



January 2026

An update for parents from the pastoral team

We hope you are well. As the new calendar year gets into full swing, February is getting ever closer, we would just like to provide a brief update from the pastoral team.

Attendance

Thank you to all our families for your continued support with maintaining high levels of attendance. Our whole school attendance figure is in line with the top 5% of schools national. We are proud of the commitment pupils show each day. A special well done to all pupils for their fantastic engagement with the **Winter Attendance Streak** - their enthusiasm and engagement was fantastic. Keep an eye out for news about our **Easter Attendance Streak**, which will be shared very soon. We have noticed a **slight dip in attendance on Fridays** and ask for your support to ensure pupils attend the full week. We will **make contact with families** where we feel **attendance is having an impact on their child's academic and social development**.



A reminder **most mild illnesses**—such as a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough—**do not require time off** unless your child has a high temperature. Attending school with mild symptoms helps pupils stay on track with their learning and supports their overall wellbeing.

Please refer to the [NHS guidance on school attendance and illness](#) for more information or contact the school office.

Toilet visits during lessons

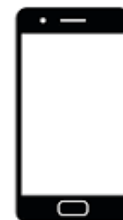
We have noticed an increase in pupils asking to use the toilet during lessons; this is causing unnecessary disruption to learning. A small number of pupils - mainly boys - are repeatedly requesting to go, often at the start of lessons when there should be no need. We will be **actively discouraging toilet use during period 3 (after break) and period 4 (after lunch)**.

While pupils can of course use the toilet when genuinely needed, we are encouraging all pupils to go at break and lunchtime. Where pupils continue to misuse this privilege, we may need to put individual restrictions in place, and we will work with parents if this becomes necessary.

Pupils with medical needs or toilet passes will not be affected.

Mobile Phones

Please remind your child that **mobile phones must be put away at the school gate each morning**. Pupils should then **hand their phones in to their form tutor** on entering their form room. This helps us ensure a calm, focused and safe start to the school day. Any phones that are not put away will be confiscated in line with our behaviour policy.



['What I wish my parents or carers knew...': A guide for parents and carers on managing children's digital lives | Children's Commissioner for England](#)

Removal from lessons

On the rare occasion that a **pupil is removed from a lesson**, they are expected to continue their learning by working in the back of another classroom. **If a pupil refuses to follow this instruction, the school may have no alternative but to issue either an off-site direction at another school or a suspension.** We ask that parents support us by reinforcing this expectation where needed.

Uniform and Jewellery

We appreciate your support in maintaining **high standards of uniform**. A reminder that the **only jewellery permitted** in school is **one pair of stud earrings**. These must be removed for PE lessons. No other piercings are allowed while pupils are in school. Nail polish / extensions and false eyelashes are also not appropriate for school. Where pupils arrive in incorrect uniform, including shoes, we will always aim to provide uniform with the expectation it is worn. Pupils who refuse to comply with our uniform expectations will lose social times, at the very least, until matters can be resolved.

Our school uniform expectations - [School Uniform | Kirkburton Middle School](#)

Uniform exchange support - [Free School Uniform - Uniform Exchange - Call 07955724789](#)

Riding or scooting to school

It's great to see some pupils choosing to travel to school by bicycle or scooter. To help keep everyone safe, please can we remind families that pupils **must wear a helmet** at all times and **must push their bike or scooter whenever on the school grounds**, including the fields. If pupils are unable to follow these safety expectations, we may need to ask them to **leave their bike or scooter at home** for the time being.



Thank you for helping us keep all pupils safe on their way to and from school.

Sweets and nuts

We ask pupils not to bring sweets into school because they can create unnecessary distractions in class and often lead to disagreements or unhealthy sharing. A consistent approach also **helps us promote healthier eating habits** and supports pupils' overall wellbeing. Pupils who bring in **large bags of sweets** to school will have them **confiscated**. A reminder also that **we are a nut free school**.

Communication with Staff

Finally, a note regarding communication: **all teachers, including pastoral and senior leaders, have teaching commitments throughout the week**. Staff will always respond to messages as soon as possible, but this may take **up to 48 hours**. Please **contact your child's form tutor** in the first instance **with any pastoral concerns**.

If you have an urgent safeguarding concern, please contact the school office directly so the matter can be dealt with promptly.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support.

KMS Pastoral Team

'Enjoying, achieving, succeeding together'