



Fairlands Middle School
Part of the Wessex Learning Trust

General Information

Welcome from Stefan McHale, Headteacher

I am delighted to be able to welcome you to our school. Our main aim is for the pupils to be able to learn to their full potential and develop lively, enquiring minds. We will help them to grow as independent young people, well prepared for the next stages in their learning and able to thrive in our complex and challenging society. In order for the children to learn best, we set out to provide a learning environment in which pupils feel safe and secure and are able to develop their own self-esteem. We emphasise respect for others and a sense of personal responsibility within the community.

At Fairlands Middle School, parents provide strong support in our educational, social and fund-raising activities. We regard it as essential to develop strong partnerships between home and school, as well as the wider community and are proud members of the Wessex Learning Trust.

I hope this document will give you some useful and interesting information about our school and will answer many of your questions. If you want to know more, please do not hesitate to contact us.

School Times

Pupils are expected to be in school at 08.40 for a 08.55 start. The end of the school day is at 15.35. Lunchtime is 12.15 - 13.05. Pupils remain in school for the lunch period, either using the school cafeteria system or bringing a packed lunch. Parents who wish their children to go home for lunch must provide a written request.

School Transport

For those pupils wishing to use the Shipham and Draycott/Rodney Stoke transport, please contact the Local Authority on 0300 123 2224.

School Meals

A very good cafeteria system operates at the school, allowing pupils to select from a variety of hot meals, salads or sandwiches. Pre-paid meal cards can be purchased through ParentPay.

We encourage children to bring a water bottle to school and a healthy snack for morning break. The expectation is that pupils do not bring sweets to school. Chewing gum is forbidden.

Uniform

School Uniform:

- grey skirt, trousers or shorts
- pale blue shirt with striped clip-on school tie
- grey V-neck pullover or grey V-neck buttoned cardigan with optional badge
- dark/white socks or plain dark tights
- black shoes with flat heels (no boots)

PE Clothing:

- navy blue/sky blue reversible rugby shirt
- plain white polo shirt
- navy blue football socks for winter
- white ankle sports socks for the summer term
- navy shorts or navy skirt
- football boots and trainers
- shin pads

We recommend that all pupils wear a mouth guard for hockey and rugby.

Optional Items - PE – tracksuit bottoms and base layer (Note: these do not replace normal kit.)

Pupils are expected to bring their PE kit to all lessons, even if they are not actively participating.

Please note

- trainers should only be worn for PE
- no jewellery should be worn with the exception of one pair of plain stud earrings and a watch/fitbit
- vivid hair colouring and/or extreme styles are not allowed

Please could you ensure that all clothing and personal belongings are **clearly marked with the child's name**.

The pullover/cardigan with badge, tie and the rugby shirt are available from Deane & Sons, Bath Street, Cheddar.

Equipment

Every pupil is expected to bring the following basic items to school:

- black or blue handwriting pen
- red pen
- coloured pencils/fine fibre tips
- pencil eraser
- pencil sharpener
- calculator
- ruler

An A4-sized folder is very useful for worksheets.

The children will be provided with a student planner.

Lockers

We provide every child with a locker key at the start of each school year. We recommend the use of a lanyard to keep the locker key safe. Bags and coats should be kept in the locker.

Valuables

We discourage the pupils from bringing expensive items or large sums of money into school. Personal entertainment equipment should not be brought to school under any circumstances,

Mobile phones

Mobile phones may be handed into reception for safe keeping during the school day, or can be stored securely in your child's locker. Mobile phones must not be used during the school day (including break and lunch times) and will be confiscated if found. If a mobile phone is confiscated, this will only be returned to a parent/carer who will need to collect it from reception. The school cannot take responsibility for phones that get lost or damaged that have not been handed into reception.

Illness and Accidents

If your child is unwell or injured, the school will contact parents at home or via an emergency contact number. In an emergency the school will contact the hospital or doctor, although usually parents do this. If your child needs to take medicine at school full details need to be provided in writing and the medicine lodged with our first aiders at reception. The necessary letter can be obtained from the school office or our website.

We also have systems and procedures in place currently in light of the COVID pandemic that will remain as we move into the new academic year.

Pastoral Organisation

Tutor Groups

The pastoral system is based on the tutor knowing their group better than anyone else in the school and is the first point of contact for both pupils and parents. Tutors in Year 5 know their pupils extremely well as they also teach them some of their lessons.

House System

Each pupil will be allocated to one of the houses, which are Blackdown, Mendip, Nyland, Polden or Quantock. Pupils earn house points for good work, progress and various achievements. Badges are awarded for the number of house points obtained and are, in ascending order, bronze, silver, gold, and platinum.

Child Protection and Safeguarding

Fairlands Middle School is concerned with the development of the whole child and the provision of a secure environment in which the child can gain confidence, grow and learn. Elements relating to child protection are found in the Child Protection and Safeguarding policy, in both our Citizenship and Personal and Social Health Education (PSHE) documentation and in our Behaviour Policy, including such aspects as bullying. Helen Heffernan is Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and is supported by a number of Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (DDSL). Diane Sleeman is Child Protection Governor for the school.

The aims of our safeguarding strategies are:

- to support and promote attitudes, practices and understandings conducive to good health and to the physical, mental, social and spiritual well-being of pupils;
- to promote positive attitudes towards the pupil's own safety, including online safety and personal relationships and wherever possible, to challenge influences which are not conducive to health and well-being;
- to actively promote the pupil's right to be safe;
- to foster within pupils their social skills, self-esteem and sense of responsibility in preparation for adult life, parenthood, family life and life within the community;

School/Home Contact

It is essential that home and school work closely together. If, as a parent you have any concerns or anxieties then please contact the school. Similarly, there may be times when the school will need to contact you. We shall, therefore, ask you for contact numbers for emergency use. During the course of the school year, there will be progress reports each term including an annual report at the end of the year. There are also parents' evenings as follows;

Autumn Term

- Open Evening – to share information about the school with parents of the pupils in Years 3 and 4 in our partner First Schools.
- Tutor-based parent evenings for parents to meet their child's tutor and receive an Autumn progress and attendance report.

Spring Term

- Subject-based parents' evenings for all years.
- Spring progress and attendance reports for all pupils.

Summer Term

- Annual reports and attendance records for all pupils, including end of year attainment in all curriculum areas.
- Year 6 pupils will also receive National Curriculum test results in mathematics and English as well as teacher assessments in mathematics, English and science.

Friends & Parent/Teachers Association (FPTA)

This is an association to which all parents/carers automatically belong. The first meeting of each academic year is held soon after the beginning of term and all parents will receive an invitation to attend. The school is very grateful for the support of the FPTA in many ways, but particularly the financial support. Over the past years, proceeds from fund-raising have been spent on school needs such as lockers for pupils, the school radio and equipment identified by the School Council, including fresh water supplies and a new drama stage. Many parents have opted to give an annual donation to the FPTA.

Outside Agencies

Various outside agencies help us to diagnose issues and develop strategies to assist the pupils both in and out of school. These include:

- Autism and Communication Team
- Educational Psychologist
- CAMHS (Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service)
- Education Safeguarding Service (EWS)
- PIMSS (Physical Impairment & Medical Support Service) to support pupils with medical impairments.
- Visual Impairment and Hearing Impairment Support Services
- Social Services
- Integrated Therapy Services (Speech & Language/Occupational Therapy/Physiotherapy)
- School Nursing
- LSS (Learning Support Service)
- Family integration service (FIS)
- Young Somerset
- SHARE
- The Space - Cheddar
- Parent and Family Support Advisers (PFSA)
- Team Around the School (TAS)

If we plan for your child to see any outside agency, you will be informed and usually given an opportunity to join us.