

# Bridgend Association of Secondary Headteachers



September 11 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

The collective Bridgend Association of Secondary School Headteachers (BASH) would like to bring the following matter to your attention and ask for your support.

Firstly, we would like to thank **all** parents/carers who continue to support the work of their children's school and who work closely with us to ensure that the young people of Bridgend have the best educational experience at their chosen school. Your support is greatly appreciated and essential to ensuring excellent relations between home and school which will ultimately benefit your children. However, in the interest of transparency and clarity, we have decided to send this communication to all parents/carers of pupils in secondary school education in Bridgend.

Our staff go well above and beyond their contracted responsibilities to support our young people. We do this to ensure that our pupils have the best experiences and are happy, healthy, and successful young people who can make a valuable contribution to our community and to society in general.

## **Parents/carers can help their child(ren) succeed in school by:**

- Ensuring regular attendance and punctuality, dressed in correct uniform and with the correct equipment.
- Encouraging a positive attitude towards learning at home and at school. As the most important role model and influence in a young person's life, parents/carers have a crucial role in promoting a positive attitude to school. Pupils' attitudes to school are often influenced by parents'/carers' views about school at home.
- Refraining from contacting children via their mobile phone during the school day – teaching and learning should not be disturbed by parents/carers ringing their child during lesson time.
- Understanding that the school investigates all incidents thoroughly prior to issuing sanctions and that a child's version of events will be one version, but not the only version.
- Supporting the school when a young person's behaviour falls short of expectations. This includes supporting school detentions and collecting a young person who has been issued with a fixed term exclusion.

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- Making appointments to meet school staff where necessary. Please note that teachers and pastoral staff have teaching commitments and are not readily available during the day.
- Avoiding the temptation to turn up to reception without prior appointment. In case of a genuine emergency that requires attendance at school without prior appointment, please treat staff with respect and courtesy. Foul and abusive language and threatening or aggressive behaviour will not be tolerated
- Using the individual school's complaints procedures, where there are concerns or complaints, rather than social media. Writing or posting offensive, or defamatory comments about a school or an individual may be reported to the appropriate authorities. School staff will try to help solve problems that social media cannot.
- Reading all communication sent from the school.
- Respecting decisions made by governors, leaders, and staff. We fully understand that not all parents/carers will agree with decisions made, but please respect the fact that these decisions have been made after careful consideration and discussion and are made in the best interests of our pupils.
- Remembering that we are all trying to do our very best for the pupils at our school. Please acknowledge this and be kind and respectful.

Our 'Schools' are not just a building – they are made up of passionate, committed, enthusiastic and dedicated individuals. They serve the school's community well and give of their best so that our pupils can achieve their best.

Most parents/carers respect the need for consistency and encourage their children to behave responsibly. However, there are a **very few** pupils and parents/carers who do not treat our staff with courtesy, politeness, or respect and this is not acceptable. School staff can refuse to communicate with people who display rude, threatening or offensive attitudes or behaviours. Should we become sufficiently concerned about such behaviour, the person may be asked to leave the premises, and we will report extreme behaviour to the police.

We rely on our parents/carers to work with us to achieve genuine partnership. Please continue to communicate with us, to question us, challenge and give feedback to us - but do so through the appropriate channels and with kindness, courtesy, and respect.

We greatly appreciate the warm and constructive relationships we have with the vast majority of parents of pupils at our schools. We look forward to working in partnership with you, as we welcome your children back to school for a positive and productive new school year.

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Yours sincerely

A Howells – Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School

R Davies – Brynteg School

R Pawar – Bryntirion Comprehensive School

T Wellington – Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen

H Castle – Cynffig Comprehensive School

H Jones – Maesteg Comprehensive School

E Jones – Pencoed Comprehensive School

M Stephens – Porthcawl Comprehensive School

H Ridout – Ysgol Bryn Castell

M Jones - Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd

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