



In all things faithful

April 2022

**St Damian's RC Science College**

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**Headteacher**

Mr S Logue BA (Hons), M.Ed., NPQH

Dear Parents/Carers

### Re: Our Expectations

As Headteacher of St Damian's, I am proud to say that the behaviour of our great children, on the whole, is outstanding. In the last week of the Spring term, we had our Easter liturgies and the reverence and respect shown by the children was exemplary. It really was a joy to behold. Furthermore, without exception, every external visitor comments positively on the calm, purposeful learning environment. This is based on our core value of mutual respect which underpins our relationships with the children. However, at times, it is necessary to reiterate our rules. Our rules are simple, transparent and are the glue that ensures we continue to be a safe place for pupils and staff alike. Furthermore, our rules are enforced. Sadly, some pupils are no longer at St Damian's because they didn't conform to our simple rules.

This letter is to remind parents of these rules and our expectations.

**Respect:** Our core value is respect. This is at the heart of the positive relationships that you can feel in school and that we strongly promote in all interactions between both pupils and staff and between pupils and their peers.

**Phones:** These are not allowed in school and the rule is that they will be taken off the pupil, kept safe for the parent to collect. There are no exceptions to this rule. If there is an emergency, school will contact the parent straight away. At no time will your child's safety be compromised.

**Uniform including Hair Styles:** Our uniform is exceptional, and I am delighted that our pupils wear their uniform with pride. On occasions, staff have had to challenge incorrect footwear or girls' skirts not being a decent length. Hair colour must look natural and extreme hair styles are not acceptable. This includes visible under cuts, hair patterns and shaved heads. I ask that you support the school in ensuring that our uniform standards remain high.

**Jewellery:** Like mobile phones, jewellery, including earrings, false eye lashes or nails, are prohibited. Fake tan is also not allowed. This wastes both pupil learning time and staff energy which should be focused on teaching and learning.

**Attendance:** Research shows that this has a massive impact on pupils' attainment. Pre-covid, St Damian's attendance was really good. Pupils should work hard to improve their attendance during the summer term by attending school every day.

**Punctuality:** It is essential that pupils arrive at school on time and have the best start possible to the school day. Pupils receive important information in form-time and valuable time is also spent on personal development and pastoral care. This all supports pupils' academic progress.

**Use of Social Media:** There are still a number of incidents where social media is used in an inappropriate manner, including incidences of cyber-bullying. Our principles, '*Is it kind, is it necessary or is it true?*' should be used as a guide. Remember that hurtful comments, once sent online, cannot be taken back and may cause significant harm and/or distress.

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**Equipment:** Pupils must be fully equipped for lessons. This includes bringing a pencil case and planner, a scientific calculator for maths lessons and full PE kit for PE lessons.

**Public Transport:** Pupils are ambassadors for the school. High standards of behaviour are a prerequisite to ensure all pupils can travel to and from school safely. This includes remaining seated and wearing seat belts.

**Detentions:** If a child is issued with a detention, it is expected that parents support the school ensuring that the detention is completed.

**Independent Learning:** Parents are requested to support school by establishing strong routines at home so pupils can do independent learning. Pupils should be spending time each evening completing homework and/or doing revision.

**Reading:** Regular reading brings huge benefits to learners and should be a daily activity for all pupils. Reading increases breadth of vocabulary, spelling accuracy and text comprehension. It also embeds grammatical understanding and improves essential oral and written communication skills.

**Rewards Trips:** At present staff are looking into rewarding our fantastic pupils with an end of year rewards trip for Yrs7-9. [Yr10 will be on work experience]. This will take place on **Thursday 14th July**. As it is a rewards trip, if a pupil is placed in seclusion or suspended from school between now and the date of the rewards trip, it is unlikely that they will be allowed to go.

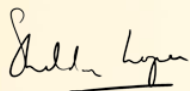
**Celebration Evening:** This is not only one of the highlights of the academic year but also one of my favourite nights where we can show-case the achievements, efforts and attendance of our great pupils! This evening will take place on **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June**.

**Share Day:** And following on from one of my favorite evenings is one of my favourite days as we celebrate another highly successful year whilst raising monies for our chosen charity. Further details will follow in due course, but this is a great tradition at St Damian's, and it is a great ending to the year for both pupils and staff alike! The date for Share Day is **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July**.

Finally, I ask that parents speak to staff in a respectful manner. As a school, despite constantly striving for excellence in all we do, sometimes we may not always get it right, but that doesn't excuse any verbal abuse of any member of staff. Thankfully, this is very rare. But rest assured that the staff at St Damian's truly are working tirelessly to ensure that your child gets a world class education in a safe and secure environment where they excel in both academic achievement and grow into young adults. I believe that working together with parents makes our community very strong.

As always, a massive thanks for your support!

Yours sincerely



Mr Logue  
Headteacher