at break time. For this, extra credit will be required. For pupils who are entitled to free school meals, £2.40 per day will automatically be credited to their account. They can add extra credit to this to use at break time for snacks and drinks if they wish by bringing in money and using the revaluation stations.

It is important that pupils do not go into debt as if they have no money they will not be able to purchase any food. If a pupil forgets to bring money in for their dinner or does not have enough credit, every effort will be made to contact the parent/carers to ask for money to be brought in.

Free School Meals

Apply for Free School Meals...
It's quick and easy using the online form at:

<https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims>

We want to make sure that we are providing your child with the best education and support we can. Healthy school food has obvious health benefits and can help pupils establish healthy habits for life. Healthy school food can also help to improve pupils' readiness to learn.

Families who receive certain benefits may be eligible for free school meals BUT YOU MUST APPLY. Your child is eligible for free school meals if you're in receipt of one of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit with an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400.
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for the four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Child Tax Credit (with no Working Tax Credit) with an annual income of no more than £16,190

Registering for free meals could also raise an extra money for the school - to fund valuable support like extra tuition, additional teaching staff or after school activities. Please remember that our cashless catering service ensures that it is impossible to distinguish between pupils who have free school meals, and those who do not. The easiest way to register for your child to receive free school meals is via the application form by following this link:

<https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims>

If you want further information then please call Nikki Prime (Data Officer) on 01670 816111 ext. 310 - everything you say will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Lockers

Every pupil has access to a locker. The school has padlocks which the pupils can loan for a £5.00 deposit. Pupils will receive a refund for the padlock when it is returned. This may be at the end of their time at school or when they feel they no longer need to use it.

Medicines

The Trust has a strict policy regarding medicines:

- **No medicine is allowed in the school** unless an appropriate agreement to administer medicine form has been completed and approved by the Principal. Forms are available from the Reception or the Admin department.
- All medicines are kept in a locked cabinet in an Admin Office. If prescribed medicine, we only accept medicine in its original container with the pharmacy sticker attached, showing pupil's name, dosage etc.
- Pupils who keep medicine in school need to bring a drink with them to take their medicine.
- Any pupil found in possession of medication on them will have it taken off them. This is for the safety of all our pupils.

Trips and Visits

We attempt to provide trips and visits to interesting and exciting places, both in this country and abroad, throughout a pupil's time in school. These trips are always of educational value, and have an educational content to them. Financial contributions will be required for pupils to take part in trips and visits, but we aim to fundraise regularly to lower the cost for parents/carers where possible.

Excellent standards of behaviour are required from pupils participating in off-site visits, and school will only support pupils to attend these activities if their behaviour is excellent on a normal basis in school. If a child's behaviour declines before attending a trip, the child may be removed from the trip and **no refund** of any monies already paid will be returned.

Water

The school provides pupils with access to water fountains. Pupils can fill a water bottle brought in from home during break or lunchtime. Other drinks are not permitted during lesson time.

Policies

School policies can be viewed on our website: dukes.ncea.org.uk.

Telephone Contact

You can contact members of staff at school by telephone on 01670 816 111. However, it is important to note that the majority of staff time is spent with pupils around the building and only rarely are staff available at their desks to take telephone calls during the day. If a parent/carer contacts a member of staff by telephone it is highly likely that the member of staff will be working with pupils at that time, and we would request that a voicemail message is left for the member of staff. Please leave your name, the name of the child you are calling about, a number that you can be contacted on and any details in your message. The member of staff will contact you as quickly as possible, but please be aware that it is possible that this may not be until after the end of the school day. If you need to get a message through more rapidly, please speak to one of our Admin Team who will arrange for your message to be passed to the member of staff as soon as possible.

5-Minute Walk Plan

To encourage our pupils to have at least 5 minutes of exercise each morning, and to help us as a school to be good neighbours to those who live near the campus, we ask that parents/carers should arrange to drop-off and collect pupils anywhere on the green routes shown on the “5 Minute Walk” map below. Any point on the green route takes no more than 5 minutes to walk to the pupil entrance, and the dashed green lines show some of the many potential walking routes onto campus. The roads in red are part of our “Good Neighbour Traffic Exclusion Zone”, and we would encourage parents/carers not to drive onto the red roads within 30 minutes before or afterschool arrival and departure times. This allows the roads to be kept free for approved transport of pupils with disabilities, and for county buses.

