



14th February 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you and your family are well. As we prepare for the start of the new half-term on **Monday 19th February**, we want to ensure that all children at Pleckgate enjoy school and achieve their full potential. It is important that they become responsible and confident young people who are aspirational and have high expectations of themselves. We take our responsibilities in educating and keeping your children safe very seriously and I know that you support our standards. This letter outlines our expectations so you can discuss them with your child before we return to school.

Punctuality and attendance

We expect all children to arrive at school by **8.20am every morning**. If your child has an appointment before school, please call school and advise of the details. If we do not hear from you, you will receive a phone call from a member of the attendance team. If your child arrives at school after 8.30am and there is not a valid reason, they will have to complete a punctuality detention so they are reminded of the importance of being on time. If your child is late to school on more than two occasions in a week, they will be put onto a punctuality report by their form tutor.

Pupils should attend school every day, we cannot authorise any requests for holidays during school time. The link between attendance and achievement is well-documented. Put simply; every lesson of lost learning has a detrimental impact on the outcomes for your child.

If your child is absent due to ill health, you will need to provide medical information to explain their absence. If your child is absent for more than 3 days, a member of our attendance team will visit you and your child at home to see if further support is needed. If you are concerned about your child's attendance and wish to meet with a member of our team please contact your child's Head of Year to make an appointment.

Uniform and equipment

We want all pupils to represent our school positively and school uniforms should be worn correctly, including blazers and smart black shoes. Pupils should also bring a black or navy-blue coat in case the weather is cold. Pupils are not allowed to wear jewellery (apart from a wrist watch), make up or have extreme haircuts (including coloured hair or shaved lines). We have spare uniform items in school that are available for all pupils to borrow on a daily basis. Pupils should only wear their PE kit on days when they have PE lessons and must wear school PE kit with trainers, not pumps or converse, these are not appropriate footwear for sporting activities.



All pupils are provided with a 1:1 device for learning in school and at home. Pupils must have their device, fully charged, with them every day as this is an essential tool for learning at Pleckgate. If their iPad is broken, you will receive a letter notifying you of any damage, if it is a minor repair then you will not be charged for an initial fix. However, if the iPad has been broken beyond repair, an invoice will be sent to you for a replacement iPad.

Unfortunately, we do encounter issues with children using mobile devices inappropriately. We would urge you to carefully monitor how your child uses their device and social media applications, activating any parental supervision options available and restricting their access to inappropriate content. Our priority is to keep your child safe during the day and ask that you **do not send your child to school with their mobile phone**. If your child is seen with a mobile phone in school, it will be confiscated and you will be asked to collect it from school, it will not be returned to your child. We would encourage parents to consider buying a different type of mobile phone for their child, that does not allow access to social media but fulfills basic communication requirements. If you wish you can find details of this phone [here](#)

Banned Items in school

You will be aware of the new **government guidance around vaping**, children purchasing or using vapes who are under the age of 18 is against the law. The sale and supply of disposable vapes will soon be banned in the UK. We strongly support this guidance as children should never vape. The active ingredient in disposable vapes is nicotine, which is highly addictive and dangerous. We have a duty to protect children from these harms and if we have a concern that your child may be vaping we will contact you and ask you to attend a meeting in school to discuss our concerns and to put measures in place to ensure your child is not at risk from vaping in future.

Vaping in school is classed as a serious misbehaviour in our behaviour policy and could result in a fixed term exclusion, see details [here](#) . If you are concerned about your child, it is important that you talk to them honestly about the risks associated with vaping and the long-term health concerns. We offer smoking cessation advice and programmes and can make referrals to the school nurse, please contact your child's Head of Year if you wish to discuss further.

We are holding an **open coffee morning on Tuesday 27th February at 9.30am** in the school library, where you will be able to meet members of our pastoral team, attendance and administration team as well as representatives from the Senior Leadership Team and find out more about our school and the support available for your child. If you wish to attend please complete the google form attached [here](#)

Thank you for your continued support

Mrs Aishling McGinty
Headteacher