



Eckington School

a specialist engineering college

Respect Progress Succeed

Headteacher: P Cummings, MA



Engineering

September 2010

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are always striving to raise standards at Eckington School in our pursuit to become an outstanding school. We value highly the support and comments we receive from parents and members of our local community and are always prepared to engage in dialogues to clarify or rectify any issues of concern. I have, for instance, recently been contacted by a number of parents and residents who have voiced their concern over the behaviour of some students whilst waiting for or travelling on the school buses, and students loitering in the local vicinity causing a disturbance to some residents.

I would like to enlist your support therefore in reiterating to your son/daughter the importance of good behaviour and a respectful attitude and issue the following gentle reminders.

Buses

There has recently been a spate of unacceptable behaviour from some students whilst travelling to and from school on the buses. Inappropriate behaviour includes the use of abusive or threatening language, smoking, throwing things around the bus, graffiti or damaging bus property, or bullying younger students. In agreement with Derbyshire County Council, we will temporarily remove student bus permits if students are deemed to be behaving inappropriately. Bus wardens are instructed to pass on student names and descriptions and action will be taken.

Students are respectfully requested to put all litter into bins. Whilst we are happy for students to enjoy their packed lunches in the sunshine we will remove this privilege if sandwiches and wrappings are dropped on the floor. Students may also receive litter picking detentions.

Chewing gum

Chewing gum should not, under any circumstances, be brought onto the school site.

Healthy eating

We encourage our students to eat healthily at lunchtime providing a balanced and nutritious menu. We do not have vending machines selling chocolate bars or sweets although students are entitled to obtain snacks such as cheese on toast at break. We would urge you not to send your son or daughter to school with fizzy drinks or an excess of sweets. Please note that caffeine based energy drinks are now banned in school and will be removed from students if seen.

Loitering

We have received concerns from residents within the vicinity about students loitering on or around their properties, particularly early in the morning or during lunch periods. It is important to recognise that such residents have a right to privacy on their property and should not be subjected to litter or disrespectful comments from students congregating in their driveways. The senior leadership team will continue to carry out morning patrols and any student found causing a disturbance could be issued with a 'nuisance letter'. The nuisance letter is part of a local scheme whereby Eckington School is liaising with the police and county council to combat anti-social behaviour. A number of nuisance letters could 'trigger' an A.S.B.O.



Deputy Headteachers: A Burgess, J Harrison

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Car Parks

Can I please remind parents not to drive into the school car park when dropping off or collecting your child from school. It is an exceptionally busy car park with a huge number of buses arriving at the beginning and end of school. We simply do not have the space to accommodate parents' cars. Students should also be reminded that they must not enter the school via the main school gate as it is potentially dangerous.

Zebra Crossing

Work has begun on installing a zebra crossing outside the main school entrance. At present the white lines have not been painted and students are cautioned not to expect drivers to stop automatically.

Inappropriate use of ICT outside of school hours

Please be alert to your child's use of social networking sites such as Facebook and Bebo. They can often be used as a forum for cyber bullying. We respectfully request that parents monitor or supervise their child's use of such sites.

Mobile phones

Whilst we accept that students may be required to use mobile phones to contact parents after school, phones could be confiscated if students are seen using them throughout the day on the school site. Please do not encourage your child to phone or text you if they are feeling unwell. They should report to pupil reception where their needs will be assessed. You will then be contacted to collect your child if this is deemed necessary.

Uniform

As the weather turns a little colder we would encourage students to wear a warm waterproof coat to school. Coats must be removed in indoors but may be worn at breaks and lunches. Hats and caps should not be worn on the school premises. Trainers, trainer styles shoes, 'Ugg' boots and plimsoles are not acceptable footwear. Taper 'ear stretchers' are not acceptable as plain earrings.

May I thank you in advance in reinforcing these key messages with your son/daughter.

Yours Sincerely

Jo Harrison
Deputy Headteacher



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