

Mount St. Joseph

"A community of Learners, Believers and Friends"

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Supplementary information – School routines 2024-25

As we approach the end of the year, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support for our school community. We would appreciate it if you could also go through the contents of this letter with your child to ensure they are clear regarding our expectations. We appreciate your support in these matters as we continue to raise our expectations and standards which will ultimately improve outcomes for our young people.

Attendance and punctuality

As part of our drive to continue to raise standards, we would like to request your full support in continuing to ensure that your child attends school punctually every day, and that they are fully equipped and prepared for school. Those who attend school more frequently ultimately achieve greater qualifications and can access higher education, employment or training.

Uniform

Mount St Joseph has an excellent reputation within the community. To maintain this, we need to ensure that uniform is of the highest standard. Please ensure you refer to the school website (link below) for the full school uniform list. I would like to highlight aspects of uniform around hair and jewellery – students are not permitted to wear any piercings, or have extreme hairstyles or colours. [School Uniform - Mount St Joseph Catholic School \(stoccat.org.uk\)](http://School Uniform - Mount St Joseph Catholic School (stoccat.org.uk))

Year group-coloured lanyards must be worn at all times and are part of the school uniform. Please store them safely over Christmas and remind your child to bring this into school when they return in January. Lanyards are necessary to purchase lunch and breaktime snacks. If your child has lost their lanyard, please contact reception@msj.stoccat.org.uk and we will arrange for an order to be placed on your behalf. Please note that the new Year 7s will be given a lanyard on the first day.

Please could I draw your attention to the following information: when purchasing school trousers, they must be tailored trousers (not slim fit or jeans). Also, when buying school shoes, please ensure that they are shoes, not trainers as these are not acceptable. Please could I also encourage parents and carers to check that school skirts are knee length and no shorter and that black tights are worn if students are wearing the school skirt.

I look forward to your support in ensuring these high standards of uniform are adhered to. If you are unsure of any aspects of the school uniform, please do not hesitate to contact the school before you purchase the items.

Mobile phones

In order to build on and develop student progress and attainment, we need to focus on all aspects associated with learning, eliminating distractions for students. I would

like to request the support of parents and carers in reminding their child about mobile phones and other electrical devices; these should be switched off and kept out of sight during the school day, including break and lunch. Students found using any electronic devices in school will have them confiscated until the end of the school day.

Social media

Many of our students cope really well with the online world but some need additional support from us and from you as their parents and carers. We continue to reinforce the messages with the help of our subject leaders and pastoral team who are keen to inform and promote online safety in lessons and assemblies. We would encourage you to reinforce our message to students that they should be cautious in their use of their mobile phones and social media.

When students act inconsiderately or irresponsibly online, they are subject to our school behaviour policy in just the same way as when they are interacting in person. However, most of the inappropriate use of the internet is done from home or on students' mobile devices during evenings, weekends and holidays. This makes it very difficult for schools to investigate and take action. All students have the right to feel safe online. However, the responsibility for monitoring a child's use of social media, or indeed the internet in general, must lie with parents and carers. Consequently, open conversations about your child's online usage are vital. It is also worth noting the age limits for Facebook, Instagram, Whatsapp, Snapchat and TikTok.

Equally, please talk to your children about the material they post, encouraging them not to upload videos or images that contain identifying features such as school uniform, house names etc. Revealing personal data can easily lead to online grooming and threats to the individual and their family.

All the above information and further information can be found on the school website: [Home - Mount St Joseph Catholic School \(stoccat.org.uk\)](http://stoccat.org.uk)

Thank you for advance for your support.