

21 February 2024

Dear Parent/ Carer

As a parent or carer we know that in sending your child to school, you fully expect them to be spending the majority of their time in lessons. I am sure the last thing you might expect, is that your child is spending considerable amounts of their day going to the toilet.

We have, and will continue to have, unrestricted access for our pupils to the toilet facilities across the academy day. At the same time, we are mindful that any time away from lessons is lost learning.

For example, if we consider the average toilet trip to be 5 minutes away from a lesson and your child takes two* trips each day during lesson time, that equates to a total loss of 50 minutes over the course of a week or 1950 minutes (32.5 hours) in an academic year. Bearing in mind that one academic week is 25 hours of lessons, this pattern of behaviour leads to more than one whole week of lost learning. Here are some similar examples:

Trips to the toilet from lessons per day	Total lost learning time per day in minutes	Total lost learning time per week in minutes	Total lost learning time per academic year in minutes	Total lost learning time per academic year in hours	Total lost learning time per academic year in weeks
1	5	25	975	16.25	0.65
2*	10	50	1950	32.5*	1.3*
3	15	75	2925	48.75	1.95
4	20	100	3900	65	2.6
5	25	125	4875	81.25	3.25*

The numbers are quite sobering when you consider that a toilet visit every lesson over the course of an academic year equates to more than 3 weeks of lost learning. For context:

1. Persistent absence from school, as defined by the DfE, is 19 days or more in any given academic year.
2. The most recent data from the DfE found that in 2019, for those pupils with no missed learning across Years 10 and 11, 84% went on to achieve grades 9-4 in English and Maths. However, pupils who had missed 38 days of learning across Years 10 and 11, only 36% achieved 9-4 in English and Maths.

We provide parents and carers, as part of Classcharts, a live feed on positive and negative behaviours and also notifications on when your child accesses the toilet during lesson time so that you are able to monitor how often your child is leaving lessons. We hope that this additional information is useful in helping you to understand your child's school day.

Yours Sincerely

Ms K Dixon

Principal

