



## **Year 6 Parent induction event Q & A feedback**

How many students are in year 7? There are 210 pupils in Year 7.

How many classes are in each year group/pupils in each class? Are pupils streamed? There are 8 classes in Year 7 and they are streamed according to ability based on attainment in Year 6 and other relevant information.

When will we know which group our child will be in? We will be emailing you before the end of the summer term with information on the Learning Coach group, timings of the day, pupil entrance, equipment needed, reminder about uniform, lunch system and structure of the first day and week of the school.

Can you wear plain black skirts? All pupils will be expected to wear the St Cyres School uniform including the pinstripe black school skirt. Alternatives to the school uniform cannot be worn in school.

Will the children be having a school visit before transitioning in September? Regrettably, we are not in position to be offering Year 6 pupils a visit to the school prior to the September start. As a school, we continue to follow Government operational guidelines which states that schools should be reducing contact between staff and pupils. We have recently had reports of positive cases in Years 9 and 12 and must do everything we can to ensure safety for both pupils and staff.

Are you able to get games on your iPad? This can be arranged once parents/carers have set up their own apple ID. There are restrictions on the use of apps whilst in school and our Smoothwall monitoring system allows the school to monitor the usage of the iPad at all times.

My son is starting in September and won't have met any of the children as he's out of catchment. He's told me he's worried he won't make any friends. Please feel reassured that we will do everything we can in the first few weeks to support and facilitate team building activities and will help pupils to meet new friends. Each year, many of our pupils come from schools without any peers and they have all settled in really well. We will have our current Year 7's supporting as 'buddies' throughout the first few weeks to help with the settling in process.

It was mentioned that the school uses Apple devices and technologies. Are the children exposed to any other technologies apart from Apple ones? E.g. Google (Android), Micro? All pupils will have access to Microsoft devices in IT suites when they are studying IT and Computer Science and will be able to use chrome books as part of the provision for Skills Challenge at Key Stage 4. This runs alongside the Apple technologies already established in the school.

**What's an iPad rollout?** This is the process of providing all Year 7 with their iPads. Parents/cares will be provided with information on how and when to pay the iPad insurance for the iPad. There is a digital contract to sign and then pupils will be provided with the iPad, a case and a charger.

**How much is the iPad insurance?** The first iPad insurance payment of £65 or £32.50 for free school meal pupils covers the cost of the school case for the iPad and for the first two years insurance. The next iPad insurance payment is in year 9 for three years for a total of £45 or £22.50 for free school meal pupils. Then if your child returns to 6th Form the iPad insurance payment is for two years for a total of £30 or £15 for free school meal pupils. Please be aware that during the time that your child is in school they will see at least one iPad refresh meaning your child will receive a new school iPad and a new school case would need to be purchased by the parent/guardians if the current case is not compatible with the new school iPad.

**What entrance is used for pupils?** Pupils will need to use the pupil entrance at the bottom of the school. There is access to this entrance through St Cyres Road just off Redland's Road or the "Ash Path" which allows access to pupils arriving from Sully Road. Parents are not permitted on the school yard so please make some arrangements to practice the route prior to September start so that your child is both familiar and confident in their route.

**When will timetables and sets be available?** Timetables will be available at the start of September and Learning Coaches will help pupils understand how to use and understand the timetable. There will be a tour of the school for all pupils on the first day of school to help understand the rooming system and subject areas.

**What stationary is required?** We will be sending a list of equipment required before the end of the summer term.

**What different sports teams do you run?** There are many after school clubs on offer for pupils. Sports clubs include football, gymnastics, netball, rugby and hockey. In addition, we offer orchestra, art, warhammer, eco and debating club. A full list of clubs will be distributed at the start of the term and we encourage all pupils to try out our offers to see what they may be interested in.

**Are there any parking available for parents for collecting and dropping kids?** All pupils need to use the pupil entrance. Only a minority of pupils have access to the main entrance through a barrier system and therefore, there will be no vehicle access to the main entrance. The St Cyres Road entrance can become very busy at the start and end of the school day so it is advisable to park a little further away when dropping or collecting your child.

**Are we allowed to bring our phones?** Pupils are not permitted to use mobile phones on the school site. If there is an emergency or a need to call home during the day, Year 7 pupils can attend the Year office and Miss Jones will arrange to call home. We understand that you may wish to allow your child to have use of a mobile phone

for the journey to and from school and this is fine, as long as their phones are switched off once they arrive on the school site.

What is the usual start time and when do we go home? School will start at 8:30am where pupils will go to their Learning Coach session. The school day finishes at 2:40pm. Your child's Learning coach will go through the lesson times with them on the first day of school in September.

How do you deal with bullying? We take a very firm approach to bullying and do not tolerate any form of bullying. We work with our pupils to ensure that positive behaviours are displayed at all times throughout the day and beyond the school day as our pupils are ambassadors of our school. We support our pupils to feel confident in reporting any concerns they may have. Our Anti-bullying policy is available on the school website and we have adopted the Vale of Glamorgan Anti-bullying model policy.

Have you had information regarding children specific learning needs from their schools already? Miss Jones has been collating all relevant information from primary schools. ALN information is a part of this data collection. Mr Taylor, Deputy ALNCo will also be communicating with parents/carers regarding the ALN needs of pupils following receipt of information from primary schools where required.

Are girls allowed to wear trousers and if so, are they specific or any black ones? All pupils will be expected to wear the St Cyres School uniform including the specified style of black school trousers. Alternatives to the school uniform cannot be worn in school.

When do we complete the transition booklet? The transition booklet was forwarded on to primary schools for use in schools and then posted for a number of pupils. Pupils can use the booklet at home to help prepare for the September start. Learning coaches will also help pupils on the first day with any questions your child has identified including understanding how to use and de-code the timetable. If you have not received the transition booklet, please email [jcreaven@stcyres.org](mailto:jcreaven@stcyres.org) for a copy.

Do you need a St Cyres bag or can you bring your own bag? A St Cyres bag is not essential and pupils can bring in a plain black or navy bag for school. No Handbags are permitted. It is suggested that pupils bring a rucksack-style bag.

Do you have private school bus? The school does not have a private school bus and many of our pupils use public transport for their commute to school. There are buses that link local areas such as Grangetown, Dinas Powys and Barry. Many of our pupils also access the train to and from school from Barry.

What covid restrictions are still in place? We will continue to monitor any changes in Welsh Government operation guidance in relation to covid protocols in school and will notify parents/carers as and when we receive further clarification. At present, pupils are expected to wear face coverings in circulation areas of the school and sanitise their hands regularly. If you suspect that your child or a family member has covid, or is exhibiting symptoms, a test must be booked and you must inform the

school. Your child must not attend until you have notification of a negative result. All of our ventilation systems have been recalibrated to recommended standards and we work closely with the Vale of Glamorgan to constantly evaluate our protocols. We operate a Covid room and act quickly to halt any spread of Covid within school when being alerted to a positive case.

What will happen if we are late? We recommend that all pupils plan their journey to school and practise the journey so lateness is avoided. Pupils need to be in school for approximately 8:20am so that they are ready to start at 8:30am. Miss Jones will be in touch if pupils are persistently late and support and advice will be provided where necessary.

I've heard there are a lot of opportunities for school trips. Are we given a list of what trips are available to decide which or how many trips our child would like to go on? We have been very fortunate to be in a position to start planning educational visits for the next academic year. We do so tentatively as the guidance on education visits continues to be updated regularly. As soon as we have explored visits for Year 7, we will share information about them to all parents so that you may express your interest.

Will there be help available for the children finding their way around? On the first day, all pupils will have a tour of the school as part of their induction. Throughout the first few weeks of school, staff and pupils alike will be supporting Year 7 to settle in and find their way around the school.

Do you support other cultural dances and activities? We embrace the opportunity to celebrate the diversity of our school and will support any clubs and activities suggested by our pupils or parents where possible. Please do let us know in the new term if there is something that you or your child may wish to explore.

Is a hijab allowed in school? A plain black hijab is permitted in school to tie in with the school uniform.

Can you tell us a bit more about the wealth of data used to sort them into their learning groups? Primary schools have been providing information of your child's numeracy, literacy and subject specific attainment. In addition, we have been collating information on reading ages, National tests which may have been conducted this year and verbal/nonverbal test scores. We have been collating data on end of year National Levels and information on your child's skills and abilities such as investigative skills, problem solving skills etc. We have also received information on your child's achievements so we can celebrate these as they start with us in September.

We've had contact with Mr Taylor up to now. From now on, who should we liaise with? Would this be Ms Jones or Mr Taylor? Mr Taylor is leading support for pupils that require specific ALN support. If you have any queries relating to ALN, please contact Mr Taylor however, if your queries are more general then Miss Jones will be able to support you.