

Dear Parent / Carer

January 2015

The new term has started well and I thought that I would take this opportunity to write to you and outline a few changes starting from this term which will improve the overall efficiency of the school and make it a safer place.

Fortnightly / Three Weekly Parent Update

I have been very pleased to receive emails which inform me about areas of the school which you feel need improving as well as those which offer great support. One of the areas that all schools need to improve is communication; ensuring that parents and carers feel a part of their child's education. You are aware that I have sent out 3 newsletters since I started and a few letters but I do not feel that these by themselves satisfy the conditions for good communications with home; not least because there is insufficient opportunity to celebrate achievement and success. To this end we will begin to circulate every 2/3 weeks a Parent Update which will report on the parts of school life that you will be most interested in and can improve the experience for your child. It will take time to get it right but I am sure with constructive feedback we will end up with a very useful communication. It will be circulated by email wherever possible but hard copies will be available for those families for whom email is not possible.

School Security

From now the doors that lead from reception into the main school quads are controlled by a coded lock. It is generally universal practice, in all schools, to ensure that there is secure access from the reception area into the main school; it is particularly the case where there are younger children present. This means that parents/carers will no longer be able to go through to classrooms without being accompanied by a member of staff. I would also stress that no attempt should be made to access the main school by access through the playgrounds. All visitors including parents and carers who wish to speak to a teacher or other member of staff must come through reception and be signed in. A school that does not operate these procedures will be failing in its duty of care to the children.

Inclusion

I am sure you are now aware that as a point between a major school sanction and exclusion there is also inclusion; this mean children spending a day or part of a day in the inclusion unit at Hellesdon High School. This has been approved by governors and will be used where a child's behaviour has become unmanageable and is causing danger or significant disruption to other children. If a parent /carer refuses to allow their child to attend inclusion then it will immediately become an external fixed term exclusion where the parent /carer will need to arrange supervision at home for the duration of the exclusion.

Some of these actions may seem quite severe but it is necessary so that the school can provide the best possible opportunities for all the children and not allow a very small but significant minority to spoil the experience and learning of the vast majority. May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and peaceful new year and I look forward to meeting more of you as the year progresses.

Yours faithfully

Gerard Batty
Executive Headteacher

