

Frequently asked questions

Please find below the top 10 most common questions I get asked when I visit primary schools in rough order of frequency.

1) Will I get lost?

We help people settle into our school every year and we find by two weeks in, it is like they've been there two years. There will be loads of help to make sure you are heading in the right direction and for the first few weeks you will never be in trouble for being late because you took a wrong turn.

2) Am I allowed a mobile phone?

The school mobile phone policy allows you to bring a mobile phone into school but it should be turned off and put away in your blazer or bag. If a phone is seen out during the school day it will be confiscated.

Mobile phones are brought into school at your own risk and the school cannot take any responsibility for them (we can't buy you a new one if it gets damaged or goes missing).

In PE lessons you can put any valuables, including mobile phones, in a valuables box which is locked away.

3) Is it true I can eat my lunch anywhere?

Yes, there are lots of seats in the canteen which you can use to eat your packed lunch or school meal but you can also take your food off to a nice sunny spot somewhere else to sit with your friends.

4) What happens if I am late to school ?

Students are expected to be on site, through the gates, by 8:45 am. If students arrive later than that, they are automatically put into lunch time detentions. The two exceptions are that students do not get detentions when they are late because the bus was delayed and students in Year 7 do not get detentions for being late to school during the first two weeks while they and their parents find their new routines.

5) How and when can I get a locker?

We have lots of lockers around the school that can save you carrying your gym kit or cooking ingredients around all day. As one year group leaves the other takes their lockers and they are usually nice and clean and ready to be used by year 7 after a couple of weeks in the Autumn term. I will distribute the application forms at that time. There is a small deposit to cover the cost of the key

6) Is there any bullying?

Bullying is incredibly rare and we don't stand for it. Everyone has the right to learn in a safe environment.

7) Will I get sent to Ready to Learn (RTL) ?

We would hope not. We do not expect year 7 students to end up in RTL and it is always sad when students miss learning opportunities, but RTL is part of our policy of protecting the rights of all the other people in the class to not have their learning disrupted.

8) When will I know about my tutor group.?

As we have said we hope to have a tutor call towards the end of term. We are one of the few schools that work hard to take tutor preferences into account – although we make no guarantees. Because of that its always a tricky problem and takes quite a long time when we have everyone's forms.

9) What will the first day be like. ?

We are still working on it. Typically, we would meet students at the school hall (local parents can drop students there) and go to our tutor bases to get settled into school. We would work in tutors for at least part of the day doing familiarisation exercises and walking the site, and then move towards a few lessons later on.

10) Will I need PE kit the first day ?

No. If you happen to have PE on your first day the activity you do will not need additional kit.