



4 September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

## RE: Welcome – Start of Term Arrangements

I hope that you have managed to have an enjoyable summer break. This time last year I was writing to you all regarding how fortunate we were with the long periods of sunny and warm weather that we experienced; it appears that this year we were not so lucky!

You may have seen in the media this week that there have been a number of educational settings nationally that have been informed that they are unable to open due to safety concerns regarding Reinforced Aerated Concrete (RAAC). RAAC is a lightweight form of concrete; because it is weaker than regular concrete, concerns have been raised about its long-term durability.

Please be assured that this issue *does not* affect Plymstock School, or indeed any school within our Trust (WeST). We can confirm that we do not have RAAC in any of our buildings and therefore we will continue to function as normal.

I am taking the opportunity to write to you all with some key reminders and school information that will support everyone in ensuring that we start the new academic year as positively.

## Start of Term 2023-2024

We are very excited to welcome our new students to Plymstock School. A reminder that **Year 7 and Year 12 return on Wednesday 6 September**. They will be the only students in school on that day, which allows us to support the transition into their new school surroundings.

The following day, **Thursday 7 September, we welcome back all our students from Year 8 to Year 11 and Year 13.**

The expectation is that students arrive to school by **no later than 8.35am**, ready for their tutor lesson that **starts at 8.40am**. We highly value the importance of punctuality and believe this is a positive life habit to develop, so we ask for your support in ensuring that your child/ren arrive to school on time and ready to fully engage in their learning.

## Attendance

**Our number one priority this academic year is focused on ensuring that 100% of students attend 100% of school days and 100% of their lessons.** Beyond the statutory requirement that parents/carers have in ensuring that their child attends school, we simply cannot properly educate or support any student where they fail to attend school. The evidence highlights the detrimental impact poor attendance has on individuals' life chances and futures is there for all to see! We ask that if you are concerned about your child's attendance you contact us to work with us in establishing ways to ensure that no student is left behind due to attendance issues.

## Uniform Expectations

Our school vision is to achieve excellence through curriculum and culture. We hold the belief that by creating a community where we establish and maintain high standards and expectations, we create the right environment for all children and young people to fulfil their potential and, in many cases, overachieve. However, we cannot do this alone - we rely on your support. As your child's parent/carers

we ask that you work with us and ensure that every day your child arrives to school in the correct school uniform, with the correct equipment and with a willingness to give their very best in every aspect of school life.

Our school dress code expectations can be found by visiting this link [Dress Code 2023-24](#).

This provides clarity on what the school accepts and does not accept as part of our uniform dress code. If any parent/carer requires any form of support with regards to school uniform or school equipment, we encourage you to contact us; there are several ways that we can offer support.

### **CORE Expectations**

At the end of the summer term, we shared our new approach to supporting student behaviour within our school community. The approach is built around our school values of Be Kind, Work Hard and Aim High. Our CORE expectations place a great emphasis on students accepting individual responsibility to consistently demonstrate the following behaviour and attitudes:

**Conduct** – To be safe and follow all staff instructions without delay.

**Organisation** – To be on time, wear the uniform correctly and have all the ‘essential 8’ equipment to engage in lessons.

**Respect** – To be kind and respect others and the environment.

**Effort** – To be your best self and be willing to work hard.

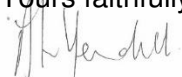
We have made one key enhancement to our behaviour system which is the introduction of our ‘Reset Room’ which will replace ‘parking’ in departments. This is to support our continual strive for a disruption free learning environment which enables teachers to teach and students to excel. Students will receive a reasonable request should they not meet the CORE expectations in the lesson. Should a student persist not to meet the CORE expectations within a given lesson they will be sent to the ‘Reset Room’. This room gives the student time to reflect and demonstrate that they are ready to return to their learning. In this room each student will be given work to complete which supports their curriculum. This room will be staffed to support each student to reflect on their behaviour and to ensure that they are able to access and complete the work whilst in the room. The student will be in the room for two periods and part of break. This will enable students to get food and access the toilet before returning to their lesson.

We believe that this new approach provides clarity for teachers, students and parent/carers, leading to greater consistency and certainty. Our approach will be further enhanced through the implementation of Class Charts, improving communication between school and home.

We are looking forward to welcoming back all our students this week as we look forward to another year of opportunity and positive challenge. I will continue to write to you on a fortnightly basis through my Headteacher Updates.

I close by taking the opportunity to thank you for your continued support of Plymstock School.

Yours faithfully,



Alan Yendell  
Headteacher

