



Headteacher
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Sandhurst School

the opportunity to succeed

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24th January 2023

Dear Parent/Carer(s),

Re: School Toilets

I am aware and have seen various social media posts on Snapchat, Tiktok and Facebook commenting on the student's ability to access our school toilets. I would like to clarify for you our current processes.

- In the main building there are separate toilets for Years 7/8 and Years 9/10/11. This has been the case for a number of years but we have recently moved Year 9 to share with Years 10 and 11.
- Students are allowed to go to the toilet during lessons. We do monitor this on Classcharts – as we used to in the days when students had work journals. The difference is that as parents you could see this information in the journal. We do not share that with you now. We do not have a policy of refusing students their requests to use the toilets but, as I am sure you can appreciate, some students have and if given the opportunity will, abuse this and ask to go every lesson and make prior arrangements to meet friends. This has the potential to lead to groups of students gathering in the toilets and clearly this is detrimental to their learning but also is likely to make other students, outside this group, uncomfortable about entering the toilets. In order to monitor this and make sure all students feel safe we have a rota of staff who are currently monitoring the situation.
- We do have vape alarms on a trial bases and these have had a really positive effect and the issue before Christmas of groups of students using the toilets as a place to vape is no longer an issue.
- Some students have medical needs and need to be able to go to the toilet with sudden urgency. Most do not and there may be occasions when students are asked to wait five minutes or until the end of an explanation or piece of work before being given permission. Staff who teach students will know the students in their lessons and clearly will not allow any students to wait in distress.
- Students are encouraged to use the toilets at break and lunch and these do have a member of staff on duty in the corridor. I am personally on duty there every break and lunch but this past week I hurt my back in a fall and unfortunately was not able to do every duty and the old problem of groups of students crowding into one toilet and remaining there for the duration of the break returned and so when students needed to use the toilet they couldn't as students were gathered there (I was back on duty today and there was no issue). The students who do create these issues will be and are sanctioned.

I have spoken to all students today and invited them to raise concerns they may have and advised them that, as always, I will listen to them.

(cont...)



The social media aspects of this are worrying and specifically the national trend on social media at the moment of inciting school students to mount protests by refusing to go to lessons. I have spoken to students regarding this and would appreciate your support too.

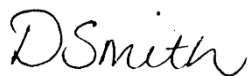
Also of concern are the videos and memes directed at or about staff and we are dealing with these, reporting the posts and if necessary, we will involve the police and you if your child is involved.

Facebook tends to be where parents who want to publicly share information do so and most adults I know have Facebook accounts. However other parents who read the content of the posts can and do share the information with their children who come to this school and attend other schools. If parents have posted personal information about themselves or their children, that can and has been repeated here in school.

I will always listen to concerns should you wish to contact me and always endeavour to make good decisions for all our students.

Thank you all once again for your support.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Debbie Smith
Headteacher

