



8th April 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians

I hope this letter finds you well and that you have had an enjoyable two weeks. This letter is designed to provide you with some information that you and the pupils will need on their return to school.

Ofsted Report.

I am pleased to be able to attach the report from our recent Ofsted inspection. You can read the report by clicking [here](#).

The first thing to note is that The Wordsley School remains a good school. The inspection team found a great number of strengths which are contained in the report. These include our curriculum offer, reading, SEND, careers and other areas.

Ofsted recognised that we have experienced some significant challenges since Covid, as have many schools like ours. As pupils have returned from two national lockdowns, some have found this difficult and the education system has had to respond to these unprecedented times. What pleased me about this inspection is that the team recognised that we knew what needed doing and were taking action. We just need time for our actions to fully take effect.

Ofsted could see that we have high expectations of pupil behaviour and have taken a number of actions to help those pupils who cannot meet them. There is still much to be done but we have made great strides in tackling this and will continue to work tirelessly to do so. The vast majority of our pupils are well behaved and a credit to our school.

I would just like to once again request that you work with us. Ofsted were satisfied that we knew the school, were taking the right actions and were on the right lines. Things may not be as good as they were in 2018 but I would argue that this is the same in the majority of schools. We have things to work on, especially in the areas of behaviour, attendance and assessment. By working with us it makes our job so much easier and provision for your children so much better.

Entering and exiting the school.

When the pupils return to school, they will notice some changes to how they enter and exit the school.

Before 8.35am, they will only be able to enter the school building via a new gate in front of the Blue Room (the electronic door by the swimming pool). Once school begins, this gate will be locked and access to the car parks prevented.

Pupils will no longer be able to access the front of the school by the car park. This is for their own safety. Any pupils found to be at the front of the school without a valid reason will be classed as out of bounds and will receive a 15-minute detention.

The blue doors at points along the front of the school will be closed and computer operated, automatically opening during an emergency.

If a pupil arrives to school between 8.35am and 3.05pm, the only way they can enter the school is through reception. Here they will be registered before they enter the rest of the school site.

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Headteacher: Mr A Weatherhogg**

At 3.05pm, pupils will leave from one of three designated doors. These are through the Blue Room, the Hall or through the door by the bike racks.

Please be rest assured that all of these measures have been taken so that pupils are safe. We will be explaining all of this to the pupils in registration on Monday 8th April.

Uniform

The vast majority of our pupils wear their uniform with pride and their standards of dress are high. However, after a good start to last term, there were some noticeable slippages in some areas. Please can I remind you that:

- Shoes should be all black.
- Leggings and jogging bottoms are not allowed.
- Facial piercings of any kind are not acceptable.
- Pupils are expected to wear a tie and if they borrow one, it must be returned. If not, you may be billed for a replacement.

Mobile Phones

There has been a great deal of attention on mobile phones and young people in the media recently. Mobile phones can be a safeguarding risk in school and can lead to a range of unwanted behaviours. Please can I remind you that mobile phones should not be seen or heard in school. This includes if they are messaging or calling you. Mobile phones have a place, especially when it comes to safety to and from school. If a child needs to contact you, there are ways and means in school by talking to the relevant staff member. If a child is seen or heard on their phone, without permission it will be confiscated, as per the school's Behaviour Policy.

Attendance

Attendance to school and to lessons has become a challenge nationally, with many pupils going to school less regularly since Covid. School is good for young people in so many ways, including academically and for their wellbeing. At this age, children are forming habits that will last into adulthood. By staying away from school, this puts them at risk of achieving less well at school and in later life.

What has been apparent since the pandemic is the rise in pupils not attending lessons. I want to make clear to you that the school timetable is not, and can never be, optional. Our job is to keep pupils safe and to educate them. We cannot do this if they are not in lessons, where they are supposed to be. Since I came here we have had a real focus on this and have made some great strides. I kindly request your support if your child is one of the small minority who avoids going to lessons. If they do not attend lessons, please do not be surprised if we have to put other measures in place to ensure that they are safe and learning.

Thank you as always for your support and the role you play as parents and carers. Your support is so important and by working together, we can make their educational experience the best it can be.

Yours sincerely



Mr A Weatherhogg
Headteacher

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