

Questions and Answers from Parents



SHIRE OAK
ACADEMY

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Is there lots of bullying? How do you deal with it? What is the policy?

The bullying policy is on our website. It is updated every year. We do not have lots of bullying but, when it happens, we investigate fully and deal with it according to the policy and we have very few repetitions.

At Shire Oak we work hard to inform pupils and parents about what bullying is. Pupils fall out all the time and say horrid things to each other.....we deal with that too.

Will my child be happy and safe at Shire Oak?

We do all we can to make sure that this is the case. We are proud of our support network and we are always ready to help sort issues. If your child will not report them...then please ring and report them yourselves. We have a clear safeguarding policy which is on the website.



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Is the academy clean and tidy?

The academy is cleaned every night and all litter is cleared. We rely on our pupils to take pride in their surroundings. Leave classrooms tidy. Leave toilets tidy. Put litter in the bins provided.

How is the school set up?

We have 7 year groups - years 7 - 13. Each one has a head of year who deals with the day to day issues. Mrs Smith is Pastoral manager and she, along with Ms Youster (her assistant) oversee years 7 - 11. Mr Jones Oversees the 6th form.

Yr 7 and 8 next year will have form rooms and form tutors in North.

How do we get the uniform if we cannot come into school to buy it? What is the uniform?

In the pack you receive in the post there will be two leaflets - one from Clive Marks and one from Crested Schoolwear. They give details of ordering the uniform online and what is involved should they not reopen before September.



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How will my child find out their form, their form tutor, their form room and their house?

You will receive a pack after half term and the letter in there will tell you which form and house your child is in. The letter also gives details of what we intend to do on the first day back in September when pupils will be escorted to their form rooms and spend the day with their form tutor. Have a look on our website...you will see videos from all form tutors introducing themselves.

They didn't take their SATs so how will sets be decided?

Staff at your child's primary school have given us teacher assessment scores for english and maths. We will initially use these but during the first week of term in September we will be testing all pupils using CATS tests - Cognitive Assessment Tests. Pupils do not need to revise for these at all. These, along with reading tests will give us more of an idea which sets pupils need to be in. We will, however, monitor work and assessments in all subjects very carefully and, if we feel a pupil needs to move up or down..we will sort quickly so that they are able to learn according to their abilities.



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***How much and how often will they get homework? How will I check what is set?
What happens if they don't do it? Can they stay at school and complete
homework?***

Homework is set regularly by all subjects. Maths and English set once a week. Other subjects less regularly. All new yr 7 pupils will receive a diary on their first day and they should be encouraged to write homework in there. Parents are encouraged to check this. In addition to this, all homework set is recorded by staff on the SIMs APP and all parents can obtain a log in so that they can log in and check. If Homework is not completed, parents will receive an email telling them this and asking that they make sure it is done promptly. Three occasions of not completing homework will mean that the pupil will be required to stay after school until 4pm every night for 5 days.



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In school, who can my child go to if they have a problem?

We are very proud of our support system at Shire Oak. If a pupil has a problem they can approach any member of staff who will help them if they can or speak to a member of the pastoral team - form tutor, head of year, Success centre, assistant pastoral manager or pastoral manager. We are never too busy to help and sort issues. Parents can also call and speak to the HOY or Pastoral manager. We are always available.

If my child is late what happens?

If a pupil arrives before 9.05 they need to go to their form and ask their form teacher to mark them in. They need to then attend a 10 minute detention at break time. If they don't arrive to this they will be given a 30 minute detention. If a pupil arrives after 9.05 they must sign in at reception. We advise parents to ring in if this is the case as a pupil may well be marked as absent and this will affect his or her attendance percentage.



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If my child cannot attend what do I do?

If you know in advance that your child cannot attend then please call the head of year or send in a letter to the form tutor. If your child is ill and cannot attend please ring the attendance line. If you call 01543452518 and press the button for year 7 attendance, you will be put through to speak to the HOY or be able to leave a message. We need you to call every day your child is off. If you do not contact us we will send out an email to you. It is important that you reply because, if you do not, the absence will go down as unauthorised.

You can check attendance on the SIMs APP. If it drops below 90% you will need to provide medical evidence for every absence..



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What is your system of detentions?

Staff make every effort to ensure all pupils have the opportunity to behave. They will give a warning in the hope that the behaviour is corrected without punishment. If the warning is not heeded then the pupil will either be removed from the classroom and receive a 60 minute detention that day (you will be connected about this) or a 30 minute detention the following day. Emails for the 30 minute detentions go out to parents after school each day. If a pupil fails to arrive to the detention then the punishment increases accordingly.



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