



August 25

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have all enjoyed a wonderful and peaceful summer holiday.

Smithills School is now proud to be part of Bolton Impact Trust. This is an exciting step for our school, giving us the opportunity to work in partnership with other schools across the Trust to share expertise and resources. It will help us strengthen teaching and learning, provide more opportunities for pupils, and continue to build an inclusive, ambitious, and supportive school community.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming our children back to school for the start of the new academic year on **Wednesday 3rd September**.

Please note the start times for the first day back:

- **Year 7:** Arrive at 8:30am and go straight to the Main Hall.
- **Years 8–10:** Arrive at 9:30am, enter via Middle Drive, and go straight to Session 0.
- **Year 11:** Arrive at 9:30am, enter via Middle Drive, and line up for assembly.

This year is an important one for all our pupils. To ensure every child achieves their very best, we must work together to maintain the highest standards of behaviour and expectations. A calm and focused environment is essential for learning, and we appreciate your continued support in reinforcing these expectations with your child.

Uniform

All pupils are expected to return to school in full uniform as outlined in the 2025–26 Family Handbook and documented below:

We expect all pupils to arrive prepared for learning, equipped with their bag, planner, and pencil case, and ready for the first bell at 8:40 am. I would also like to highlight a few key points:

- **Piercings:** Pupils are allowed to wear one small pair of studs in the earlobe. Multiple ear piercings or nose studs (including plastic ones) are not permitted.
- **Outerwear:** Pupils must wear a coat, not a hoodie or jersey top.
- **Footwear:** Appropriate all black footwear – no boots

Item	Expectation
Blazer with Smithills Badge on it	• The blazer must be worn at all times. Please note, pupils will be advised when they are permitted to remove blazers outside of the classroom due to weather conditions.
Grey pleated skirt or trousers	• Knee length skirts may be worn • Full length (not $\frac{3}{4}$ length) trousers must be worn on the waist. • Pupils may wear full length trousers with a pleated skirt (no leggings)
Black belt	• Only black belts with a small, plain buckle are permitted. Belts must be worn inside belt loops

White Shirt	• Must be tucked into the skirt or trousers with all buttons done up
School jumper	• This is an optional item if pupils wish to wear an additional layer to keep warm
Plain white, grey or black socks/ black or grey tights	• If wearing a skirt, socks must be white, grey or black and knee or ankle length • If wearing trousers, socks must be white, grey or black and ankle length • Trainer socks are not permitted
Appropriate black footwear	• Footwear must have no emblems, white or coloured markings • Boots must not be worn • The school retains the final decision on whether a shoe is in line with the policy
Hair	• Hair must always be kept off the face and not fall below the eyebrows • Hair that falls below the collar should be tied back • For hair that falls below the collar and cannot be tied at the back of the head, a larger headband should be used to keep the hair together • Distinct shape-up/shaping of the hairline is not permitted and there should be no hair markings or shapes cut into the hair • There must be no distinct contrast (including 'step') between the top, the back and the sides of the hair; any short sides and back must be blended gradually into the top of the hair • Hair must be the pupil's natural colour • Eyebrows must not be shaved or have any markings in them • Facial hair must be clean shaved or natural • The school retains the final decision on whether hair, including facial hair, is in line with the policy
Jewellery	• No jewellery is permitted, except for a single/pair of small, plain, round gold or silver stud earrings in the lobe of the ear • Diamante stud earrings are not permitted. No other form of body piercing is allowed • A watch may be worn providing its only function/feature is telling the time e.g., no smartwatches, watches with alarms or sound effects, watches with calculators or video/audio recording capability • Jewellery and watches must be removed before all P.E. lessons • Watches need to be removed for all external exams in line with the JCQ guidance
Head covering	• Faces must always be fully visible; full or partial face coverings are not permitted

Please ensure your child adheres to these requirements from the first day back.

Mobile Phones – A Reminder

As part of our commitment to maintaining a calm and focused learning environment:

If pupils bring phones into school they are: **'On Site, Out of Sight.'**

This means no phones should be seen or heard during the school day. If a phone is seen or heard, it will be confiscated and returned at the end of the day after a C2 correction.

We kindly ask that you do not contact your child during the school day and that you do not ask them to contact you. In the event of an emergency, please contact the school directly.

If you are looking for ways to support good phone habits, you may wish to:

- Install an app to restrict certain uses (such as social media or YouTube).
- Consider a child-safe SIM such as Parent Shield, which allows scheduled phone use and monitoring:
<https://parentshield.co.uk/>

Further guidance on online safety can be found on the school's website and social media platforms.



SMITHILLS SCHOOL
SUCCESS FOR ALL

C. Dewse: Headteacher
BA (Hons), PGCE, National SENCO Award, NPQH



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Communication

If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us via email, 'Tell Us' or by ringing the school office. We aim to respond within 48 hours at the latest. Everything you need to know about the school can be found in the **2025–26 Family Handbook** (available on the school website) which includes key information on uniform, attendance expectations, and what your child will be learning throughout the year.

Finally, thank you for your continued support in ensuring your child is ready for a successful year ahead. We are excited to work together to make 2025–26 an exceptional year for all our pupils.

Enjoy the last few days of the summer break, and we look forward to seeing everyone on Wednesday 3rd September!

Regards

Carolyn Dewse
Headteacher

