



Montgomery Academy

An Academy within the Fylde Coast Academy Trust

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Inspiring Excellence Together

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Dear Parent/Carer,

I was going to write to all parents in the next week to explain a new component of our policy for students leaving their lessons to go to the toilet. However, national press coverage on Friday of schools where students protested against their schools' policies on use of toilets means this is an ideal time to remind you of our existing policies.

In a letter to all parents, sent on 28th November 2022 we outlined our new policy on punctuality to both lessons and school. These policies have been very successful in ensuring lessons start promptly and students are not loitering between lessons. The letter also included a reminder about our policy on students going to the toilet.

All Year 7 students and students with a medical pass can go to the toilet whenever they need to.

Primarily students should go to the toilet during their designated break and lunchtimes. Toilets are open during Registration (8:45am 9:15am). Toilets are locked only for Period 1 between 9:15am and 10:15am and then are open the rest of the day. Students should not go to the toilet during lesson changeover and should go to their lesson, making sure they are on time. If they are in desperate need of the toilet, they should ask their teacher. Visits to the toilet during lesson time for students without medical passes are recorded on a spreadsheet. Too many students ask to go to the toilet directly after a breaktime or lunchtime. Parents will be contacted if their child is regularly leaving class to go to the toilet, unless of course they have a medical pass.

I would also add that Year 7 have their own dedicated set of toilets. One of the positive impacts of the new punctuality policy is that some students do have time to go to the toilet at lesson changeover and still can get to their lesson within the permitted 5 minutes. Students are allowed to go the toilet during lesson time in an emergency as long as they do not abuse their privilege by asking too often. The protests elsewhere in the country last week were based on students only being told that they could only go to the toilet at break and lunchtime. This is not the case at Montgomery.

As stated above toilet visits during lesson time are recorded. Therefore, we know that the number of times a student went to the toilet during lesson time last week was 438 visits made by 268 different students. This does not seem too much of a problem and students with medical passes will always be allowed to go. However, 14 of these students left lessons 4 or more times in the week. This amount of time out of lesson could add up to missing a lesson a week. I also see too many students who stand chatting with their friends outside for their full 25-minute lunch and then immediately ask to go to the toilet as soon as they arrive to their first lesson after lunch.

Therefore, starting next week we will message parents at the end of the week if their child has been out of lesson three or more times in the week. This is just to raise it as a possible issue. There is no sanction, but unless there is a medical reason we would hope the number of visits can be reduced.

There have been discussions on social media about protests at Montgomery around toilets this week. I hope that you would agree in reading the above that we are not a school where students are refused permission to go to the toilet during the lesson in emergencies. If students would like to make their feelings known then they can discuss this with their tutor and their student council rep. Any student who attempts to disrupt the school in inappropriate protest, will be managed using our existing policies on truancy and punctuality.

I thank you, in advance, for your support in this matter.

Regards

Mr. Careless