



Small School ♦ Strong Values ♦ Great Experiences

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BRI/SRU

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Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you are enjoying the summer break.

We are very much looking forward to the new academic year, and a return to close-to-normal conditions in school from September onwards. Following communications last term regarding changes to the school day from September, I am writing with a number of messages in preparation for the new year, the majority of which are reminders of established school policies. Please read them carefully, and discuss them with your child(ren) to support a smooth start to the Autumn term.

There are a number of information items attached to this letter. I would like to emphasise the importance of:

- School attendance of **96% + (no more than 8 days of absence in a year)**
- Your attendance at parents' evenings and communication with school
- Discussing learning with your child as a daily routine
- Ensuring your child is properly prepared to arrive at school at the right time, in full school uniform and with the correct equipment on their first day

Next year the school will continue to actively seek your views to help shape improvement and changes to school policies. We are extremely excited about the new academic year and the successes we will celebrate together.

With very best wishes

Ben Riggott
Headteacher



This attachment is long but contains essential information. The information contained in boxes is particularly important.

1. **New school term September 2021**

Tuesday 7 September – Y7 students only

Wednesday 8 September – Year 7, 8 and 11 students only

Thursday 9 September – all Year groups

Please read and ensure that you are familiar with the information provided in the July letter to parents, carers and pupils regarding changes to the school day and arrangements for the start of term, including important dates for testing students for whom we have consent in each Year group for Covid-19 prior to their return to school for lessons:

<https://parkside.derbyshire.sch.uk/PDF/LettersToParents/Letter%20to%20parents%20carers%20and%20pupils%20-%2015%20July%202021.pdf>

2. **Attendance and Punctuality**

All students aim for 100% attendance, but are expected to reach an attendance target of **at least 96%** for the academic year. 96% equates to 8 days absence. Regular or persistent absence from school will have a significant negative impact on your child's achievement and progress. Please ensure that your child attends regularly and promptly. The Department for Education will consider an attendance of **90%** or below as persistent absenteeism and require schools to involve other agencies to support improvements.

School starts promptly at 8.30 am. All students need to report to mentor rooms at 8.30 am for morning registration. Students who are late to school or morning registration **will be issued a same day social time detention.** Punctuality between lessons is equally important and will be supported in a similar way.

3. **School Uniform**

We have a school uniform policy and dress code which aims to:

- Give students and parents clear guidance
- Ensure that we maintain a uniformed school reflecting the inclusive nature of Parkside family ethos
- Promote sensible, safe and healthy practices
- Promote high standards of personal appearance.

Parkside students take pride in wearing their school uniform and present themselves as self-disciplined, motivated and ready to learn. We appreciate your support in securing high standards of student presentation and conduct.

Uniform guidance is available on the website and is included on the next two pages, for your information.

Students failing to meet uniform expectations or missing items will be issued with a same day social time sanction and home contact will be made.

All items loaned from school stock will need to be returned at the end of the day. Parents will be invoiced for any items not returned.

How to order uniform

Parkside school ties and branded PE tops can be purchased directly through the school.

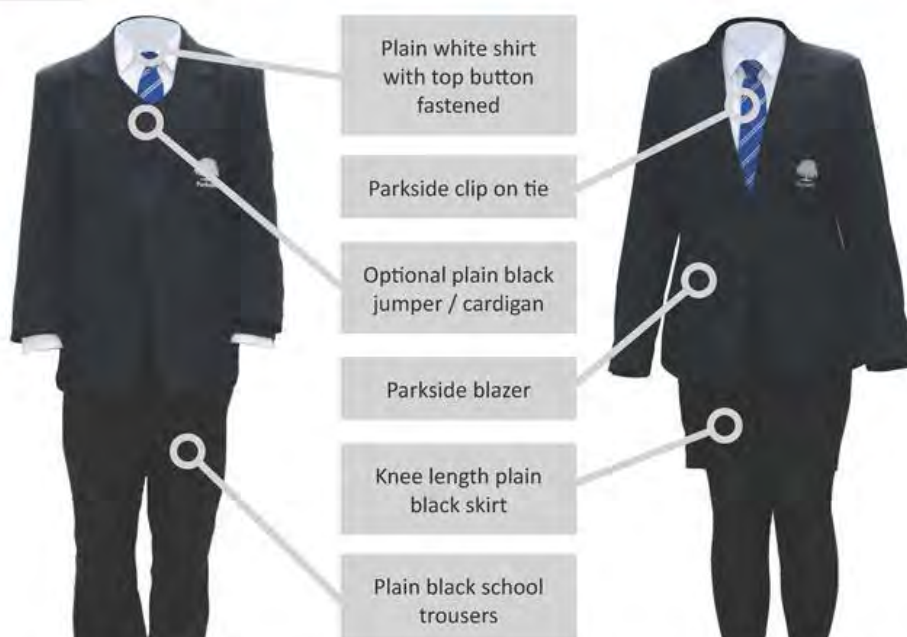
Optional PE Hoodies can be ordered through <http://parksidepe.deco-apparel.com/>

Parkside branded blazers can be purchased through Trutex at <https://www.trutexdirect.com/>

When registering please use the code LEA00947SC to find our school.

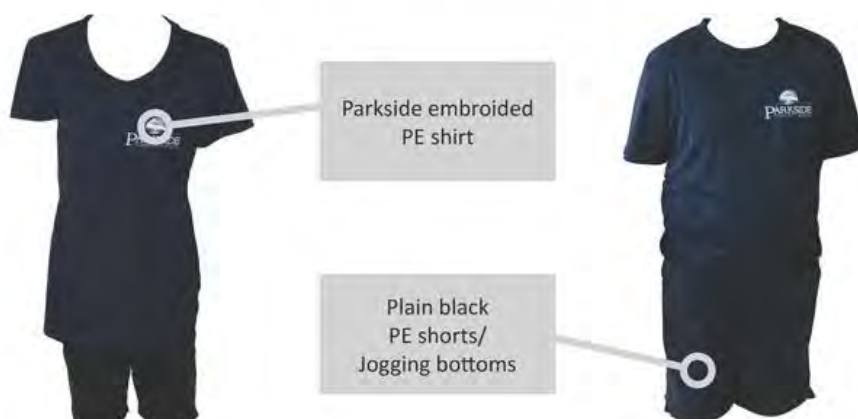
If you need help with your order, Trutex can be reached via telephone on 01200 421206

Parkside Community School Uniform Requirements



Plain Black Shoes Only

Shoes should be plain black leather or faux leather with black soles and sides.
No logos / badged shoes are allowed.



All Piercings Must Be Removed For PE

Why we insist on wearing full uniform

School is a place of work and we require students to fully comply with our dress code as they would for other work places they may move into later on in life.

If my child is not wearing full uniform

Students arriving at school with incorrect uniform will be expected to wear items from the school stock or, following contact with parents, sent home to change. All stock is regularly laundered and clean to wear. Sanctions will be in place for persistent offenders and those who refuse to co-operate.

My child must not wear...

Any kind of trainers or canvas shoes

Facial piercings

Facial piercings of any kind are not allowed. This includes studs, bars, rings, chains, or any other variation.



Ear piercings

Tapers, tunnels, plugs, bars, hoops, rings, chains, or any other variations are not allowed.



Excessive makeup & false nails



Extreme hair styles and/or unnatural hair dye



4. Lunchtime arrangements

For safety reasons all students are expected to remain on site at lunchtime. Students are supervised throughout the lunch time period by senior staff, supported by mid-day supervisors. Dining facilities are comfortable, providing accommodation for students eating purchased meals and packed lunches. After eating, students can attend a range of planned activities or play in the recreational areas.

Children whose parents receive the following support payments are entitled to receive Free School Meals:

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

If your child is eligible for free school meals, they'll remain eligible until they finish the phase of schooling (primary or secondary) they're in on 31 March 2022.

In this respect, parents may be assured that no child suffers any embarrassment in claiming a free school meal at the school, as the allowance is credited daily to their cashless catering account.

Free School Meals applications can now be completed online:

<http://www.parkside.derbyshire.sch.uk/index.php/parents/online-free-school-meals-application>
(Students and Parents, Free School Meals)

5. Change of details

In order to fully comply with the law, we must ensure that the personal information and permissions we have on file are up to date for each student. Details may change for a variety of reasons and I ask that you notify us of any changes as soon as possible, especially contact telephone numbers. **We will be sending a data collection sheet home the during the first few weeks of term to confirm contact and medical details. Please can you ensure that you return this form, even if there are no changes.**

It is very important that the school is fully aware of any medical condition that your child has, including medication required to be administered during the day. Please ensure that any medication brought into school is labelled with your child's name, including inhalers. This will help us to ensure your child's safety at school as well as maximising full access to the whole curriculum.

6. **Photographs and promotional images**

The school will regularly celebrate and recognise student achievement and, at times, will be invited to take part in a number of external events and initiatives where photographs or filmed images are required/taken of the students. In addition, such opportunities are often taken to use images of the students and the school for our own promotional or communications materials. All photographs and film taken will always represent individuals and the school in a wholly positive light.

7. **Mobile Devices**

Students are discouraged from bringing mobile/or smart phones or any other item that is likely to distract them from learning in school. As mobile devices are expensive and very desirable the school cannot accept liability if they are lost or stolen on site. **In addition these items, if seen during the school day outside of social times, will be confiscated from students and returned at the end of the day.** The school appreciates your support on this matter.

8. **Illness or concerns during the school day**

Students are instructed to inform a member of staff if they are feeling unwell or have a Pastoral issue and allow us to contact home. As you will understand, students directly contacting parents or carers causes significant problems in our management of students in school. Should your child contact you directly, please ask them to speak with a member of staff rather than with you directly, then telephone the Pastoral Centre and speak to member of staff to discuss any issues.

9. **Rewards and sanctions**

The school will continue to recognise and celebrate all students' achievements and successes regularly during the academic year through positive phone calls, letters home, certificates, assemblies, regular written feedback in books, verbal feedback to students and parents' evenings.

However, we also recognise that sanctions are required at times and we use those common to most schools: detentions for missed work, report cards, and in severe cases withdrawal from groups to facilitate intervention necessary to ensure conditions that are conducive to learning. Our levelled consequences policy ensures that when our high standards of behaviour are not met these cases are dealt with quickly and firmly. **Parents are reminded that no notice detentions are now allowed by law but in most cases the school will make contact with parents. Following behaviour resulting in an on call (withdrawal from lesson), all students are required to complete a same day detention without exception.**

The school takes disruption to learning very seriously. We thank parents and carers for their support on this crucial matter.

10. Homework

Homework is an extremely important part of the planned learning process across subjects. It is used to provide students with opportunities to revisit and apply learning, thereby improving memory of key knowledge and depth of understanding. The school has made a number of changes to improve regular completion of homework. All students will continue to be set homework regularly which can be monitored by parents through the school website using the “show my homework” facility. A phone app is available for parents to download which gives parents alerts on what homework has been set daily and when it is due.

We will provide further information for parents and carers of students beginning Year 7 in September during the first few weeks of term.

Students who regularly complete homework to a good standard are more likely to make expected progress in their learning. Students who fail to complete homework to a good standard will be issued with levelled sanctions, including detention. Parents will be asked to meet with key staff if homework is regularly not completed or handed in below the expected standard.

11. Regular reading

Reading for pleasure is widely known to be strongly linked with academic success, as it develops students' vocabulary and conceptual understanding. Reading is a vital skill required to finding a good job and reading and comprehension skills have a huge impact on life chances. There is also strong evidence that reading for pleasure has broader benefits, including increased empathy, improved relationships with others, and better emotional and mental health and well-being. All students will be required to carry a reading book in their school bag.

12. Student and Parent Voice

The school is keen to involve students and parents in shaping the future direction of the school and intend to consult on future changes and reviews of school policies. All students have the opportunity to contribute to Parliament debate and discussion and to make a positive contribution to the school community.

The school believes that working closely with parents/carers is essential if students are to be successful and achieve their full potential. Every child matters in our school. We hope that parents/carers will get to know the school and particularly the staff who work most closely with their son/daughter. We ask you to support your child's learning and to provide a setting at home in which your child can work. There will also be opportunities for you to become more involved in the life of the school. **We expect parents and carers to attend all parent evenings to have a meaningful discussion about their child's achievement and progress. This enables parents and carers to support their child's future learning.**

13. Student Record

To strengthen home/school communications and support students to meet Parkside expectations all students will be issued with a Student Record in September. The Student Record is a pocket size book that students must keep in their blazer pocket at all times. Your child's daily rewards, sanctions, homework and weekly attendance will be recorded meaning parents/carers will have an opportunity to discuss what has been learned during the day and review whether school expectations have been met on a daily basis. Parents/carers can also use the Student Record to communicate with their child's mentor and/or teaching staff.

14. Daily Equipment

All students are required to bring a school bag containing equipment needed for lessons. Throughout our 2020-21 "Bubble Provision", all students had access to an equipment pack that was based in their classroom. In September this will no longer be the case and students will be expected to have the following equipment: 2 black, 1 blue, 1 green pens, pencil, eraser, ruler and highlighter pen.

Your child will require the following equipment in their bag at the start of term:

Basic equipment pack: 2 black, 1 blue, 1 green pens, pencil, eraser and ruler.

PE kit: Parkside PE top and plain black shorts/leggings/track suit bottoms
Trainers/plimsolls

Reading book

Student Record (to be issued by the school in September)