



Year 7 at St Monica's A Parents' Guide



Mission Statement

St
schools
a caring,

Monica's is a Catholic Community working in partnership with families,
and parishes to teach the Catholic faith as a way of life. We provide
supportive environment where everyone is of equal worth. Jesus Christ

is central to our school and our main aim is that everyone can develop their God given talents to the full, while growing in faith through prayer and service.

Introduction

Transferring to high school is a challenging, exciting and for some can be an anxious time. The school is significantly bigger than any primary school and has considerably more pupils. Many pupils will be worried about getting lost, not being with friends, detentions, bullies. This is perfectly normal but there is nothing to worry about. As long as we are all aware of what is going on there is nothing that can not be sorted out.

If you do need to speak to a teacher in person please telephone the school and make an appointment. High schools are not like primary schools it will not be possible to just call into school and speak to a particular member of staff.

The staff within the school are well equipped and experienced in dealing with the trials and tribulations of year 7. Within a few weeks many year 7 will have forgotten why they were so nervous in the first place.

There are also many things that you can do to help - you can start by reading this leaflet.

Attendance, Punctuality and uniform

Good attendance is essential for all pupils so that they can fulfil their potential. Holidays should not be taken during term time. Any absence known in advance requires a written letter to the Headteacher asking for permission at least 2 weeks in advance.

Punctuality is also a must! Poor punctuality is unacceptable in the workplace and is unacceptable in school. Pupils who are late will initially be placed in detention. Pupils who are repeatedly late or have very poor attendance will be referred to the Education Welfare Service. If your child is to be absent due to illness please telephone the school office before 9am



Pupils are rewarded if they consistently fulfil high expectations regarding attendance and punctuality. Pupils may receive certificates, non-uniform days or financial rewards.

Uniform. The way that pupils wear their uniform is an expression of their general attitude to school. It has been proven that pupils who are smart and concerned with their appearance are also more concerned about their attainment and overall success. Therefore St Monica's insists on the highest standards of uniform. Please see the schools prospectus or your child's journal for full details regarding uniform. It is advisable to put your child's name on all items of uniform - all pupils wear the same so it is easy to get them all mixed up, especially in the PE changing rooms.

Journal

Your child's school journal is their most important possession at school. You should read it carefully as it is full of invaluable information that you will need to know in order to support your child throughout their time at St Monica's.



You will need to sign your child's journal on a weekly basis but you should ask to see it more often. In addition to its use for recording homework staff may record other information or comments here for you to see

Homework

Homework is an important part of life at St Monica's and across the curriculum it will be set by subject teachers to enhance or consolidate learning. There is no doubt that your child will receive more homework than they did in primary school. Pupils will receive 3 pieces of homework each evening, and each piece should take approximately 20 minutes. It should become part of your child's daily routine.

In order to support pupils with homework the school;

- Provides facilities and staff to help pupils at lunchtime in the LRC and room 22 as well as homework clubs supervised by year team staff.
- Provides an area to work in the LRC, which is staffed and computers are available Monday - Friday until 4.15
- Supports pupils in setting their own targets. Pupils discuss targets with form tutors with whom pupils have daily contact, they have an overview of achievement and progress and mentor pupils on a formal and informal basis.
- Enables pupils to attend Smart Club, Learning Challenge and/or may issue pupils with a report in order to monitor them more closely.
- Encourages pupils to discuss homework with the schools learning mentor or any of their subject teachers.

At home in order to support your child with homework please;

- Check your child's journal each evening and check that they complete homework set. The school journal will have recorded in it your child's homework timetable, recording which homework can be expected on each day. It is best that they attempt to complete homework the night that it is set rather than the night before it is to be handed in - this allows pupils time to ask teachers for help if they need to and find anything further that they might need.
 - Ensure that your child has their bag packed for school each night rather than rushing around and looking for books and pens in the morning. Do not always do this for them - they will need to learn to organise themselves.
 - Time your child's homework - St Monica's pupils should complete 3 pieces of homework per night each of at least 20 minutes duration - you can sign each piece after this period of time.
 - Check your child repeatedly tells you that homework has not been set telephone school and speak to the subject teacher to check - this may not be the case. Similarly if your child has difficulty completing a task that is expected of them or the task is unclear contact the school and speak to the subject teacher.
- Ensure that your child has a place to work free from distraction to complete work at home.



- Ensure that your child has equipment to complete homework including pens, pencils, calculator etc.
- Check that the completed homeworks are packed in the school bag ready for when it needs to be handed in.

Peer Mentors

In year 7 new pupils are supported by trained peer mentors from year 10 who work with the pupils to organise themselves, make friends and adapt to life in a busy high school.

The peer mentors are also available to help with work in homework clubs.



Extra Curricular

There are many extra curricular activities at St Monica's including netball, football, cross-country, drama, choir, orchestra, liturgy, wildlife, astronomy, art, games club, homework clubs, ICT clubs, Chinese club, the list is endless there are too many to note here. There are extra curricular activities before school, during lunchtime, after school and at weekends. Encourage your children to **GET INVOLVED** our most successful students are those who involve themselves fully in school life.

Detention

The school does have a detention system. Pupils may be given detention at lunchtime or after school - detentions are given at the teacher's convenience and discretion. If pupils are given detention after school pupils will be given 24 hours notice and a detention slip to bring home. This detention slip should be signed by parents and returned to school.

It is expected that parents will support this policy but they should note that Section 92 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 gives schools the legal authority to detain pupils without parent consent.



Measuring Progress

Parents Evening - parents evening will not be what you are used to!!! You may have up to 14 teachers to speak to rather than just the one. Your child will make 3 minute appointments with each of them for you. If you need to speak to a subject teacher for longer than this you will need to make a separate appointment.

Pupil Profile - engagement grades will be issued in the Autumn and Spring terms - they will inform you of how engaged your child is in their classwork and homework, also their attitude and behaviour in lessons - pupils should be aiming for all As in engagement grades as there is no excuse for not trying!

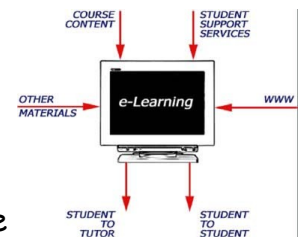
National Curriculum Levels - Your child will be informed of what level they are at in each subject and what they need to do to improve, this will also be recorded in the back of your child's journal and also in each of their exercise books.

Reports - Reports will be issued in the summer term, all of your child's subject teachers will record how they have progressed throughout the year. If you have concerns about one particular subject you should contact the subject teacher; if you would like to discuss the report as a whole you should contact your child's year tutor.

Virtual Learning Environment

From September 2010 you will be able to access attendance, behaviour, attainment, progress and SEN information via the school's Virtual Learning Environment. You will be issued with a secure, unique password to facilitate this.

Demonstrations will take place at parent's evenings and at other times throughout the year. Please check weekly school newsletter and/or the website where details will be published.



Lunchtimes

During lunchtimes at St Monica's if pupils are not involved in extra curricular activities year 7 will play in a designated area of the school.

All pupils will have their finger scanned which will enable pupils to manage their dining room account through biometric software.

It is possible for you to send a cheque onto school made payable to Bury MBC. The biometrics system has enabled us to identify how much money is put onto cards and what each child is purchasing each day. We can also put a limit on how much your child can spend in one day/week. If you have concerns about what your child is eating we can provide this information - please contact your child's head of year.

Pupils are of course perfectly welcome to bring a packed lunch to school which they also eat in the dining room.

Pupils are not allowed to leave the premises at lunchtime unless they live near enough to school to make this practicable. St Monica's believes that pupils who do go home at lunchtime miss out on vital social development. If you wish your child to come home at lunchtime please contact Mrs McCann.

Friends

There will be friendship issues throughout year 7 - be prepared! Some pupils will come to St Monica's and will straight away decide to leave their old friends behind and make new ones, some will remain within the same friendship groups throughout their school life, others will cling to their old friends and make new ones in their own time. Don't worry. All year 7 pupils will settle in their own time, they are individuals.

In some classes pupils will be taught in forms in others they may be split into other groups, they will be taught with a number of other different pupils across the curriculum some they may know, some they will not.

Internet Safety

Over recent years pupils have been increasingly able to use the internet to support their homework, research and also to communicate with each other.

Internet safety will be addressed in school; however you should be aware that pupils under the age of 13 should not be members of social networking sites.

Issues that arise between pupils over the internet should be reported to the site provider.

Transport to and from school

Many pupils who live within walking distance do walk to school.

There are 4 main school busses 796, 797, 798, 799. Several pupils catch the service busses 135 and 137. All of these busses can be caught at the bus stops outside school at the end of the school day. Heaton Park metro station is about a 5 minutes walk from school and many pupils choose to travel this way.

We expect the highest standards of behaviour from all pupils

while travelling to and from school.

Some key dates

Parent's Evening	
Engagement Grades Year 7	End of Autumn/Spring Term
Exam Week	

Some Key Telephone Numbers

St Monica's	0161 773 6436
Bury LA	0161 253 5000
Travel Line	0870 608 2608

