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**Parent Handbook**

**2020/2021**

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## School Values and Aims

**CLEAR** Values: **C**aring **L**earning **E**njoying **A**chieving **R**especting

**Aims**

At Gosforth Central Middle School, we are committed to providing a high-quality education which will help equip our children for successful and fulfilling futures. We believe that our school should provide a purposeful and stimulating environment for learning and one in which everyone is respected and valued. We expect and encourage high standards of achievement and behaviour whilst recognising the need to make education an enjoyable experience.

## School Staff 2020-2021

**Teaching Staff** (please also note that ALL members of the Senior Leadership Team have teaching responsibilities)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Senior Leadership Team** | |
| Mrs S Webb | Headteacher |
| Miss D Smith | Deputy Headteacher – Responsible for Teaching and Learning |
| Mrs M Good | Assistant Headteacher (Inclusion) |
| Mrs C Walker | Assistant Headteacher (Curriculum Development) and Head of KS2 Maths |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Year 5 Form Teachers** | | |
|  | Miss R Usher | Head of Year 5 |
| 5ND | Mr M Ferguson | Head of Science and Anti-Bullying Co-ordinator |
| 5PH | Mr R Leonard | Head of Computing |
| 5NW | Mrs L Proudlock | Healthy Schools Lead |
| 5SH | Mr J Veitch | KS2 Teacher |
| 5BC | Mrs V Wilson | Head of Drama |
|  |  |  |
| **Year 6 Form Teachers** | | |
|  | Mrs S Candlish | Head of Year 6 |
| 6BZ | Mrs L Bradley | Head of PSHE |
| 6BS | Mrs C Greaves | Head of English |
| 6DS | Mr D MacMillan | KS2 Teacher |
| 6WS | Miss J Williams | Technology teacher |
|  |  |  |
| **Year 7 Form Teachers** | | |
|  | Miss E Rutherford | Head of Year 7 |
| 7AW | Mr N Hearn | Technology Teacher |
| 7FK | Mrs K Howat | Head of Geography |
| 7BA | Mr C Kurji-Smith | Head of Music |
| 7TL | Mr A Robson | Head of KS3 Maths |
| **Year 8 Form Teacher** | | |
|  | Mrs C Wilson | Head of Year 8 |
| 8DF | Mr D Davidson | Head of History and RE |
| 8NA | Mrs M Jobling | Head of Art and Technology |
| 8GB | Mrs K Tomkins | Head of Modern Foreign Languages |
| 8JH | Mr D Slipper | Head of Physical Education |
|  |  |  |
| **Other Teaching Staff** | | |
|  | Mrs J Kennard | SENCO |
|  | Miss C Jackson | Part time Teacher |
|  | Miss R Welsh | Part time Teacher |
|  | Miss R Liddell | SCITT Trainee |

**Support Staff**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Learning Support Staff** | |
| Mrs T Foster | Higher Level Teaching Assistant |
| Mrs V Murtagh | Higher Level Teaching Assistant |
| Miss C Brush | Learning Support Assistant |
| Miss S Chapman | Learning Support Assistant |
| Miss C Embleton | Learning Support Assistant |
| Mrs I Ngie | Learning Support Assistant / maths intervention specialist |
| Mrs M Rutherford | Learning Support Assistant |
| Miss H Walton | Learning Support Assistant |
| Mr D Brimer | STEM Champion |
| Ms Jones-Lee | Reading Champion |
| Miss K Wood | Mental Health and Wellbeing Lead |
| **Administration Staff** | |
| Mr B Frieze | School Business Manager |
| Mrs K Scott | Admin Assistant |
| Mrs H Brown | Admin Assistant (PT) |
| Mrs L Nichol | Admin Assistant (PT) |
| **Lunchtime Supervisory Assistants (not including teaching staff)** | |
| Mrs Bhalla | Midday Supervisor |
| Mrs Nassar | Midday Supervisor |
| **Catering Manager** | |
| Mrs J Jones |  |
| **Site Manager** | |
| Mr D Robertson |  |

## School Day

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 08.30 | School yard open to pupils |
| 08.45 | Pupils line up on respective yard |
| 08.48 | School bell goes for pupils to enter building |
| 08.50 | Registration |
| 09.20 | Lesson 1 |
| 10.15 | Lesson 2 |
| 11.10 | Break |
| 11.25 | Lesson 3 |
| 12.25 | Lunch break |
| 13.20 | Registration |
| 13.25 | Lesson 4 |
| 14.25 | Lesson 5 |
| 15.20 | End of school day |

## School entrances

There are separate entrances for each year group. Pupils use these to enter and exit during the school day. There is a keypad system for entry at each of the entrances. Each pupil is issued with the code when they join the school. The codes are changed at the beginning of each school year and as required. You should not ask your child for this code or enter school by these doors. If you would like to come into school, you should go to the main entrance where our office staff will help you.

## Office Hours

The school office is manned between 08.00 and 16.30 each weekday except Friday when it is staffed until 16.00.

## Pupils Travelling to and from School

We ask that you do not drive your children to the school gates unless absolutely necessary. Parents are permitted to park in the Asda car park and walk their children up to the school entrance situated on the Great North Road. The traffic and pollution around the school gates has increased in recent years and we are trying to encourage all our children to walk, scooter or cycle to school. If you must drive, please consider parking a distance away and walking the rest of the way into school.

The school gates are closed between 15.00 until 15.35. Parents are not able to collect their child by car on school grounds at the end of the school day due to the volume of traffic this would create. Parents can park in the Asda car park and collect their child from the top of the footpath. Pupils may also make their own way to this car park via the school crossing patrol. Parents should not come on to school grounds to wait at the school day but arrange to meet their child outside the grounds.

In order to ensure the safety for all pedestrians, especially pupils at our school, yellow lines are in place, and parents are asked to observe these parking restrictions.

## Assemblies

Each week we have a range of assemblies which are taken by various members of staff or visitors. These assemblies take place during the morning registration slot.

Parents are invited to join form class assemblies and our Christmas assemblies during the last week of the Autumn term.

## Annual events

There are several events which enrich the school calendar and to which parents are invited. These include the annual dramatic production usually performed in Spring, Christmas and summer concerts, and sports day during the summer term.

## Registration Time

When pupils are not involved in an assembly in the school hall the time is used for pastoral time, discussing community issues, preparing for tests, checking planners and working on PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education).

## School Meals

Our school meals service is covered by a company called Chartwells through our PFI provider Engie and can be paid for through ParentPay. Pupils pay for school meals using a biometric user recognition system, so the system is cashless and card less. Cash can be credited onto the machines each day, or via parent pay. On ParentPay it is useful if parents set up an ‘Alert’ system to inform them that their child’s credit for lunches has fallen below £5 (approx.).

Pupils can choose from a range of food which fully complies with government regulations.

The main meal deal, £2.10, runs on a three-weekly cycle covering a choice of a meat or vegetarian dish. There is always a roast on a Wednesday and fish and chips on Fridays. This is accompanied by a choice of pudding and water.

Pupils can also purchase other meals such as sandwiches, Panini, pasta, pizza, baked potatoes and salad pots. Fruit, cookies, cakes, ice cream and yoghurts are also available alongside fruit drinks and flavoured water.

Packed lunches may be brought but carbonated drinks such as Coke are banned. Pupils can alternate between buying a meal and having a packed lunch whenever they choose.

All pupils eat their lunch in the dining room during the lunch hour allocated in rotation to one of four sittings. Each week a different year group and a different class go in for first sitting. Pupils who attend clubs or music classes are given passes if they need to switch to a different sitting to the one their class has been allocated. Pupils can get first sitting lunch passes as part of the reward system. If you have any further queries re school dinners, please see our ‘FAQ School Dinners’ publication which is on our website.

## Administering Medicine

If a child needs to take medicine during the school day the parent/carer needs to bring the drug into school and fill in a form available on the website or from the school office. The medicine will be kept in the medical room during the school day and administered by the office staff at the designated time. Pupils may not carry any medication themselves apart from an inhaler.

## Complaints

Any parent has the right to enter a formal complaint if they think that certain things are not being carried out properly. Copies of our Complaints Policy and Procedures can be found on the school website or are available on request from the school office.

It is expected that if there are any complaints they will be resolved informally between school and parent, but if this breaks down parents can complain to the Governing Body. This can be done in writing via the school or through the local authority governor services.

Their email address is: [governorservices@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:governorservices@newcastle.gov.uk)

Their address is Governor Services, Room 400, Civic Centre, Barras Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8PU

## Uniform

At Gosforth Central Middle School, we foster a feeling of belonging and a sense of pride in our school community. The school uniform is worn by pupils to show that they are part of the school family and as clear signal that they are ready to conform to our high expectations of behaviour for learning. All aspects of this policy apply to all of our pupils, regardless of their gender. The sports tops, sweatshirt, polo shirt and tie as well as other uniform items may be purchased online (emblematic.co.uk) or directly from our uniform stockist: Emblematic, Unit 26, North Tyneside Industrial Estate, Longbenton, Tyne and Wear NE12 9SZ.

**General Uniform:**

* Royal blue school branded sweatshirt
* A school branded tie – either clip on or tied
* Light blue shirt with a collar and the top button fastened. The shirt may be long or short sleeved. In our experience, short sleeved shirts are more practical.
* Black tailored trousers – not jeans, canvas, cotton, cargo style, leggings, jeggings or chinos. The trousers should not have any rivets or studs at the pockets. Trousers should be full length, not rolled at the ankle or skinny fit.
* Black or grey tailored knee length school shorts
* Plain black skirt – knee length or just above. The skirt may be pleated but it may not be fitted.
* Plain black or white socks – knee or ankle length
* Plain black or white tights
* Plain black flat waterproof shoes that can be polished. No sports brand, black / coloured trainers (with or without logos), pumps, or canvas shoes. Boots are not permitted in classrooms – pupils may change into shoes on arrival at school in inclement weather.
* Summer only – pale blue school branded polo shirt instead of shirt and tie (optional)
* Pupils are permitted to wear plain blue or black head coverings for religious reasons.

**Physical Activity:**

**Indoor PE:**

* School branded PE top (with pupil initials)
* School branded navy shorts / skort (with pupil initials)
* Clean trainers or plimsolls – any colour but the sole should not mark the gym floor.

**Outdoor Games:**

As above plus

* School branded long sleeved top
* Long navy socks
* Trainers or football boots
* Black or navy tracksuit bottoms (optional)
* School branded PE rain top (optional)

**Hair and Jewellery:**

* Long hair (past shoulders) should always be tied back for hygiene reasons. Pupils with mid-length or long hair must have it tied back securely for practical subjects. Hair accessories should be black or blue and be with any pupil with mid-length to long hair at all times.
* Hair styles should be neat, tidy and in a formal style. Please consult with your child’s Head of Year in advance of a hair style change if you are unsure of its suitability.
* Shaved hair should not be extreme or patterned.
* If hair is dyed it should be a natural hair colour.
* A watch may be worn – no other wrist jewellery is permitted
* Rings may not be worn
* Necklaces may not be worn
* A small pair of stud earrings may be worn, one in each lobe. These must be removed for PE, games and swimming.
* Ear ‘gauging’ (stretched ear lobes) is not allowed
* No facial / tongue / body piercings are allowed
* Minimal make-up may be worn – tinted moisturiser and concealer only. Other make up including lipstick, mascara eyeshadow, fake tan, nail polish and false nails, may not be worn

**PARENTS/CARERS ARE ASKED TO ENSURE THAT ALL BELONGINGS HAVE ADEQUATE LABELLING SO THAT LOST PROPERTY CAN BE RETURNED TO THEIR CHILD PROMPTLY. WE DO NOT HAVE A LOST PROPERTY STORE.**

In the winter a tracksuit may be worn at the discretion of the member of staff teaching the lesson. Year 5 pupils go swimming for part of the year and will need a swimming costume and towel.

## Use of Photographs

We regularly take photographs of children when they are involved in extra-curricular activities or special events which are then posted on our website and Twitter. We are aware that some parents do not wish their child to be photographed in this way and parents are asked to give their permission. We also ask that those pupils who do not have parental permission avoid having their photographs taken by pointing this out to the member of staff.

For this reason, during school performances, parents are asked not to take photographs or videos.

## Learning, Teaching & Assessment

Curriculum and meeting individual pupil needs.

This can be found on the website along with suggest educational learning resources to help parents support their child’s learning.

In Key Stage 2 pupils are generally taught in their form classes but may be organised into smaller teaching groups for maths, English and practical subjects. The criteria for grouping will be cohort dependant but tends not to be linear setting.

Year 5 is the only year group to have swimming lessons and this takes up half of their games lessons.

## Academic Reports

Every pupil will receive one full report in the summer term and two interim reports (one at the end of the first term and one at the end of the second term). Interim reports are a snapshot of where a pupil is currently for each subject in terms of their attainment and effort. For end of year reports, pupils receive current attainment and effort in each subject. Pupils also receive a personalised comment from their form teacher.

## Pupil Planners

Each pupil is provided with a planner at the beginning of each academic year or when they join the school. The planner contains key information about the school and is also the main mechanism by which the pupils keep track of homework, messages rewards and behaviour. For this reason, this planner must be carried at all times by the pupil from lesson to lesson each day.

**Timetable:** At the beginning of the year the pupil records their timetable, classrooms and teachers’ names in the planner.

**Homework:** Pupils are asked to write in their homework and record the length of time they have spent completing the work. Parents are asked to sign the planner weekly and check for identification of late homework. Staff also check homework is entered correctly.

Messages between staff and parents can be written in the planner. The planner needs to be shown to the recipient of the message earlier than the usual signing schedule. Wherever possible parents are asked to sign the planner weekly and teachers sign it every 2 weeks.

**School information:** The book also contains information about the school, behaviour and bullying rules, a uniform and equipment list, correct usage of the planner, tips on good homework habits and general information on a range of subjects.

House points are also collected in the planner and Head teacher awards are given for 40, 80, 120 and 160 house points.

If a pupil loses their planner they must pay for a replacement.

## Homework and Homework club

Pupils write their homework in their planner, and its completion should be monitored by parents, who check and sign the planner at least weekly. Information to support homework is available on the school website. Failure to submit homework is addressed using the pupil planner. Failure to complete homework on a regular basis could result in a detention or an instruction to attend the homework club.

If a child misses a lesson where homework is given out, they are expected to ask the teacher what the homework is (if the reason for absence is a music lesson or other extra-curricular activity). If the reason for absence is sickness, they may not be required to do the homework. If in doubt, check with the teacher. No formally assessed pieces of work are set as homework. We are also keen to ensure pupils do get time during holidays to be with their family and friends, so there are no major projects set during this time.

Pupils can attend a homework club daily during lunchtime. This club is supervised by a member of staff and is held in ICT1. Pupils are expected to take their planners with them so that the member of staff can see what homework needs to be completed. At the end of the session the member of staff then signs the planner to indicate the homework has been completed and the time taken. This club is open to any pupil who wishes to attend.

## Library

The school employs Miss Jones-Lee to oversee the library. It is open every break time and lunchtime.

All pupils get the opportunity to visit the library weekly/fortnightly during an English lesson.

## Parents’ & Carers’ Consultation Evenings

Each year group will hold a parents’ evening over two evenings per year allowing every parent to attend one. This is an opportunity to receive more detail about their child’s academic progress and wider personal and social development and integration. During the evening, parents/carers see several teachers by appointment. These appointments last for 5 minutes. Parents are invited to complete and return a form stating which teacher(s) they wish to see and indicating a preferred time slot. Appointments are then organised by school and forms returned to the parents indicating their appointment(s).

Parents can expect to be informed on their child’s baseline assessment for the beginning of the year, their target for the end of the year and the progress they have made so far towards reaching that target. Teachers may also discuss areas of strength, areas causing concern, attitude to learning and behaviour.

All year groups hold their evenings during the Spring term.

Year 5 parent/carers are invited into school to discuss their child from a pastoral perspective. There will be no discussion of academic strengths, areas of development or targets at this time. In addition, there is usually a Macmillan fundraising event in October which provides a good opportunity for parents to see the school, meet the Head teacher, Head of Year 5 and Year 5 staff.

Year 6 parents are also offered the opportunity to attend an information evening about SATs.

## Communications

Accurate, efficient and effective communication between home and school is extremely important. If you need to speak with a teacher, it is best to make an appointment by phoning or emailing the school office. This will allow teachers to provide an appointment which does not take them away from teaching, meetings or extra-curricular clubs which they are required to attend. If you are unable to do this, or it is something very urgent, there will always be someone to see you. If you have a concern, you should first speak with the form teacher or subject teacher who may pass it onto the Head of Year or a senior leader.

Most parents have now signed up to receive school letters, and newsletters via email. If you have not already done so, please contact the office to be added to the distribution list. Those who do not wish to receive their correspondence by email will receive paper copies of letters via their child.

Usually the first Friday of each month, or as near to it as possible, we send out a newsletter which contains reports of events which have taken place, dates for the future and information about forthcoming events. Letters and information are also displayed on our website. Information and news is also regularly ‘tweeted’. This is also where information about school closure due to bad weather will be posted.

If a decision is made to close the school due to bad weather parents are advised to listen in to Radio Newcastle. The decision, where possible, will be made before 7.00am and will appear on the school website and the city website.

Please ensure that school is kept up to date with any changes of address or telephone number. This is crucial for us to be able to contact a parent/carer especially in emergencies.

Parents have several channels through which to provide feedback to the school:

Parent Council

Annual Surveys

Parent Governors

Contact details can be found on the school website.

The school also welcomes feedback directly to the senior leadership team via the school office.

# Behaviour, Rewards & Attendance

## Classroom Behaviour Plan

The school classroom behaviour plan, which breaks down into four rules, is a statement about the ways in which we can maintain a constructive learning environment in our school. It recognises that good relationships support effective learning.

The rules state that successful pupils always:

Listen carefully and follow instructions.

Show consideration for others, their property and their views.

Arrive equipped and on time for lessons.

Communicate appropriately at all times.

This will allow teachers to teach and pupils to learn.

### Rewards

* Praise
* House point/mark. These are collected in their planners. A house mark is awarded for a special piece of work and is worth 5 house points. These are awarded at the end of each term.
* Headteacher certificates (pupils are also given a special sticker in their planner, a privilege pass and an item of stationery for every 40 house points)
* Comments in planners
* Silver Card
* Gold Card
* Privilege pass which is used when a child wants to be on first sitting.
* Non-uniform day, other than fundraising events, is also given.

### Consequences

If a pupil’s behaviour is disrupting their own or others’ learning despite a reminder and a warning:

1. A Yellow Card will be given. This is taken to the next 3 lessons where the member of staff writes a comment about the pupil’s behaviour for learning. If this behaviour meets expectation the card goes to the form tutor. If the behaviour for learning continues to be unacceptable a red card is issued.
2. A Red Card: this triggers Head of Year involvement and contact with home. In extreme cases, it may be necessary to by-pass the Yellow Card and go immediately to a Red Card

## Bullying

Bullying is the wilful, conscious desire to hurt, threaten or frighten someone and it will not be tolerated in this school. Everyone is expected to ensure it does not happen and everyone must report such behaviour. Pupils are encouraged to talk to any adult in school.

If pupils are being bullied, or see someone else being bullied, they must tell a member of staff. The school takes any form of bullying seriously. The way it is dealt with depends upon the individual circumstances, but it could involve talking to the bully, discussing the problem with both parties concerned, inviting parents into school and in extreme or persistent cases, a period of exclusion from school.

## Cyber Bullying

Cyber bullying is the use of ICT, particularly mobile phones, social networking sites and the internet, to upset or offend someone else. This can include using ICT to publish, share or distribute personal information on other people, sending offensive or hurtful messages or uploading text or images without the permission of those involved. This is not an exhaustive list.

As a school we do not tolerate the use of social networking as a vehicle for bullying. We would advise parents to monitor closely which sites are being accessed and the type of messages being sent.

In line with our behaviour policy, the school will use a range of responses in order to deal with each incident on an individual basis and will take into account the nature and/or severity of the incident. Whether this is a first-time offence or not will be taken into account. The response may be one or more of the following:

Parents/carers will be informed.

A temporary or permanent ban on internet/computer use in school.

Any incident involving racist or homophobic behaviour will be reported to the appropriate agency and logged on our internal system.

External agencies such as the police or social networking sites may be informed.

A fixed term or permanent exclusion may be given.

## Attendance

Good attendance is essential for students to maximise their learning and progress. The school operates a system where parents are asked to contact school on the first day of absence. The names of children who fail to attend registration are passed on to the office, who then contact parents and carers that same morning. This is a significant workload for office staff so prompt notification of absence if very helpful. This can be done by phone or email.

Parents should contact the head teacher if they feel they need to take their child out of school. Reasons why authorisation for absence is commonly sought include:

doctors/dentist appointments

music exams

special family events (weddings, funerals etc.)

difficulties in the home (compassionate leave after a bereavement)

religious events

planned sickness absence (operations etc.)

The **process for seeking authorisation** is the same for all and involves contacting the head teacher in advance of the intended absence period. Each case is dealt with on its merits and notified in writing to the parents. Parents are expected to keep absence to the minimum possible by for example trying to schedule doctor/dentist appointments outside of term or school hours. The school may issue passes for the child.

When a pupil’s attendance falls beneath 90%, members of the SLT will be involved which could lead to formal monitoring. Where attendance remains a concern and fails to improve, legal actions may be taken. Under new rules from the Department for Education, **school is not able to authorise absence for parents to take their child on holiday during term time.** Please refer to the attendance policy to be found on the website. Paper copies may be requested from the office.

Collecting children in the middle of the school day:

Children should be advised in advance when to present themselves to the school foyer ready for collection. If this is not possible (for example where a medical appointment was made after the child has already come to school) office staff will endeavour to contact the child to ensure they are brought to the foyer at the correct time for collection.

## Mobile Phones

Mobile phones may be brought into school but are the responsibility of the pupils. Phones must always be switched off on the school premises during the hours of 08.30 and 15.45 and kept in school bags in the form room. If a pupil is caught using their phone during school hours, it will be confiscated and placed in the school safe until a parent/carer is able to come into school to collect it. The School undertakes to notify parents as soon as the phone is confiscated if the child needs to contact the parent on route home.

MP3 players and other electrical equipment are not permitted in school.

## Clubs and Activities

At Gosforth Central Middle School we are fortunate that our staff are willing to give up their free time to facilitate and run a range of clubs and activities. This commitment is voluntary. Each term a list of activities is published on our website. The types of clubs offered change from year to year and term to term. Examples include netball, school newspaper club, basketball, football, wind band, drama & choir.

For activities organised before or after school, letters will be sent out to the parents of those pupils who have expressed an interest. Parents who opt to have letters sent by email will also receive a copy. All letters are published on our website. Letters will not be sent out for lunchtime activities, but these will also be published on our website. The club timetable is uploaded to the website every half term.

Activities taking place off site such as Gosforth pyramid concert rehearsals or athletics will be notified to parents by letter which includes asking parental permission as to whether their child needs to be escorted back to school after the event. Clubs cancelled at short notice are notified to parents by texting.

# Educational Trips

### Day Trips

The curriculum is enriched by day trips organised by the school, for which parental consent and a small contribution are occasionally sought. We try to keep the costs as low as possible by making great use of our proximity to local transport. Parents will be asked for a voluntary contribution to cover the costs, but no child will be stopped from going if it is part of their programme of study.

### Residential Trips

It is hoped that all pupils will have the opportunity to participate in a residential trip each year.

Payments are made by instalments, in some instances starting at the end of the summer term of the year before. The payment includes insurance. Information evenings for parents and carers are held for each trip. Where trips cannot accommodate all pupils there is a lottery system for allocation of places. Pupils unable to attend the first trip of the year have priority for the next trip for.

## Music instrumental tuition and opportunities for ensemble activities

Many pupils take the opportunity to learn a musical instrument whilst at GCMS. This is arranged through NEMCO, a cooperative of music tutors. Parents do have to pay for this service on a termly basis and the fees vary depending on group size. Tutors prepare the timetable for lessons on a rota basis to minimise the disruption to other lessons. Instruments currently available include drum kit, guitar, piano, strings, brass and woodwind.

If your child would like to undertake instrument lessons they should first speak with Mr Kurji-Smith, our Head of Music.

# Supporting the school

## Governing Body

The Governing Body for this school is made up of several types of governors.

The term of office of all governors is four years

Parent governors 6

Staff governors 2

Local Authority Governors 1

Head teacher (ex-officio) 1

Foundation Trust governors 2

Co-opted 9

The full governing body meet every half term to discuss papers produced by the local authority and receive reports from the head teacher, school achievement partner, governor committees, individual governors and members of the management team.

## Parent council

The parent council is a **consultative and advisory body**, which represent parents and is run by parents with the support of the school. The parent council is made up of representatives of parents from each class, representatives of the senior management team and a parent governor.

The purpose of Parent Council is to:

* give parents and carers a voice and increase their active involvement in decision making
* develop a partnership between the school and parents/carers in order to support and promote the pupils learning.

The parent council meets twice a term usually in the evening. The annual term of office runs from the Annual general meeting (AGM) in the second half of the autumn term. Class representatives are invited to come forward in the first 4 weeks of the autumn term.

The current co-chairs of parent council are Anna Gray and Karen Willis who are contactable by email ([agk94@hotmail.com](mailto:agk94@hotmail.com) or [kwillis111@icloud.com](mailto:kwillis111@icloud.com)).

## School council and other student roles

The school council consists of a class elected representative from each form in years 5, 6 and 7 and 2 in Year 8 who act as house captains. Elections are held annually in September. The school council meet monthly with the head teacher and other invited staff to discuss issues arising and seek pupils’ opinions.

Key Stage 3 pupils are invited to apply to be members of ‘The STORM Team’ (Student role models). Following a letter of application and an interview the successful candidates are then given training in mentoring/support. They can be seen in their bright yellow waistcoats assisting in the KS2 playground during break and lunchtime. Members of the STORM team will have lunch with any child who requests their company and will help pupils who struggle with friendships to socialise with others. Pupils can also take on other roles of responsibility including library monitor and classroom monitor.

# School Website

<https://www.gosforthcent.newcastle.sch.uk/>

# Key Dates 2020-2021 (some dates TBA or events TBC)

**September:**

Staff Training Day: Monday 7th September 2020

Start of School Year: Tuesday 8th September 2020

Year 5 & 7 Photographs: Wednesday 16th September 2020

Year 5 Coffee Afternoon (Macmillan) – Date TBC

**October:**

GCMS Open Evening (prospective parents) – Date TBC

Year 5 Parents Consultation Evening – Date TBC

Close for Half Term: Thursday 22nd October 2020

Staff Training Day: Friday 23rd October 2020

Pupils Return Monday 2nd November 2020

**December:**

Christmas Assemblies & Christmas Concert – Date TBC

Close for Christmas Holidays: Friday 18th December 2020

**January:**

Term starts: Monday 4th January 2021

Year 5/6 Parent Consultation Evenings – Date TBC

**February:**

Half Term, Friday 12th February 2021

Year 7 Parent Consultation Evenings

**March:**

Year 8 Parent Consultation Evenings – Date TBC

Year 7 Winmarleigh Hall Residential – Wednesday 17th – Friday 19th March 2021

**April:**

Close for Easter Holidays: Thursday 1st April 2021

Staff Training Day: Monday 19th April 2021

Term starts Tuesday 20th April 2021

Year 8 Lakeside Residential – Monday 26th to Wednesday 28th April 2021

**May:**

Bank Holiday: Monday 3rd May 2021

Year 6 SATs : Monday 10th May – Thursday 13th May 2021

Half Term: Friday 28th May 2021

**June:**

Term Starts: Monday 7th June 2021

Year 8 Arran Residential – Saturday 5th – Friday 11th June 2021

Year 6 Ford Castle Residential: Monday 28th – Wednesday 30th June 2021

**July:**

Year 4 & 8 Transition Days

New Intake Evening (Year 5 2021)

Sports Day

Year 8 Leavers Disco

Year 8 Awards Evening

Year 8 Trip to Lightwater Valley

Close for Summer Holidays Friday 23rd July 2021

**Provisional 2021-2022 return date: Monday 6th September 2021**

***Some dates given may change, exact dates will be given each term in the newsletter as well as published on the school website.***