

GREYFRIARS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Cricket Road, Oxford, OX4 3DR
Tel | 01865 749933 Email | office@gfcs.uk
Headteacher | Ms L Caldwell

A Catholic School that champions every student so that they flourish individually and collectively.

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Dear families

I am writing about our processes for behaviour at Greyfriars so you have a clear understanding of our expectations. I am writing particularly about detentions, uniform and equipment, and mobile phones.

At Greyfriars, we talk about doing the basics brilliantly. This is ensuring you are contributing to a culture that is polite and orderly. We work together as a team. This is the Greyfriars Way. Your child will be able to talk about the Greyfriars Way and we are proud of our students and our school community. Our students lead the Greyfriars Way with diligence and pride. Of course, children get things wrong sometimes and our behaviour system is there to help students learn to work as part of an effective and cohesive community.

We have a clear [behaviour policy](#) and our expectations of students are there to help them be successful as individuals and as a collective. There is a social contract that means we work as a community and children need to understand the need for them to work well for themselves and others. We know that students who do the basics brilliantly will be really successful. When they get this wrong, there is a consequence and this consequence is most frequently a detention.

What is a consequence detention?

Detentions are an important part of any school. Students get a consequence if they get something wrong. Sometimes, these are automatic, e.g. late for school or lesson, no homework, or for doing something dangerous. If they are disrupting learning, they are given a clear warning. Learning should never be disrupted and this is an important part of the social contract in a school.

Detentions are after school. They are usually in the main hall and are 40 minutes. In this time, students sit in silence or complete work. Families are emailed. Students are told in form time and reminded in the final lesson of the day. It is the student's responsibility to attend and attendance is 100%.

What happens if my child misses detention?

If they miss a detention, we see this as a serious problem. Our behaviour system is there to ensure that students are held to account for their actions – there is a consequence to help deter them from making mistakes again. Ultimately, this supports learning. If a student fails to attend detention, this is an escalation that could be avoided. This means we will follow our



behaviour policy, which could result in isolation and even suspension if refusal to follow instructions is repeated.

What if we have an appointment or this is inconvenient?

Our expectations are really clear and we know that consequence detentions are totally avoidable. If detentions are an inconvenience, please remind your child that avoiding detention is relatively straightforward. The significant majority of students never get detention as they are on time, fully equipped and follow instructions.

If your child has a medical/urgent appointment, families must inform the school and rearrange the detention. It will not be possible for a student to rearrange it themselves. If your child believes there is an administration error, they must communicate with the member of staff leading detention on the day. If your child is absent on the day of a scheduled detention, it will be rearranged to the next detention session automatically.

What if I do not consent to this detention?

In line with the Department for Education, schools have no legal obligation to inform families to get consent to issue and keep a student for an after-school detention. Out of courtesy, we continue to notify families that their child has been entered for a detention via email; it is your responsibility as a parent or carer to ensure that the contact details are current and we can get in touch with you via email.

We understand that after-school detentions can sometimes be an inconvenience to families, however they are an integral part of the behaviour system and the success of your child in our community, and so we encourage parents and carers to ensure that your child is well-prepared for the day and talk to them about their behaviour. Excellence and success comes from families working with the school.

For further information on the guidance surrounding detentions, please look at the [Department of Education](#) to access the DfE guidance.

What are our expectations for uniform and equipment?

Our expectations for uniform and equipment are high. Students should follow the expectations and arrive equipped for school. We expect students to have:

- A black Greyfriars blazer*
- Red school tie
- A white shirt/blouse

- Either tailored black trousers, or a black school skirt. (No stretchy, denim material will be permitted.)
- Plain black shoes or completely black leather trainers (no fabric or colours)
- A grey v-necked school jumper. This is optional and can be worn under the blazer, but not instead of a blazer
- Black / grey socks or black tights
- Religious dress can still be worn but must also include a white shirt, school tie and a school blazer must be worn. Headscarves/hijab must be in keeping with school colours of black, red or grey
- PE Kit
- A PE T-shirt - black and red**
- Black PE shorts or joggers
- No jewellery (other than simple ear- studs), false nails or eyelashes

Further details can be found here: <https://www.greyfriarsoxford.org.uk/our-school/uniform>

Why is uniform important?

Frequently, we have conversations with students (and sometimes families) about why uniform is important. It is easy to think that wearing false eyelashes or white socks does not have an impact on education. We disagree. Uniform is a visible sign of being part of our team. We are proud of our school. To show this, we wear our uniform with pride. We use the analogy of a football kit. When you play in a team, you wear the kit. Our uniform is the same. This is a core part of the Greyfriars Way and an investment in our school community. We think this is important and so we expect students to invest in our school community too.

We have made a lot of changes to ensure that school uniform is affordable. For example, we have allowed totally black, leather-look trainers. This is because trainers can often be cheaper and, importantly, better quality for growing feet. It also means these are shoes that can be worn at weekends. Other than the blazer, tie, and PE top, school uniform can be bought from local supermarkets at a low cost. The PE top is also deliberately non-branded to allow this to be worn out of school time.

Why is equipment important?

Arriving for school fully equipped is part of learning to be organised and prepared. This means having a planner that is signed. It also means having a pencil case with pens, pencils, ruler etc. A pocket is not a pencil case. This is the equipment list:

- Planner
- Pencil case
- 2 black/blue pens

- Ruler
- Rubber
- Pencil and sharpener
- Scientific calculator
- Mathematical Set e.g. Helix Oxford
- Whiteboard pen
- (Optional) Colouring pens/pencils/highlighters
- (Optional) Glue stick

Having equipment like blazers, PE kit etc named will ensure it is likely to be returned to your child. Unnamed uniform and equipment is highly unlikely to be returned to your child and you will be required to buy new uniform or equipment.

Mobile Phones

Mobile phone use is not tolerated in school. We are committed to a phone free school. We know that students may want to bring phones to school for travel and these should be off and in their bag when they get to school.

Never Seen, Never Heard | What happens if a phone is seen in school?

If a student phone is seen or heard at school, the phone will be confiscated by a member of the senior leadership team. Phones should be off and in bags, **not in pockets or in any way visible**. If a phone is visible in a pocket, it will be confiscated.

Why do you have this rule about phones in school?

There are a number of reasons why phones in school should not be seen or heard.

- Phones are a distraction. Having a phone near you disrupts thinking and this gets in the way of learning. It gets in the way of deep thought and so students cannot learn efficiently when near their phone.
- Phones can be used to bully others. It is an important part of our work to protect the safety of children and we ensure that phones are not able to be used.
- It provides students with a screen break. Often, children can spend too long on their phones and this does not need to be increased at school.

Confiscation | What happens when a phone is taken?

When confiscated, phones will be kept until 4pm. It may need to be collected by a parent or guardian at the end of the day (4pm), or at a time that is convenient for the school and the family. **This may not be the same day.**

Where will the phone be kept?

The phones will be stored safely in a locked office. However, any equipment brought into school is brought in at the owner's risk.

What if my child is worried about their phone in their bag?

This is no problem. Phones can be handed in at the start of the day and we can return them at the end of the day if a student is worried about loss or damage.

What if I don't want you to confiscate my child's phone?

This is easy. There should not be any reason to confiscate the phone if the student follows the school rules. If it is problematic please ensure they leave their phone at home or reinforce the school rules at home.

What if I need to contact my child urgently?

If you need to contact your child during the school day, please phone reception who will be able to pass a message on within minutes. Please ensure that family members know this too so that students are not contacted on their phones during the school day.

What if my child needs to contact me?

Students are able to contact families using student reception.

Please remember, any valuable item is brought into school at your own risk. We cannot accept responsibility for loss or damage of any valuable items but we can put things in place to help.

We really do have the highest expectations for your child/ren. We want them to be successful and learn to work as part of a functioning and happy community. We know that these strong rules and expectations reinforce the bond we have and obligation to work together.

Thank you for your support and understanding.

With best wishes



Lyndsey Caldwell
Headteacher