

29 April 2022

Dear Parent / Carer

Ossett Academy Toilets

We wanted to take the opportunity to write to all parents / carers at Ossett Academy following some adjustments that have been made at the beginning of the summer term in relation to the way in which pupils have been asked to access the toilet areas.

Whilst it is acknowledged that there has been a change in how pupils at the academy have been asked to access the toilets, this has been a well-intended adaptation to the long-standing arrangements that have been in place for some time, and driven by feedback from pupil leaders at the academy as part of the on-going programme of consultation.

To echo the points made in Mrs Broome's recent letter to parents, the changes that were communicated to pupils at the beginning of the week are as follows:

- The toilet areas have now been fitted with shutters. This allows the academy to close certain toilet areas at times when they are not being supervised. This is mainly during lesson times when pupils are in class.
- The academy is now asking pupils to queue up to use the toilet, outside the toilet area and are supervising pupils whilst they do this. This is to ensure that the facilities are being used appropriately by all pupils and that pupils do not congregate inside of the toilet cubicle area.
- All toilets remain fully open to all pupils at break and lunchtimes and pupils are encouraged to use the facilities at these times.
- Before and after school pupils are directed to use the toilets in the Frankland Hall area. In this area toilets are in close proximity to academy medical facilities should any pupils require additional support.
- Pupils leaving lessons to visit the toilet are given a teacher pass or a note in their planner that shows they have been given permission to leave the lesson. This has been the case prior to the changes this term and pupils understand that they must seek permission from a teacher before leaving their classroom for any reason.
- Any pupil with a medical/toilet pass continues to be given access to the toilets by their teacher. If this is during lesson time, they are directed to use the toilet in the Frankland Hall area or medical area. These toilets are supervised and as such pupils can seek support from a staff member should they require it.

Whilst the arrangements do represent a change for Ossett Academy, an element of restricted access to toilets is a common feature across many secondary schools, and it is hopefully clear to parents that pupils are not in any way prevented from accessing toilet facilities when they are required, and in fact continue to be prioritised to do so where there is any medical or identified need.

It is unfortunate that the change has created a level of concern with parents / carers and hopefully this letter will provide some assurance that the measures in place are reasonable and represent an intended improvement in direct response to the 'even better if' comments raised by pupil leaders. To provide assurance, both Alan Warboys as CEO and Jane Lawton as Vice Chair of Governors have been on site this week to observe the arrangements in action, both during lessons and social times, and can confirm that there is nothing of concern arising from the academy's revised procedures. In addition, we have a colleague who is a trained Ofsted Inspector who has reviewed the arrangements on site, and discussed the matter with the Local Education Authority who have both been able to support the suitability of the arrangements that remain in place.

As parents of secondary aged children, we are aware that changes that take place at school aren't always met with full approval, however that does not mean that those changes aren't requested, or in fact appreciated by other pupils in school. Equally, news can quite quickly be distorted and as such we would ask all parents to retain an open mind from what might be said or posted on social media.

Having set out the above, we are extremely grateful for the constructive feedback from parents / carers and are also aware that the new arrangements will need to be kept under review with pupils, a commitment that Mrs Broome has already made to parents / carers and pupils. We are also appreciative of the time that Mrs Broome and the senior leadership team have taken to reach out to all parents / carers to provide personal contact in the form of a telephone call where a direct concern has been raised with the academy.

In conclusion, both the Trust and Governing Body are in full support of the academy and its continued drive for improvement, and we would both like to extend our appreciation to all parents / carers for your ongoing support.

We wish you and your families an enjoyable long bank holiday weekend.

Yours sincerely



Alan Warboys
Chief Executive Officer
Accord Multi Academy Trust



Sonya Trafford
Chair of Governors
Ossett Academy