

27 January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Use of School Toilets

Sadly, there appears to be continuing misunderstanding and misrepresentation about the use of toilets in our school on social media.

We do discourage students from using the toilets during lesson times to avoid loss of learning, but of course if they need to go we will of course allow this.

The teacher writes a brief note in the child's planner along with the time that they have been released to go to the toilet. This means that they are able to show this to any staff member that challenges them for being out of lessons. Teachers are encouraged only to allow one student to go to the toilet at a time from each class at a time, since with 90 classes on at any one time there can be a number of children out of lessons at any point in the day.

We want our children to be comfortable and go when they need to but similarly are careful to identify when this starts to become a pattern. For example, if children are out of lessons multiple times per day and taking a long time to return, this would raise concern about potential medical issues or truancy. Those with medical issues are issued toilet passes. However, where ongoing truancy is a concern this clearly needs to be managed delicately.

We have a large number of toilets around the school site, many of which have been recently refurbished by our site team. At social times, staff are on duty around these areas and manage any queuing for their use. We direct individual year groups to particular toilet areas as to support the flow of students around the site. Very occasionally, a block of toilets may be closed due to misuse so that we have time to repair, clean and replace any damaged items.

I hope that this helps clarify the position. As ever, we are open to any parents or carers that would like to visit and have a tour to see the school in action.

Yours sincerely



Dr R Speller

Headteacher