



Catholic School & Sixth Form College

Year 6 - Frequently Asked Questions

My child is anxious about starting secondary school. Who can we talk to for help and support?

Parents are able to contact school and request a telephone/video call from one of our key members of staff. Please ring or email school to request a conversation with our Transition Coordinator (Miss L Wilkinson) who will be able to support you or direct your query to the relevant member of the team such as SEND, Welfare or Transport.

Once at St John's the first point of contact is your child's Pastoral Tutor who is there to support your child and help them to settle in. Your child's tutor will meet your child every day for registration and for a pastoral lesson on Thursdays. Other staff who are available to support your child include:

Head of Year 7 / Assistant Head of Year 7 / Transition Coordinator, Miss Wilkinson / SENDCO, Mrs Kreczak

Welfare Team Coordinator, Mrs Usher

Learning Mentors: Dave Mawdsley and Michael Stephenson

Family Support Worker, Mrs Denning

School Chaplain, Emma Ramsey

LRC Manager, Miss Heads

How will my child find their way round the large school site?

Students are welcomed collectively in our Main Hall on their first day where their tutors and Head of Year will be waiting to greet them. Here they will be guided to their pastoral bases and given their planners and timetables to familiarise themselves with. During their first week, students are collected and dropped off by subject staff to the Main Hall so that they complete a full cycle of their timetable. There is also staff around the site to signpost students in the right direction as they settle into their new environment.

How do I put money onto my child's account so that they can buy food at lunchtime?

Parents/carers can add money using Parent Pay which facilitates all monies for students to use or biometric fingerprint system to purchase all food and drink at break or lunchtime. Students are able to purchase items of food and drink at both break-times and lunchtimes from the dining hall. Meal deals are currently £2.35 which are bought at lunchtime.

What does my child wear for their school uniform and where can we purchase?

Every child is expected to wear a full school uniform daily. **Your child will need to bring a coat to school as the majority of break-times and lunchtimes will be spent outdoors.** Our school uniform is available to buy from [Elizabeth's Embroidery](#)

Our school uniform is as follows:

- School blazer with St John's logo
- School tie (Year 7 - Turquoise stripe)
- Black trousers (not skinny fit) from Elizabeth's Embroidery
- Black skirt (optional) – specific style from Elizabeth's Embroidery
- White shirt (not fitted for girls)
- Black tank top/jumper with St John's logo (optional)
- Smart black leather dress shoes

Most PE items are available from our uniform suppliers, Elizabeth's Embroidery:

- Maroon t-shirt
- Black shorts (not cycling, no logo)
- Maroon socks
- Optional black St John's hoodie
- 3G footwear (AstroTurf boots or plastic moulded studs)
- Shin pads
- Swimming costume, towel and goggles

What happens about school transport and St John's subsidy scheme?

Transport to St John's is a Durham County Council administered service; they arrange the contracts which define the total costs of the service, and they collect payments from you. We, as a school, make a sizeable financial contribution to this scheme to support subsidies for families on lower incomes. Essentially, we pay the difference between parental payments and the total cost of the transport scheme. For many years this has ensured that affordable transport to St John's has been maintained. Further details can be obtained from Durham County Council.

My child has SEND needs, who can I speak to about support?

If you have specific queries regarding your child's needs and support available please contact our SEND coordinator, Mrs L Kreczak, at school directly. She will be able to advise you on what support is appropriate and available here at St John's.

Does my child need to bring all their books and PE kit to school every day?

Your child needs to bring the books and equipment that they need for the day's lessons including their planner that is issued on their first day. On the first day at St John's your child will be given a timetable so each day they will know the books and equipment that they need to bring to school. We strongly recommend that your child organises their school bag the night before so that they do not forget books or equipment for the following day. Your child should bring a bag to school that is big enough to hold books, folders, a packed lunch (if necessary) and water bottle and all correct equipment. All students need to have the following equipment with them:

Clear plastic pencil case: Pencil sharpener, Scientific calculator, 30cm ruler, 2 black pens, Compass with pencil, 2 pencils, 360 protractor, Rubber, 3 highlighters, Whiteboard pen, Whiteboard rubber, Glue stick. All equipment can be purchased from school at a total cost of £12.50 in the summer term.

If you have any further queries, please complete the online contact form on our website or email school at staff@stjohnsrc.org.uk