



# SCISSETT MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Head of School: Mrs R Onnis

Executive Headteacher: Mr C Taylor

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**Dear Parents/Carers,**

I hope you and your children have had a positive start to the new term. At Scissett Middle School we are committed to ensuring that every pupil begins each school day with focus, confidence, and a readiness to learn. As part of this commitment, we are launching our 'Progress Drive': **Strong Starts**.

Strong Starts is designed to establish calm, consistent, and purposeful routines from the moment pupils arrive on site and throughout the school day. All children have been made aware of the progress drive this week, in their year group assemblies.

## **Strong Starts – Our Expectations**

### **1. Arriving on Time and Ready to Learn**

Pupils should enter the school site punctually and fully prepared for the day. This includes:

- Wearing full and correct school uniform
- Bringing all required equipment
- Being ready to learn

From next week, pupils who do not meet uniform expectations will receive negative points and appropriate sanctions will be applied.

### **2. Expectations on Arrival to School**

Upon entering the school site, pupils must go directly to the yard nearest their designated entry point. This ensures smooth and safe supervision at the start of the day.

### **3. Calm and Orderly Movement Around School**

To support safety and a positive learning environment, pupils must:

- Move around school in an orderly fashion
- Follow the one-way system at all times
- Leave and enter classrooms calmly, using quiet voices
- Re-enter the building after social times in a calm and controlled manner



**Working together, respecting all, because everyone matters**

[www.scissett.com](http://www.scissett.com)

#### 4. Mobile Phones

Mobile phones must be switched off and kept in bags on arrival to school grounds. Once in school, phones should be kept in the form time boxes which are locked away at the school office.

Children who do not follow this rule will have the phone confiscated until the end of the day – depending on the circumstances, parents may be asked to collect confiscated phones from school, at their earliest convenience.

#### 5. Entering the Building When the Bell Rings

When the bell sounds at the start of the day and following lunch time, pupils are expected to enter school immediately and go straight to their form rooms.

#### 6. Lunchtime Routines and Building Access

During lunchtime, pupils have the **first 10 minutes** to:

- Take belongings back to form
- Collect anything they need for lunchtime

After this 10-minute window, pupils will not be allowed back to classrooms or lockers. This routine is in place to support supervision, safety, and responsibility.

We expect pupils to take responsibility for ensuring they have everything they need for their time outside. This includes wearing a coat, especially during the winter months when the weather can be unpredictable.

Due to a 5 minute warning bell indicating nearly the end of lunch time, children get this 5 minute block to return any belongings to lockers, if they so wish.

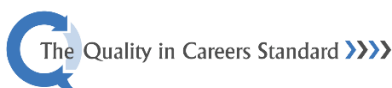
#### Water Bottles and Lunch Bags

- Each year group has a large outdoor storage box for lunch bags and water bottles.
- Water bottles can be filled at the staffed water stations, located near the designated toilet areas, throughout lunch time.
- We ask that pupils do not fill water bottles during form time. This remains learning time, and interruptions reduce the effectiveness of our Strong Starts initiative.

#### Why These Expectations Matter

Strong Starts helps pupils:

- Begin each day calmly and confidently
- Reduce lost learning time
- Build independence and responsibility
- Transition safely and smoothly around school
- Maintain focus throughout the day



## How You Can Support

You can help your child by:

- Encouraging punctuality
- Ensuring they have full uniform and equipment
- Reminding them to bring a suitable coat for outdoor times
- Reinforcing our expectations around safe movement and responsibility
- Reminding them that water bottles should not be filled during form/lesson time

## Working Together

Thank you for your continued support as we strengthen routines and expectations to help every child thrive.

Warm regards,

*Rachael Onnis*

Mrs R Onnis  
Head of School

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### Uniform Reminder

As part of our Strong Starts expectations, we would like to remind parents and carers of the key elements of our uniform policy:

#### Footwear

- Black footwear only, with discrete/small black branding.
- **Running-style trainers are not permitted.**
- Examples of acceptable and unacceptable footwear can be found on our school website.

#### Jumpers and Ties

- Children are expected to wear their school jumper every day.
- School ties must be worn at all times.

#### Trousers and Skirts

- Trousers must be plain black.
- Skirts must be plain black and fall no higher than just above the knee.
- **Stretchy, tube-style skirts are not permitted.**
- Examples of suitable uniform items can also be found on the school website.

**False eyelashes and false nails are not permitted in school.** We ask that nails are kept natural and not painted in bright or patterned varnish that cannot come off with 'every day' nail varnish remover. **Gel and Acrylic nails are not allowed in school.**

These expectations ensure consistency across the school and help every pupil arrive looking smart, prepared, and ready to learn.

