

# Mount St. Joseph

*"A community of Learners, Believers and Friends"*

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Headteacher: Mrs A Devany



## Supplementary information – School routines 2025-26

As we approach the end of the school 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 to continue in ensuring that your child attends school punctually every day, and that they are fully equipped and prepared for school. Each term you will continue to receive a regular update about your child's attendance which is intended to support improvements throughout the year. It is essential that students attend school fully and engage in all the opportunities school life brings. Students that miss just 10 minutes each day, miss an incredible 30 hours of teaching and learning across the year!

Students who have 90% attendance miss nearly 4 weeks learning over a year. Over 5 years this means they lose nearly half a year of learning.

We also know that students fall behind their friends and classmates when they miss school. At Mount St Joseph we want the amount of missed education to be reduced as much as possible. We believe that our community is stronger together, with all of our students in school, on time, every day. We are building life skills, life-long friendships and preparing your child for future success.

Additionally, holidays during term time cannot be approved. This is in line with the government's guidance to schools. Parents who choose to take holidays will receive a penalty notice from Bolton MBC.



## 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](#)

Please ensure that students remove all jewellery, including new piercings, before they return in September.

Please could I draw your attention to the following information: when purchasing school trousers, they must be tailored trousers (not slim fit, flared, cargo, canvas or jeans). The school phased out the grey jumper some years ago. Please note students should no longer wear a grey jumper. Also, when buying school shoes, please ensure that they are shoes (with no coloured logos), 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.

## Equipment for school

Daily it is requested that your child brings the following items to school with them:

- School bag
- Pens, pencil and ruler
- School lanyard – **please see below**
- Student planner - **this will be given to all students on the first day in September**
- Knowledge organiser-- **this will be given to all students on the first day in September**
- PE kit on days when required - please refer to the school website and note that flared leggings are not permitted and due to health and safety a sports hijab must be worn.

Please refer to the school behaviour policy for further information regarding students who do not adhere to school uniform policy – particularly appendix 10.

Year group-coloured lanyards must be always worn and are part of the school uniform. Please store them safely over summer and remind your child to bring this into school when they return in September. Lanyards are necessary to purchase lunch and breaktime snacks. If your child has lost their lanyard, please contact [reception@msj.stoccat.org.uk](mailto: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.

### **Mobile phones and electronic devices**

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 (including Air Pods and cameras); 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.

Please refer to the school behaviour policy – appendix 10 for more information.

### **Drinks in school**

Please be reminded that energy drinks and fizzy drinks are not permitted in school. These types of drinks can have a negative impact on students' concentration, behaviour, and overall health. Any energy or fizzy drinks brought onto school premises will be confiscated.

### **Social media**

Many of our students cope 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:

[www.msj.stoccat.org.uk](http://www.msj.stoccat.org.uk)

Thank you in advance for your support.