



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 Fairlands Middle 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 fundraising 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 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 08.50 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. We are moving to a biometric system for the new academic year, so parents/carers can monitor what their child is eating more closely.

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 not permitted.

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 skort
- 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.

Second hand uniform is available in school. Please email office@fairlandsmiddleschool.co.uk if you are interested in obtaining items.

Equipment

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

- black or blue handwriting pen
- red pen
- pencil
- pencil eraser
- pencil sharpener
- calculator
- ruler
- scissors
- glue stick

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 cash into school.

Mobile phones and Electronic Devices

Mobile phones can be stored securely in the pupil's locker. They 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. Electronic devices to aid learning can only be brought into school with prior permission. The school cannot take responsibility for phones that get lost or damaged.

Illness and Accidents

If your child is ill, please email absence@fairlandsmiddleschool.co.uk or telephone 01934 743186 before 09.00.

If your child is unwell or injured in school, we will contact parents/carers via the number(s) provided to us. 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 www.fairlandsmiddleschool.co.uk

Pastoral Organisation

Tutor Groups

The pastoral system is based on the tutor knowing your child 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, platinum and headteacher badge.

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 Safeguarding (Child Protection) and Behaviour Policies, including such aspects as bullying. Helen Heffernan is Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and is supported by a number of Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (DDSL). Phil Maddock is Child Protection Governor for the school.

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. We use a system called Class Charts to communicate with Parents/Carers and ask for you to sign up to the system when your child starts with us. 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)

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