

Information for 2024 - 25



Transition Days

June 26th and 27th are Transition Days. This is an opportunity for your child to meet their new teachers and spend time in their new classes. Prior to these dates, your child will receive a meet the teacher letter so that they know who their new teacher will be. Your child will be shown where to line up for these days prior to transition.

Attendance Changes

There are significant changes to attendance that we would like to bring to your attention. The Department for Education (DfE) have shared with schools and Local Authorities changes to attendance guidance that will become statutory and must be implemented from August 19th, 2024. These changes must be made by all schools and Local Authorities across the country, with the aim of ensuring consistent approaches. The significant changes and what this means for parents is detailed below.

Helping parents to understand the changes to fines for term time holidays

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes will come into force for Penalty Notice Fines issued for unauthorised holidays recorded by schools after 19th August 2024.

Who may be fined? Penalty Notice Fines are issued to each parent who allows their child to be absent from school. <i>For example:</i> 3 siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent who allowed the holiday receiving 3 separate fines.	National Threshold There will be a single consistent national threshold for when a penalty notice must be considered by all schools in England of 10 sessions (usually equivalent to 5 school days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10 school week period. For example: a 5 day holiday would meet the national threshold. The 10-school week period can span different terms or school years.
First Offence The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for an unauthorised term time holiday the fine amount will be: £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days. Increasing to £160 if paid between days 22-28.	Second Offence (within 3 years) The Second time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence the amount will be: £160 per parent (who allowed the holiday), per child, payable within 28 days.
Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years) The third time an offence is committed a Penalty Notice will not be issued and local authorities will need to consider other available measures to address the absence concerns. This may mean that cases are presented before a Magistrate's Court. Prosecution can result in criminal records and fines of up to £2,500. Cases found guilty in the Magistrates' Court can show on the parent's future DBS certificate due to 'failure to safeguard a child's education'.	

Further information can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-improve-school-attendance>



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Principal: Mrs S Hirst

West Park Academy, Alderman Leach Drive, Darlington, Co Durham DL2 2GF Tel: 01325 380792 Email: admin@westparkacademy.org.uk

West Park Academy, part of Lingfield Education Trust an exempt charity and company limited by guarantee in England and Wales (Registered no: 08027885) whose registered office is c/o Corporation Road Primary School, Corporation Road, Darlington, Co Durham DL3 6AR



Lates

Arriving late to school is unsettling for your child and can be disruptive for other children in the class. It is important your child arrives on time. If your child arrives late, this will be marked in the register. If your child arrives very late, this may be recorded as unauthorised absence for the whole morning.

Please note - From September 2024 children who have to enter through the office because class doors are closed will need to be accompanied by an adult who can inform the office staff as to the reason why their child is late otherwise this will be classed as an unauthorised late.

School Uniform

In preparation for September, please can we take this opportunity to detail our school uniform.

- Grey or black trousers, pinafore or skirt
- Yellow/ purple polo shirt
- Green sweatshirt or cardigan
- In summer, grey/black shorts may be worn, or a green, yellow or purple gingham dress
- Flat black shoes or all black trainers

Each child also needs

- A school reading folder or **small bag**. Please avoid bringing in large bags as space is tight and we struggle to store them safely.

PE Kit Requirements

- Plain yellow/purple or white t-shirt
- black/green shorts
- black plimsolls/ trainers
- Plain jogging bottoms/tracksuit for outdoor use and for the cold weather.

In Years 4-6, children are allowed to come in their PE kit on the days that they have PE. Children are not allowed to wear football tops or branded t-shirts/tracksuits.

The WPA logo is optional but we request that all items are named.

The School Uniform Pop-Up

West Park Academy have some new and used good condition, clean uniforms, P.E kits and shoes available for parents/carers. There is no charge but any donations are welcome but not compulsory.



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Jewellery

We welcome your co-operation with this matter. For safety reasons the rule of the school is that no jewellery is worn. If you insist on your child wearing earrings, only 'stud' type earrings will be allowed. It is our policy that no jewellery is worn for P.E. which means earrings must be removed for all lessons including swimming. If it is not possible to remove your child's earrings for P.E. please provide your child with a sticking plaster to cover their earrings. Children are allowed to wear a watch but not a smart watch due to safeguarding.



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