



Seaton Sluice Middle School FAQs

HOW LONG IS THE SCHOOL DAY?

Typically, the school day starts at 8.50am and finishes at 3.25pm. However, more recently, times have been adjusted as a result of COVID. Any changes for September 2021 would be communicated fully to all parents and carers before the start of the term, as well as publicised on our website.

CAN I RIDE MY BIKE TO SCHOOL?

You can ride your bike or your scooter to school. You must wear a helmet if you are riding a bike. There is a bike shed on the school yard, where you can store bikes and scooters, but the school can not accept responsibility for these things.

HOW DO I GET A BUS-PASS FOR SCHOOL TRANSPORT?

If a pupil lives in Seghill or New Hartley, they may be entitled to apply for a bus pass to travel to school. Northumberland County Council School Transport is responsible for school buses and they can be contacted via the NCC website. Bus passes are not issued by the school and all queries regarding bus passes should be made directly to them.

HOW MANY LESSONS ARE THERE PER DAY?

Typically, lessons are 55 minutes long and there are 5 lessons each day. These cover the full range of National Curriculum subjects for Key Stages 2 and 3. Three lessons take place in the morning, with break time between lessons two and three, and there are two lessons in the afternoon, after lunch. At present, however, there have been some adjustments to our timetables, to allow us to reopen and to be COVID secure. Any changes for September 2021 would be communicated fully to all parents and carers before the start of the term, as well as publicised on our website.

HOW WILL I FIND MY WAY AROUND SCHOOL?

When students first come to the school in Year 5, they will spend most of their time with their form teacher in their form classroom. Pupils will move around for subject specialist lessons such as Art and Technology and usually find very quickly that they start to remember their way around. They can always ask if they are unsure. Teachers are sensitive to the fact that new pupils need time to acclimatise to the school's layout.

HOW LONG IS LUNCHTIME?

Lunchtime is one hour, from 12.15-1.15pm. Pupils will spend part of their lunchtime eating in the dining hall and the rest of their time outside in the playground or on the field. The school operates a lunch rota system and pupils eat lunch in a series of sittings. There are also lunchtime clubs to participate in, such as music, sports or homework. At present, there have been some adjustments to our lunchtime arrangements and timings to allow us to reopen the dining hall while remaining COVID secure. Any changes for September 2021 would be communicated fully to all parents and carers before the start of the term, as well as publicised on our website.

ARE THERE AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS?

Every year we host a range of after-school clubs, such as sports, gymnastics and dance. Taxis are provided for those children who would normally go home on the school buses, if parents are unable to collect them after the club finishes.

HOW DO I KNOW WHAT UNIFORM TO BUY?

Wearing a uniform creates a sense of community and we believe ours is smart, practical and fair. We are proud of our uniform and it is fully listed on the school's website, including links to our main supplier, Emblematic. All parents and carers will also be sent information in regard to uniform via induction packs and we ask for full support with uniform expectations.

AM I ALLOWED TO WEAR JEWELLERY?

The only jewellery permitted in school is a watch and one plain stud in each ear. They must be small and discreet and removed for PE lessons.

WHEN DO I FIND OUT WHO MY FORM TEACHER IS?

Organising form classes is a very complex task, but classes will be ready for the Transition week when pupils visit the school in July.

WHAT DO I NEED TO BRING ON MY FIRST DAY?

On their first day, pupils will need to bring the correct equipment from the equipment list. Basic equipment includes a pen, pencil and ruler. Students will be provided with a planner, which they should bring to school every day. On their first day, pupils should also bring a packed lunch or money to buy food at the canteen. We will ensure pupils are given a contactless card in the first few weeks as we typically operate a cashless system in the canteen.

WHAT IF I GET LOST ON THE WAY TO LESSONS?

If students get lost on the way to lessons, they should just ask someone. Whether that is a student or member of staff, there are always many people to ask. Everyone is friendly, approachable and willing to help.

WHAT IF I GET BULLIED AT SCHOOL?

If a member of our school community behaves in an inappropriate way towards students, then it is really important that they tell somebody. This person could be a friend, parents/carers, their form teacher, a subject teacher or their Head of Year. Students must tell somebody so the situation can be swiftly dealt with.

WHERE DO I GO IF I NEED HELP?

If pupils need help, they can go to the School Reception, their form teacher or their Head of Year. Teachers are also always more than willing to help!