



SMITHILLS SCHOOL

SUCCESS FOR ALL

C. Dewse: Headteacher
BA (Hons), PGCE, National SENCO Award, NPQH

P. Pavey: Deputy Headteacher
BA (Hons), PGCE, NPQH, FCCT

J. Gunn: Deputy Headteacher
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 Smithills Dean Road, Bolton, BL1 6JS  01204 842382  office@smithillsschool.net  smithillsschool.net

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! I hope you have had a restful and enjoyable holiday, and that your child is feeling refreshed as we begin 2025.

As we start the new year, I would like to take a moment to remind you of our expectations and standards. These guidelines are in place to ensure that all children have the best possible environment for learning and development.

Uniform

It is essential that all pupils arrive at school in full, correct uniform, including the appropriate shoes and school bag. To maintain a professional and focused learning environment, items such as trainers, nose studs, multiple piercings, jersey tops, and false nails are not permitted. As the weather grows colder, please ensure that your child wears a coat to school. Being well-prepared for the school day, with the correct equipment, including a school bag, is vital. Pupils should arrive on time to school and for every lesson and be ready to engage in their learning.

If you need support with purchasing uniform, please speak to your child's Head of Year— we are here to assist in any way we can.

Mobile Phones

I ask that you kindly remind your child of our mobile phone policy. If your child needs to bring a phone to school, it must be turned off and kept in their school bag throughout the day. Phones that are seen or heard will be confiscated until the end of the school day and your child will complete a C2 correction. Please do not contact your child during school hours or allow them to contact you. Phones and social media are a significant distraction and do not contribute to a focused learning environment.

Attendance

I would also like to highlight the importance of regular attendance. Every day at school counts, and consistent attendance is crucial for your child's academic success and personal development. It not only supports learning, but also fosters important social skills and prepares pupils for life beyond school.

Please note that absence from school is only acceptable in certain circumstances, such as illness or with prior permission from the school. Research from the Department for Education shows that persistent absence significantly impacts attainment, with only 35.6% of persistently absent pupils achieving grades 9-4 in English and Maths. By ensuring your child attends school regularly, you are setting them up for the best chance of success.

Upcoming Events and Support

This is a busy term for us all. Year 11 pupils have been working hard in preparation for their PPEs, which begin on 13th January. We wish them the best of luck and much success. Please also refer to the events



calendar below for important dates. The calendar is also available on our website and has been shared on our social media platforms.

As always, we are here to support you and your child. If you have any questions or need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us by phone or through the 'Tell Us' link on our website. We aim to respond to all enquiries within 48 hours, as I am sure you can appreciate, our staff are extremely busy during this time.

Uniform

Item	Expectation
Blazer with Smithills Badge on it	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The blazer must be worn at all times. Please note, pupils will be advised when they are permitted to remove blazers outside of the classroom due to weather conditions.
Grey pleated skirt or trousers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knee length skirts may be worn Full length (not $\frac{3}{4}$ length) trousers must be worn on the waist. Pupils may wear full length trousers with a pleated skirt (no leggings)
Black belt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only black belts with a small, plain buckle are permitted. Belts must be worn inside belt loops
White Shirt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be tucked into the skirt or trousers with all buttons done up
School jumper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is an optional item if pupils wish to wear an additional layer to keep warm
Plain white, grey or black socks/ black or grey tights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If wearing a skirt, socks must be white, grey or black and knee or ankle length If wearing trousers, socks must be white, grey or black and ankle length Trainer socks are not permitted
Flat black leather shoes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shoes must be plain, smart and business like; they must not look like a trainer or plimsoll Shoes should not be suede or have any coloured stitching or any embellishments Boots must not be worn The school retains the final decision on whether a shoe is in line with the policy
Hair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hair must always be kept off the face and not fall below the eyebrows Hair that falls below the collar should be tied back For hair that falls below the collar and cannot be tied at the back of the head, a larger headband should be used to keep the hair together Distinct shape-up/shaping of the hairline is not permitted and there should be no hair markings or shapes cut into the hair There must be no distinct contrast (including 'step') between the top, the back and the sides of the hair; any short sides and back must be blended gradually into the top of the hair Hair must be the pupil's natural colour Eyebrows must not be shaved or have any markings in them Facial hair must be clean shaved or natural The school retains the final decision on whether hair, including facial hair, is in line with the policy
Jewellery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No jewellery is permitted, except for a single/pair of small, plain, round gold or silver stud earrings in the lobe of the ear Diamante stud earrings are not permitted. No other form of body piercing is allowed A watch may be worn providing its only function/feature is telling



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	<p>the time e.g., no smartwatches, watches with alarms or sound effects, watches with calculators or video/audio recording capability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jewellery and watches must be removed before all P.E. lessons • Watches need to be removed for all external exams in line with the JCQ guidance
Head covering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faces must always be fully visible; full or partial face coverings are not permitted

Events for your diary

Date	Event
Monday 6 th January	School Reopens
Friday 10 th January	SEND Parents' and Carers' Information Session
Monday 13 th January	Year 9 Who Am I Project
Monday 13 th January – 31 st January	Year 11 PPEs
Thursday 16 th January	Year 8 Parents' Evening 4pm – 6.30pm (online)
Tuesday 21 st January	Year 7 -11 Bolton Dance Festival Year 8 – 11 Battle of the Bands Contest
Tuesday 28 th January	Year 7-10 Octagon Theatre Trip
Tuesday 4 th February	Year 8 – 9 Primary Athletics Annual Event Year 9 Who Am I Project
Wednesday 12 th February	Year 9 Gateways with Manchester University
Thursday 13 th February	Year 9 Spanish Cookery Event Year 11 Parents' and PPE Results' Evening 4pm – 6.30pm (face to face)
Monday 17 th February – 21 st February	Half Term
Monday 3 rd March – 7 th March	Years 7 – 10 Cumulative Assessment Week
Thursday 6 th March	Year 9 Spanish Cookery Event
Wednesday 12 th March	Year 8 Gateways with Manchester University
Thursday 13 th March	Year 9 Options' Evening 4.30pm – 6pm (face to face)
Thursday 20 th March	Year 9 Parents' Evening 4pm – 6.30pm (online)
Wednesday 19 th March – Friday 21 st March	Year 10 Geography Fieldwork (1 day per group)



Thursday 27 th March	Headteacher's Coffee Morning – 9.30am. Please email Miss Shaw if you would like to attend: c.shaw@smithillsschool.net
Monday 31 st March	Possible Eid al Fitr
Thursday 3 rd April	Year 10 Parents' Evening (online)
Friday 4 th April	School closes for Easter 3:15pm

Thank you for your continued support.

Regards



C. Dewse
Headteacher