

Learning Support FAQs

- **Where can I drop my child off in the morning?**

In the morning the main car park is the easiest place to drop your child off. They can then access school via the student entrance.

- **Where can I pick my child up from at the end of the school day?**

The main car park at the end of the school day can be extremely busy. The buses have right of access to the parking around the edge of the car park and parents will be asked to move if they are obstructing a bus from collecting children. The middle and back row of the car park sees parents waiting, however, it is recommended that you child walk along the redway to either Phoenix Drive or towards MK College where there is safer parking.

- **My child has a taxi arranged by Home to School Transport at the local authority will they know where to go to find it?**

Any pupil who has a taxi arranged by Home to School Transport will get their taxi from K Block car park. This is where the taxis have been told to pick up to avoid the business at the front of school. This is supervised by Learning Support staff who will ensure your child gets to their designated taxi.

- **Is it okay to collect my child sometimes instead of their usual school transport?**

If your child normally comes to school by bus but you wish to collect them instead then you don't need to tell anyone (please note where to collect as mentioned previously). If your child has a taxi arranged with the local authority (Home to School Transport) then it is your responsibility to alert the driver in the morning that your child will not be requiring the transport home. It will be helpful to alert the Learning Support Department too so that staff on duty at the end of the day are aware.

- **What do I do on my first day?**

On your first day you will be greeted at the front of school by teachers wearing bright yellow jackets. They will tell you where to go. There will also be student ambassadors who will help you.

- **Who will my form tutor be?**

Your parents will already have received lots of information about St. Paul's including who your form tutor is. You may also have already met your form tutor virtually through 'itslearning' and a 'teams' meeting.

- **When will I be in my form class?**

You will have registration every morning at 8.50am with your form class. On a Monday this ends at 9.25am as it extends to PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education). On a Friday you will have an assembly. You may be with your form class for some lessons such as Art, Music and Drama.

- **What if I get lost or I am late to a lesson?**

To start with it will take time to learn your timetable and to find your way around school so it will be natural for you to occasionally get lost or be late for lessons. In time you will familiarise yourself with the school and will know the routine so you will be able to arrive on time to all of lessons. Teachers will understand and you will not get into trouble in the first few weeks if you get lost and are therefore late to your lesson. There is a warning bell after breaks and lunchtimes which tells the pupils to get organised and to make their way to their next lessons. There is also a map in your planner to help you.

- **Will I get lots of homework?**

You will be set three subjects per day with the expectation to spend a maximum of 35 minutes on each subject. If you are spending longer than this on your homework then you or your parent needs to let your subject teacher know.

- **I find writing really difficult what help can I have?**

Your teachers will support you with this by providing alternative ways of recording your work. If you struggle writing longer pieces of work then we can arrange for you to use of a 'notebook' (a small laptop) to complete your work. You will need to buy a USB stick to save your work and your work will need to be printed off in school or at home and stuck in your book.

- **What support will I receive in the classroom?**

There are Learning Support Assistants (LSA) in all subject areas who will be available to support you in a range of curriculum areas. Their support can vary from 1:1 to explaining a task or information and then they move away to promote your independence in learning. The class teacher will also interact with you on a 1:1 basis. To develop independence, and to avoid reliance on individual staff, we do not offer the same LSA so you will have different LSAs for different subject areas. To support your written work you could also have access to alternative methods of recording ideas such as use of a notebook.

- **I've had support for my literacy and numeracy at primary school, will this continue?**

St. Paul's will be aware of the support you have had at your primary school but will be doing their own baseline assessments to determine who needs spelling, reading and numeracy support.

- **I struggle with my organisational skills, what help will I receive?**

Year 7 pupils will have access to a locker (see parent information). In the Learning Support department we can also offer a drawer to store exercise books so that you don't need to carry all your books around all day. Please don't carry ALL your books every day, pack your bag the night before with the books for the next day.

- **Where can I have my lunch, as I don't like canteens, as they are too noisy for me...**

The Learning Support department has designated spaces that are open during breaks and lunchtimes and have staff on duty. You are welcome to have a drink, snack and to eat your lunch in these areas.

- **Shall I bring my PE kit in a separate bag?**

Yes! If you try and squeeze all your PE kit in to one bag it could damage your books, you could lose something if you have to take it out every time you need to get something out or, even worse....if it is wet and muddy it will make your books wet and dirty!