

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, I wanted to say a massive thank you for all your support this year. St Patrick's RC High School is oversubscribed every year and this is because of the excellent reputation we have worked hard to gain as a result of the amazing parents we have supporting their children to become "the very best version of themselves".

It has been such an amazing end to the School Year with Mission Day, Sports day, the Summer Concert and lots of additional enrichment experiences both inside and outside the school environment. The pupils and staff have worked so hard and very much deserve a well-earned break over the summer.

Please ensure you take the time to look at our end of year newsletter, which captures what a great end to the year we have had.

With an eye on September, I wanted to highlight the following:

### **Attendance**

We finished the year with one of the highest school attendances in Salford and significantly above Salford LA, North-West and National figures. Research shows that good attendance in school leads to much better chances of educational outcomes and improved Mental Health. As a school we aspire to return to the attendance levels pre-COVID and never 'rest on our laurels' because that is what is best for our pupils. Therefore, as a reminder, **all pupils in every year group are expected to return to school on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2025 and be in the building for 8.25am**.

As we do at the start of every term, there will be a "reset" on the 1<sup>st</sup> day back and pupils will line up on the school yard in Forms at 8.25am whilst uniform is provisionally checked. Also, on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of return each year group will have an assembly with myself and Mr Macafee to highlight expectations for the upcoming year.

Please ensure that all medical, dental appointments and holidays are taken outside of school time. Getting off to a great start to the year is vitally important. As teachers, we totally understand and appreciate the rising cost of taking the family on holiday is significant. However, the long term 'cost' of being out of school for a week here and there is immeasurable.

Please continue to report any absence via the Class Charts app just like you have all year.

### <u>Uniform</u>

There are no changes to our Uniform policy. Please consult the school's website for detailed clarification. <u>Uniform -</u> <u>St Patrick's RC High School</u>

# Helping every child to be the very best version of themselves

Headteacher: Mrs A Byrne





Please ensure that if you are purchasing replacement school shoes, that they are St Patrick's compliant. Some wellknown high street shops sell certain footwear as 'school shoes', however this does not automatically mean they meet our standard. The last thing we want is for you to waste your hard-earned money on non-compliant footwear.

As a reminder, all pupils need to return to school in September with compliant hair styles/colour and without piercings being worn, false eyelashes, excessive make up or false tan. We do not allow plasters to cover fresh piercings so if your child is going to have their ears pierced, may I suggest doing it at the very start of the summer holidays.

Trousers cannot be tight fitted and/or flared, and skirts must be worn correctly and not rolled up. In September, the jumper returns as a compulsory item of School uniform to be worn at all times. Please order any new uniform in advance from our suppliers so every pupil returns in September in full complete uniform. Thank you in advance.

### **Equipment**

A couple of changes for September. These include

- A school planner not being compulsory, as we have migrated over to Class Charts. Pupils will be given a timetable that is small enough to be carried in their blazer pocket and have still had the option to order a school planner if they wanted one.
- We want all pupils from September to have their own calculator. Therefore, having a calculator every day is becoming a standard piece of compulsory equipment.

We recommend the following scientific calculator, which is a LK 83 XP.:



You will be able to be order this model calculator via Scopay from school when we return in September 2025. Please do not go out and buy an alternative if you were planning to purchase a new calculator over summer. The cost of the calculator will be £6.50. I can assure you that no pupil will be given Behaviour Points for not having a calculator in the 1<sup>st</sup> 3-4 weeks of school whilst we are processing orders.

If your child is entitled to Pupil Premium funding, a calculator will be subsidised for them, and you will see this on Scopay.

# Helping every child to be the very best version of themselves



Headteacher: Mrs A Byrne



Finally, an appropriate school bag is an essential part of a pupil's equipment. This should not be a handbag and should be large enough to carry around multiple A4 books / revision guides / knowledge organisers and PE Kit.

In summary pupils should have as a bare minimum:

- Appropriate school bag
- Black/blue pens
- Pencil
- Minimum of 15cm ruler
- Calculator

Additional, non-compulsory desirable items are as follows: red pens (for peer and self-marking), a sharpener, eraser, highlighters and coloured pencils.

### **Class Charts**

Feedback from parents/carers with regards to Class Charts has been very positive. Please encourage your child to check it every day for their timetable, homework, achievement/behaviour points and detentions. This will help them meet deadlines and give them a sense of how they are achieving in school.

As a parent or carer, can I ask that you check Class Charts multiple times per week so you can help support your child with homework deadlines, to view announcements, and to see an overview of how they are behaving in lessons and around school.

For your information and in preparation for a modified behaviour policy that will be in place from January 2026 (after pupil, parent and staff consultation), a review of behaviour and achievement points has already been conducted. We have decided on a much simpler system where pupils will receive either 1, 2 or 3 points based on the positive or negative behaviour they have displayed. As a consequence, this will mean Achievement Point and Behaviour Point totals will be at lower levels and not comparable to the previous year. However, using the behaviour 'wheel' on Class Charts will highlight the relative proportions of Achievement Points (Green) compared to Behaviour Points (Red).

Any issues with logging in or using the Class Charts app please contact the school and we will be happy to support.

### **Class/Set Changes**

All year groups have conducted summer assessments and as a result, you should have received your child's end of year report. With improved internal assessment and quality of teacher generated data, all Heads of Department have now reviewed the classes and sets for next year. For a number of pupils, they will be remaining in the same

# Helping every child to be the very best version of themselves

Headteacher: Mrs A Byrne





classes as this year, however for some pupils, class/set changes have been necessary after reflecting on performance in assessments.

### **Mobile phones in School**

Some schools are moving towards total bans which means some schools have made the decision to prohibit a pupil actually bringing a mobile phone onto the school premises and others are spending valuable time in the morning and afternoon, collecting mobile phones off pupils, storing them, before returning to pupils at the end of the day. We, however, are not moving towards this approach for the upcoming Year. There are no changes to our Mobile Phone policy. Simply, pupils may bring their mobile phones to school but before they arrive to school, their mobile phones need to be concealed in their bag and not taken out until they leave the premises at the end of the day.

Recently we have had a small number of pupils decide they want to circumvent our procedures if they are feeling ill during the day and have contacted parents directly from their mobile phone whilst in school. Parents have then subsequently turned up at school to collect without staff being informed. Please trust our judgement. We have procedures in place to assess pupils who may report feeling ill during the day. Should we decide that parents need contacting then the school will contact parents/carers directly to arrange collection. One of our five Catholic values is Resilience, and we want to foster that with all our pupils. Yes, there will be times a pupil will feel that ill they need to be collected; however, there are occasions where resilience and perseverance is needed to remain in school learning.

Regardless of illness or not, a pupil contacting a parent at home during the school day is a breach of our mobile phone policy and will be dealt with proportionately and accordingly. Thank you for your support in this matter. Thank you for taking the time to go through the above. All the staff at St Patrick's wish you and your family a brilliant summer and we look forward to seeing every pupil return safely on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

Yours faithfully

Mrs A Byrne Headteacher

Helping every child to be the very best version of themselves



Headteacher: Mrs A Byrne