

July 2021

Dear parents/carers

As promised last week and after discussions with the Senior Leadership Team, I am now in a position to outline the finer details of the rules and expectations at St Anne's, so that there is absolute clarity as we move forward on our journey to becoming an '*Outstanding Catholic School in all we do*'. The following information outlines important aspects of St Anne's including our SACRED Standards and the SACRED Values

SACRED standards.

In September 2020, all pupils at St Anne's were introduced to the SACRED Standards which represent our expectations of pupil's behaviour and attitude at St Anne's. Sadly, because of Covid these were not embedded. However, these will remain the same as we start the new academic year this September. They are as follows,

- **Stay Safe.**
- **Arrive on Time.**
- **Come Prepared.**
- **Remain Respectful.**
- **Engage with Learning.**
- **Dress Appropriately.**

As you would expect, under each SACRED Standard there are a number of basic rules. I fully accept that throughout this academic year, with the many challenges that staff, pupils and parents have faced, these rules have not always been clear or consistent. However, from September, this will no longer be the case and below I will outline some of most commonly queried 'rules' so that they are *simple, fair and transparent* - so that we all, pupils, staff and parents, understand them. Importantly, these will be *enforced*.

I make no apologies for outlining these simple rules. Since joining St Anne's, I have spoken to many parents, and they have both appreciated and acknowledged that high standards and expectations are vital to ensure that the St Anne's is a safe and respectful learning environment. These rules set the standard at St Anne's and underpin our high expectations as we start the new academic year. Your child deserves at least a good education, and all research shows that having a common set of clear rules underpins all effective and great schools. I ask that all parents support these rules and understand that their purpose is not to sanction but to improve standards. If we improve standards, your children will benefit.

Arrive at St Anne's prepared to learn.

As we establish and embed our high expectations, it is fundamental that we focus on learning in the classroom. This is what will achieve great outcomes for your children and is what will ensure they have excellent opportunities when they leave St Anne's after 5 successful years.

- ✓ *Arriving to school on time:* School gates close at 8:40am. Pupils arriving after this will be issued a detention. Arriving late to school shows a poor attitude to learning. At St Anne's a positive attitude to learning is a pre-requisite for success.
- ✓ *School bags and basic equipment:* This is a minimum expectation and sets the tone that pupils come to school prepared and ready to learn. The basic equipment includes 2 x pens (black/blue), green pen, pencil, ruler, rubber, pencil case, calculator, library book (Years 7 – 9) and Knowledge Organiser. This will be monitored by Form Tutors daily.
- ✓ *Mobile phones:* These are a distraction to their learning and are not allowed in school. If a pupil's phone is seen or heard, then it will be confiscated and put at reception for a parent to collect. If a pupil refuses to hand over the phone, this will be viewed as defiant and will result in a sanction, possibly a fixed-term exclusion. No one in school, except myself, can give the phone back to pupils. However, in the unlikely event your child wants to ring home during the day then they speak to their HOY. If they need money to get home as their bus pass is on their phone, they need to ask finance and we will pay for their bus fare that day. For safeguarding purposes parents will always be notified via text if their child's phone has been confiscated.
- ✓ *Uniform:* A high standard of uniform reflects a school where standards are high. Furthermore, it also reflects the fact that pupils are proud ambassadors of the school community. Therefore, it is important that all pupils and parents know what the expectations are. Some are outlined below but it is not possible to give a definitive list. I will work with parents if any issues arise.
 - Correct shoes: no trainers or sports shoes of any description
 - Skirts: these should have the St Anne's logo and must not be rolled up or over.
 - Man bags: these are not permitted in school. Pupils must have a school bag that they can fit their A4 knowledge organisers into.
 - Girls' socks: these must be below the knee and be plain with no frills/bows etc.
 - Hoodies/Zippy jackets: these are not allowed on the school premises. Pupils should bring a waterproof, outdoor coat with them in cold or wet weather. St Anne's PE hoodies are allowed in PE lessons only.
- ✓ *Hair styles & Make-up:* There is a clear policy on the web site but I highlight some common misconceptions. There is to be no form of pattern shaved into their hair or eyebrows and extreme haircuts and unnatural colourings to their hair are also not permitted. Make up including false eye lashes or nails are not allowed.
- ✓ *Jewellery:* The wearing of jewellery is not allowed in school. This includes the wearing of earrings and any piercing. Furthermore, covering earrings with plasters or wearing plastic studs is also not allowed. If pupils are wearing jewellery, the same rules apply as that of mobile phones: it will be confiscated and placed in an envelope at reception for parents to collect.

NB: Passes: All passes are being reviewed in school as they are currently being misused by some pupils and this has an impact on their learning and progress. However, if there are any genuine medical conditions, we will issue a pass as necessary. Again, I respectfully ask that parents support us in this endeavour so that the focus of pupils is engagement in their learning.

Engaging with learning.

A top priority for St Anne's is to ensure high quality teaching in all lessons. This must be reciprocated with pupils engaging in their lessons. Pupils attitude to learning is fundamental to creating an environment that is respectful and conducive to learning. Pupils are expected to pay attention in class, to complete the work asked of them and to actively and respectfully ask for help if they do not understand it. Turning around, talking over the teacher and not attempting enough work does not lead to successful learners and importantly has negative impact on those learners who do want to succeed. In essence, low level disruption or disrupting the learning of others is unacceptable.

Staying Safe at St Anne's.

Ensuring that St Anne's is a safe, welcoming and caring Catholic community is my number one priority. However, to ensure clarity I have highlighted 2 issues below for your perusal.

- *Drugs:* Any child bringing drugs onto the school site, being under the influence of drugs or having drug paraphernalia on them, will be considered for a permanent exclusion. This is a serious breach of our behavioural policy. The same applies if a pupil brings a weapon to St Anne's
- *Fighting:* Again, this will not be tolerated. Repeat offending may lead to a permanent exclusion. There is no excuse for assaulting another person. Importantly, pupils who encourage a fight, will also be sanctioned. If we establish our rules which are underpinned by respect, then we will be a safe and caring community.

Thankfully, the above 2 issues are rare and to ensure a safe community, my aim is to eradicate these.

SACRED values.

Our SACRED Standards feed into our SACRED Values. In fact, it is impossible to separate the two - a pupil who meets our SACRED Standards will be 'living out' our Catholic SACRED Values. The two are designed to be complimentary. Our Values permeate everything we do and expect from our own Catholic School Community. They are...

- **Service:** As a school we are here to serve the children of the school and the wider community. That is the purpose of St Anne's. As we move the school forward a mantra that we will use is to '*help others in their times of need*'.
- **Ambition:** We will be reviewing our curriculum to ensure that it is broad and balanced and, importantly, we are ambitious for all our children. High expectations of behaviour and standards will increasingly underpin our ambitions.
- **Compassion:** As a Catholic school we must understand that we are a Community where we show empathy for each other and understand that there are many vulnerable pupils within our Community.
- **Respect:** This is a core value of St Anne's and respecting our peers, our teachers and the environment are all ways in which we demonstrate our respect.
- **Equality:** At St Anne's everyone is treated as a unique individual.
- **Determination:** In today's world there are many challenges, and it is important that we build resilience to these challenges. In our PSHE lessons we educate pupils on how to become more resilient as it is inevitable that they will face challenges in their futures which they need to 'bounce' back from.

Taken together, the SACRED Values and SACRED Standards will shape how we develop as a school Community. The expectation is that pupils, parents and staff live out these values in their daily interactions in and outside of school. At St Anne's we will develop, promote and embed these values within our community.

Finally, and for the avoidance of doubt, the vast majority of the St Anne's pupils are eager to learn, want to progress and follow the rules. In essence, they are great young people. My job is to ensure that they get a great education. Why? It is because I passionately believe every child is entitled to a great education. The above 'rules, standards, expectations and values will create an environment that will ensure that the foundations of a great education are built upon as we move through the academic year 2021-22.

I will send one more brief letter before the end of the year but can I say thanks for the support this far!

Yours faithfully

Mr S Logue

Mr S Logue
Executive Headteacher