

PARENT/CARER/GUARDIAN

Handbook

Welcome from the Principal

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome to Wye School Transition Days. We are very excited to welcome you to your chosen secondary school.

We hope your child enjoys this chance to meet some of the team and find out more about coming to Wye School. We are committed to meeting our vision of a truly inclusive, comprehensive school in Kent that provides a challenging education for students of all abilities and backgrounds. We thank you for your support and look forward to working in partnership with you to help all our young learners realise their potential.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Luke Magee". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'L' and 'M'.

Luke Magee
Principal

Information for Parents/Carers

Term Dates 2020 – 2021

SEPTEMBER 2020 to JULY 2021			
Term 1	Thurs 3 Sept 2020 (Year 7 & 12 only) Fri 4 Sept 2020 (Years 7, 8, 9 & 12 only) Mon 7 Sept 2020 (All years)		Thurs 22 October 2020
Term 2	Monday 2 November 2020		Fri 18 December 2020
Term 3	Tuesday 5 January 2021		Thursday 11 February 2021
Term 4	Monday 22 February 2021		Thursday 1 April 2021
Term 5	Tuesday 20 April 2021		Friday 28 May 2021
Term 6	Monday 7 June 2021		Friday 16 July 2021

INSET days (staff training days) NO SCHOOL FOR PUPILS will be:			
Tuesday 1 September 2020		Monday 4 January 2021	Monday 19 July 2021
Wed 2 September 2020		Friday 12 February 2021	Tuesday 20 July 2021
Friday 23 October 2020		Monday 19 April 2021	Wednesday 21 July 2021

Please note there are temporary timings for the school day in place due to social distancing restrictions:

08:15 - 08:40	School Open
08:40	Start of compulsory day Registration and tutor time
09:10	Lesson 1
10:15	Lesson 2
11:20	Comfort break – (no catering services available)
11:30	Lesson 3
12:30	Lesson 4 and staggered lunches (Y7 to go 12.30-13:00)
12:30-14:00	Staggered lunches
14:00	Lesson 5
15:00	End of compulsory day
15:30 - 16:30	School open and Fixtures

Principal: Luke Magee

Wye School is part of United Learning. United Learning comprises: UCST (Registered in England No: 2780748. Charity No. 1016538) and ULT (Registered in England No. 4439859. An Exempt Charity). Companies limited by guarantee. VAT number 834 8515 12. Registered address: United Learning, Worldwide House, Thorpe Wood, Peterborough, PE3 6SB.

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Olantigh Road
Wye, Ashford
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t 01233 811110

e office@wyeschool.org.uk
www.wyeschool.org.uk

Communication

We see it as essential to maintain close links between home and the school throughout your child's education at Wye School. Do let us know, through your child's tutor or Head of Year, of any circumstances, however trivial, which may affect his/her ability to learn, so we can provide support as appropriate. Similarly, we are keen to celebrate all of our students' achievements, so do let us know of their successes outside of the school and any particular talents and skills they have demonstrated. These can earn Achievement Points through our reward system, for a whole range of activities such as sporting and musical success, community and fund-raising activities and success in competitions and events.

We report regularly over the year about student progress and also have face-to-face meetings with parents/carers. We pride ourselves on our close contact with parents/carers and how we work collaboratively to manage each child's needs. If you are worried about your child's progress in particular areas or in general, or about any other matter relating to your child, please make contact with your child's tutor or Head of Year. If either we or parents/carers have a particular concern, we have Moving Forward Meetings which are used to address and resolve these. It is important to point out that the move from primary school to secondary school can be a big change for parents/carers who are used to being able to speak to one teacher who knows their child well. In secondary school each child has multiple teachers and parents/carers can no longer just pop in and talk to one person. Please use the system instead, which goes tutor-head of year-assistant principal, for any communications. Please allow at least 48 hours for a reply before you contact again, as almost always the person you contacted will need to ask other staff before they can reply e.g. a tutor will need to ask the subject teacher or lunch duty staff.

We are not complacent and are always looking at ways to improve our performance, so do feel free to provide any feedback which will help us in this regard. We also conduct regular Student and Parents/Carers Voice surveys to support us in our self-evaluation and reflection.

Newsletter

A regular newsletter is sent to all parents/carers electronically, so correct email addresses are a must (hard copy on request) and is available also on the website.

Email Contact Details

In the interests of sustainability, most of our communication with parents/carers is electronic. It is essential that you provide us with an email address that is accessed regularly, as notices and newsletters are sent by email.

General Contact Details for Wye School

T 01233 811110

E office@wyeschool.org.uk

We will attempt to respond to any communication within 48 hours.

Wye School Uniform

Wye School uniform is smart and should be worn with pride. Whilst wearing uniform, students are representing the school. It signals very clearly that students have come to learn and to be part of Wye School community. The way in which students wear their uniform is one way in which the local community makes judgements about the school. The aim of the Uniform Policy is to create a shared understanding amongst staff, students, and parents/carers about the school's uniform.

School Uniform

A few key pieces* will need to be purchased through the official suppliers (Pages* - please see details below) but we have tried to ensure that other items can be bought anywhere, enabling parents/carers to consider high street alternatives which may be cheaper. All items of uniform should have names clearly labelled.

Students will wear the correct uniform in the proper way at all times, including journeys between home and school. Blazers must be worn between lessons, but can be removed in lessons with permission from the teacher. Students do not have to wear their blazers during break and lunch times. Parents/carers have the responsibility to send their children to school clean and tidy with correctly name labelled uniform.

Uniform A

Compulsory: Wye School blazer with braiding*; white shirt; school tie*; plain charcoal grey trousers; plain navy or black socks.

Optional: Plain, navy, V-necked jumper under blazer. Plain white vests/T-shirts can be worn under shirts.

Uniform B

Compulsory: Wye School blazer with braiding*; white blouse; Wye School kilt*, sold with a minimum length of 20"; plain charcoal grey trousers; plain navy or black socks/tights, or natural coloured tights in summer.

Optional: Plain, navy, V-necked jumper under blazer. White shirt and school tie* can be worn as an alternative to a white blouse. Plain charcoal, loose-fitting trousers can be worn as alternative to the Wye School kilt. They should be tailored, school trousers, straight-legged in style. Plain white vests/T-shirts can be worn under blouses.

Trousers made from material such as stretch, heavy cotton, black denim, jersey, linen etc. are not acceptable. Skin tight trousers, leggings and footless tights are not permitted.

Outer garments

Permitted: Outer garments should be plain in colour with no images or logos on them. Shoes should be plain black formal school shoes. Shoes should be plain in style and made of leather, or leather-look.

Not permitted: Cardigans, sweatshirts, hoodies, leather, leather-look, denim, sleeveless jackets. Also, boots, trainers and trainer-type shoes. These items will be confiscated regardless of weather.

Hair and accessories

Hair styles should be reasonable, appropriate and neat. Hair length should be at least a grade 3. Hairstyles must not be worn in a way that is covering the eyes. Extreme, unnatural hair colours or mixture of colours (including dipping and other forms of colouring) and any patterned, shaved hairstyles are not permitted. Hair bands and headscarves (permitted for religious reasons only) must be plain navy or black.

Make-up, where worn, must be minimal and discreet. Nail varnish must not be worn. We will ask that any excessive make-up or nail varnish is removed. Nail extensions and fake nails are not permitted as they pose health and safety risks.

Jewellery is not permitted. The only exception is small, plain, silver or gold ear studs, one per ear lobe. No other piercings on the ear, or elsewhere, are permitted. Please contact us if you wish your child to wear an item of jewellery for religious reasons.

School PE Kit

For PE lessons students must wear Wye School PE kit*.

Uniform

Compulsory: Wye School sports top*, shorts* or skort* (skirt with inbuilt shorts), white ankle socks and training shoes.

A Wye School sports hoody* is optional. Tracksuit bottoms, under layers or 'skins' may only be worn during outside lessons in the winter months.

Long, navy football socks, football boots and shin pads are required for football lessons.

A gum shield will be required if students are taking part in rugby or hockey during lunch time sessions.

For PE lessons students must wear Wye School PE kit*.

Health and Safety Advice

- The wearing of personally designed mouthguards is recommended as a valuable means of protection. Care should be taken to ensure they fit properly.
- Studded boots for football, hockey, and rugby in the winter terms; these can be plastic or metal studs.
- Students will need trainers or Astro-turf shoes for hockey
- All long hair must be tied back.
- All long hair must be tied back.
- All jewellery must be removed for PE and Games lessons.
- Inhaler- if used- must be brought to every lesson and fixtures.
- Diabetic testing kits should be used prior to and brought to every lesson and fixture. Students should make PE staff aware if they need to sit out to monitor their levels. They should do this in sight of the PE staff.

*These items of uniform are only available from our uniform supplier, Pages, www.pages-schoolwear.co.uk, Maidstone 01622 753900. For online orders, Pages offer free delivery to the school.

Ensuring Compliance

Inappropriate items of clothing or jewellery will be removed from the student and can be collected at the end of the school day. Repeat breaches of the rules by any student will be communicated to parents/carers.

Students not wearing full or correct uniform will be challenged and temporary loan stock issued where possible. Should a student refuse the request to change their uniform into an item being loaned from school stock, or refuse to remove any makeup/ or jewellery, this will be addressed as defiance and the student will be internally withdrawn from lessons.

Students may be asked to go home briefly to remedy a breach of the school rules on appearance or uniform. This should be no longer than is necessary to remedy the breach. This is not an exclusion but will be deemed an authorised absence. If neither of these options are possible, the student will be expected to work separately from other students. Parents/carers will always be contacted prior to a student being sent home to change. If the student continues to breach uniform rules in such a way as to be sent home to avoid school, or takes longer than is necessary to effect the change, the student's absence will be counted as unauthorised. If a student's disregard of uniform policy is persistent and defiant, this will be considered a behaviour issue and may lead to exclusion. Parents/carers will be asked to resolve any uniform issue promptly.

The Principal, or another member of the senior team in his absence, reserves the right to make a final decision with regards to uniform, jewellery or hairstyles deemed to be unacceptable.

Prior/during/after School

Students are expected to wear correct uniform on journeys to and from Wye School and throughout the school day. On entry to School, uniform will be checked by duty staff. Where incorrect items are being worn, students will be asked to go home to remedy the breach if this is possible. Alternatively, a uniform change will be made by an item being loaned from School stock in exchange for a deposit e.g. bus pass, mobile phone. All staff will check, challenge and correct uniform throughout the school day. Students are to leave school in their uniform (there may be some occasions when PE kit is worn after a sports club/fixture). On leaving school at the end of a day, uniform will be checked by duty staff.

Confiscated items

Confiscating students' property will happen if they use that equipment to break school rules.

Confiscated items will be labelled to include the student's name, year group, details of the item(s) confiscated, date and the name of the staff member who confiscated the item(s). The item will be held at Student Reception where it will be stored in a safe place.

Items can be collected by the student from Student Reception at the end of the school day. It is the students' responsibility to collect the item at the end of the school day. If the issue is serious enough for a longer period of confiscation, e.g. repeat offences, then parents/carers will be informed and will be requested to collect the item(s) from the School. Property will not be withheld for longer than a half term. At the end of a half term remaining items are handed back to the student. However, prohibited items will not be returned.

Exemptions

Wye School recognises that some students may have genuine grounds for requesting an exemption from part of this policy. In such cases contact should be made with the school.

If students or parents/carers are in doubt about an item of uniform, they should contact the school before doing so. This avoids unnecessary expense in buying items which are unacceptable. Any items purchased from Pages are compatible with our policy requirements. This is our preferred method for purchasing any uniform items.

Seasonal Variations

Winter coats and jackets should be plain in colour with no images or logos on them. Outdoor garments must be removed when indoors.

During the summer we may experience hot weather. During this time we decide on a daily basis if it is a 'non-blazer' day. Students are expected to continue to wear their blazer to school, as we have formal events during the day when their blazer must be worn.

During the Summer Term only: plain, charcoal grey, tailored shorts with black or navy socks are permitted in place of trousers for Uniform A.

School Trips

If students are participating in a school trip, the trip leader will state if uniform is to be worn or not. When uniform is worn on school trips it is worn to the same standards as it would be in school. If it is a non-uniform trip then the

clothing should be suitable and practical to the event being attended, without excessive make-up or jewellery. The presentation of students on school trips is one way the community makes judgements about Wye School.

Non-uniform Events

For any non-uniform events in Wye School, students are expected to wear sensible clothing; no offensive pictures/logos or outfits which display midriiffs or underwear should be worn. Students not meeting the criteria will be expected to wear an item from our loan stock or will be sent home to change. Non-uniform days to raise money for charity will be held on the last day of each term.

Basic Equipment

It is vital that each student comes to school every day with the basic equipment needed for learning. All students will need a pencil case containing the following items:

- Black, blue and green pens (a multi-pen can be purchased);
- Pencils, pencil sharpener and eraser;
- Ruler;
- Coloured pencils;
- Highlighter pens;
- Reading book;
- Art pack (available to purchase via sQuid in September).

Mathematics sets and calculators will be needed. Students need a scientific calculator and we recommend Casio FX83GT. Mathematics sets will need to include a ruler, protractor and compass. Pencil cases and calculators should be clearly marked with your child's name.

Stationery Shop

We have a small stationery shop at school where basic items like pens, pencils, rubbers and rulers can be bought at cost price.

All students are expected to bring a full sized bag to school each day with all of the books and equipment they need. Neither handbags nor mini-bags are acceptable. Bags can be of any style or design, as long as they are suitable for purpose and a school environment.

Homework

Homework may take the form of:

- A specific self-contained project, exercise, or task, based on previous class work
- Further examples of tasks undertaken in class and designed to reinforce what has been learned
- Completing work begun in class
- Reviewing, and, if appropriate, memorising what has been learned in class
- Follow-up work to assessment, ensuring that the student learns from errors
- An extended task or project, spanning several weeks
- Researching at home or in libraries using a variety of sources including ICT
- Revising and preparing for tests/examinations
- Internet app-based spelling tests, tests and activities including Hegarty Maths tasks

The school does not publish a prescriptive homework timetable. All homework is set with a reasonable deadline (it is not usually expected that students would have to hand in homework the next day, for example). Students are expected to develop their organisational skills by planning the completion of their homework tasks.

Years 7 – 9

Students in Years 7 – 9 are set one homework task per week in English, Languages, Maths and Science, and one homework task per fortnight in other subjects. The duration of each task is approximately 25 minutes in Year 7, 35 minutes in Year 8 and 45 minutes in Year 9.

Years 10 & 11

For core subjects at Key Stage 4, students complete a minimum of two hours homework per subject per week. For all other subjects the expectation is one hour per subject per week.

The setting and recording of homework activities

Teachers set homework through the online resource "Show My Homework" (SMHW) (<https://wyeschool.showmyhomework.co.uk>)

Teachers upload the details of the homework including the nature of the task, instruction for its' completion and the due date. The school will issue your SMHW log in details.

Student Groupings

Students are organised in many different ways in order to meet their academic and social needs. We use information from primary feeder schools to create:

- Tutor groups
- Ability groups for English, Mathematics, Sciences
- Mixed ability groups for other foundation subjects

Ability Sets for Core Subjects

On arrival at Wye School we consider KS2 test data and any information passed to us by previous schools to establish an initial loose setting system 1-5 for core subjects. Reading tests are conducted in the first term, as well as subject assessments. These are used to finalise ability groups and also identify highly able students and students who may need literacy /numeracy support. Groups are firmed up for Term 2 onwards with some changes likely.

We will also, as part of United Learning, be conducting standardised baseline tests in English and Mathematics at the start of the year and regular United Learning tests will follow throughout the year which will enable us to compare the progress of your child against thousands of others, using their KS2 scores as a baseline. Set changes can occur over time as assessment results come in.

Tutor Groups

We value the friendship bonds that our students bring from their feeder schools and we work with the people who know them well to group students so they can support each other during this transition. Where parents/carers have particular requests for their child to be with/not be with named children, they can notify us directly, with reasons for the request. Each tutor group will comprise students from our main feeder schools and students who may come from a school with few other children, which optimises their chances of forming friendships. The groups are mixed ability, as they are each part of a house group, and the houses compete regularly in a range of inter-house challenges. The Head of Year 7 oversees the tutor groups and is the main pastoral support for Year 7 students.

Houses

All tutor groups will belong to one of our three houses. These are named Crown, Stour and Olantigh. The house structure will offer opportunities for the year groups to mix vertically and develop house loyalty. A number of inter-house competitions and challenges take place during the year. Each house nominates a charity for which they will raise money for the academic year. Each tutor group has two house captains, chosen by their peers to represent the views of students at the School Council.

Additional Support for Students

All of our schemes of work are devised to allow us to differentiate for children of different abilities, even when children are in an ability set, as the needs of all learners vary. All children need additional support at some time and in some subject areas, and our staff are willing to offer individual support where it might be needed. At Wye School we have formal assessments three times a year in most subjects and six in some and we rigorously track and review progress, so we are well-placed to put additional support into place if we notice that there is a 'dip' in performance. Depending on the need, intervention will be provided by the subject teacher, tutor or the SEN department if appropriate.

There are students whom we consider 'vulnerable' either because of complex Special Educational Needs and Disability [SEND] needs or family circumstances. Other students may become vulnerable due to temporary mental health issues or other circumstances. These students will be offered a range of support, from in-house mentoring and support to external agency intervention. The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and Head of SEND will oversee this support.

Learning Support

Extra support is available for students with SEND. These students may have been identified in their primary school, in which case there will have been contact with our staff before your child starts Wye School. Some students will need an organised programme of support, which could include additional support within or out of the classroom and this provision will be overseen by our Head of Inclusion. The mapping of provision to meet needs will be done in coordination with parents/carers and students, and students will have a say in decisions about the support they will be given. Where appropriate, this provision will include input from external agencies and experts in particular learning needs.

Each SEND student will be tracked individually. All provision is recorded and the impact of this on their performance is reviewed at least termly. More details of how SEND provision is organised is in our SEND Policy.

We liaise with all feeder primary schools, in order to get a full academic and social profile of all of our students, but understand that some SEN students may be particularly vulnerable during transition. Our Head of SEND works with the feeder schools and other support workers in organising bespoke transition to meet these individuals' needs. Sometimes the files from primary school arrive after the student, so, if you feel there is an SEN need that we need to know from day one, please feel free to email details in so we can ensure the SEN department are aware.

Literacy and Numeracy Development

It is essential that all students develop strong skills in literacy and numeracy, in order to be successful in all areas of the curriculum. All subjects will actively promote these skills and, for students who are identified as needing support in these areas, we offer a range of interventions, from reading groups to literacy software packages to numeracy support groups. We prioritise in class support as removing students from lessons means they fall behind the rest of the class. All tutor groups take part in our DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) programme.

Higher Ability Students

We want all of our learners to be challenged and stretched. There are a number of students, particularly in set 1, but often set 2 as well, who have or could have passed the Kent Test as we are a comprehensive school for all abilities. We use KS2 and internal assessments to identify our higher ability students as well as input from parents/carers. The progress of this group of students is reviewed continuously. We believe that intelligence is not fixed and not always easy to identify, so we continuously review and reflect on our identification and intervention processes.

Wye School is committed to in-class approaches (Wave 1) which differentiate and challenge. The school has worked extensively on developing this practice. We believe our class-based focus has the benefit of being continuous and enables us to differentiate for and challenge individual students.

This approach to gifted and talented provision incorporates a range of strategies such as:

Higher level questioning;

- Opportunities for leadership and ownership of learning;
- Project or enquiry approaches to learning;
- Problem-solving and decision-making;
- Real-life briefs and topical focus;
- Recognition and promotion of originality and individuality.

To supplement this, we offer a range of co-curricular activities. Over the last few years this has included:

- Crest Science Award projects

- Mathematics Code-Breaking Club
- Entry to the national Foreign Language Spelling Bee
- Salters Chemistry Day at University of Kent
- The Wider World support group
- Entering national writing competitions
- Peripatetic music lessons
- Visit to WE Day and follow-up workshop
- Speakers Trust workshop
- Duke of Edinburgh's Award
- Combined Cadet Force

Anti-Bullying Policy

We know that children sometimes experience anxiety about going to 'big school' and meeting a lot of different children from many different primaries. There are many reasons why some children may be anxious at this time of transition about bullying as they are moving from a 'known' secure environment to a place of some uncertainty.

At Wye School we have a clear anti-bullying policy which identifies types of bullying behaviour and how we deal with instances. We make a clear distinction between bullying and falling out with friends or anti-social behaviours.

We tell all our students:

- a) Everyone has a right to be safe and feel safe.
- b) No one needs to 'put up' with being bullied.
- c) It is not your fault if you are bullied.
- d) Ask for help.
- e) Never give up – if the bullying does not stop, continue to get help and support.

Key to our anti bullying policy is our culture of trust where students feel able to tell us when incidents have occurred. Our Anti-Bullying Policy can be accessed on our website and also covers cyber-bullying via mobile phone or chat rooms or social networking sites. Many of these are not meant to be used by children under the age of 13 and this is useful for parents/carers to remember. We regularly offer advice and guidance to parents/carers on this and other e-safety matters, to help you safeguard your child. We do expect parents/carers to work in partnership with us and set boundaries at home regarding use and put in place the privacy and safeguarding measures we recommend.

The move from primary to secondary school coincides with puberty for most students and is a time when it is normal to explore social boundaries and to argue more with friends than when younger. Parents/carers can sometimes struggle to support their children with this normal social development and misidentify friendship issues as bullying. Part of our roles as a school and as parents/carers is to help our students/children reflect on social fall outs from both sides and to help them build resilience and resolve issues themselves. Tutors are the best people to support students with this from the school side.

Safeguarding, Care and Guidance

There are lots of issues which can cause anxiety for a student beginning a new school. If a student has a problem, their tutor should be the first person they go to. They will have an opportunity to see their tutor each day. Alternatively, they can seek help from their Head of Year if necessary. Students can see their tutor for a range of issues, such as:

- They need another copy of a letter/medical form;
- They feel unwell;
- They need to use the telephone in an emergency;
- They have lost their bus pass;
- They have any uniform issues;
- They have issues with homework;

- They have lost their timetable;
- They need to find or hand in lost property;
- They need to find the premises officer (caretaker);
- They need to find a member of staff.

If they cannot find their tutor they can go and ask reception for help.

School Meals and Payment

Our school meals are supplied by external caterers and are freshly cooked daily, with a choice of meat and vegetarian dishes daily, along with jacket potato and pasta options and a salad bar. We have a cashless payment system (sQuid) and operate this using the biometric system with which we register all children when they start. This system makes it easier for parents/carers to pay and to create anonymity for those having free school meals. This system also allows parents/carers to view details of what their child eats each day and they can set a daily limit on spending. We hope all of our students will take up the chance to have a healthy school meal which they can eat with their peers and staff.

This payment system is also used for all school trips and activities so it is essential that everyone is registered even if their child has packed lunches.

Transport Arrangements

Wherever possible we want our students to become independent and to travel to school on foot or by public transport. You can buy a 'Young Person's Travel Pass' which allows students in Years 7 – 11 unlimited weekday travel between 0:00 & 19:00 at a cost for a year, with reductions for those who have free school meals and free for Young Carer and Looked after Children. To apply for a 'Young Person's Travel Pass', please go to <http://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/school-transport/young-persons-travel-pass> - The train timetable is also suitable to serve the school, but the Freedom Pass does not cover travel by train.

There are suitable bus services from the Canterbury direction morning and evening. In addition, Kent County Council have organised with local bus companies dedicated school bus services to and from places in the Ashford area and this serves many of our students. The pass can be used on this bus service.

Students who live outside Wye and have Wye School as their closest secondary school may be entitled to free transport provided by Kent County Council. Guidance can be downloaded from the following link: www.kent.gov.uk/schooltransport - You can either apply directly online or by completing the T1 which can be downloaded from the same link.

We are very conscious of both the environment and the already congested road system in Wye and we would ask you to avoid driving your children to school if at all possible. If travel by car is essential, please consider sharing journeys with others and dropping/collecting children at the edge of the village rather than driving through the middle.

Wye School has no say in bus routes or whether or not the council will fund your bus or allow your child a place on their buses. Any school transport queries are best addressed to Kent County Council directly.

Attendance and Illness: A Brief Guide

1. When does my child need to be in school?

Your child should be in school at 8.35am (at the latest) in time for registration, which will take place at 8.40am.

2. What happens if my child is late?

If your child is late, s/he should go to Reception where s/he will be registered. If you know your child is going to be late, please contact the school in advance so we are aware. Unless there are exceptional circumstances, lateness will result in a late detention at lunchtime for ½ hour the same day.

3. Does the school need letters explaining my child's absence or will a phone call do?

We would expect a parents/carers to telephone on 01233 811 119 or email the school on the morning of every day of absence to attendance@wyeschool.org.uk If you do not phone us, we will contact you to enquire about the absence. We would be grateful if medical evidence could be provided for appointments.

4. What reasons will the school accept for absence?

- Illness
- Emergency dental/medical appointments (make routine appointments after school or during the holidays)
- Day of religious observance
- Family bereavement
- Attending an interview for a job, college, university

Except in cases of illness, you should ask for permission for your child to miss school well in advance, giving full details. In cases of recurring absences for illness you may be asked to produce medical evidence.

You will be aware that the law regarding leave of absence in term time was tightened considerably in September 2015, and this has led to a huge increase nationally in fines from the local authority for unauthorised absence. Please note that, in accordance with this, Wye School will only grant permission for absence under exceptional circumstances and never when the absence would make your child's attendance figure fall below 90%, making him/her a persistent absentee.

Illness during the School Day

If a student feels unwell during the day, he/she will be taken or sent to Reception and seen by a qualified first aider. The student may be placed in our medical room and monitored. The school will take a view on whether the student is well enough to return to lessons or should go home. *Parents/carers must ensure that we have up to date emergency telephone numbers* on which they or another responsible adult can be contacted. Any accident or emergency will be dealt with by an appointed first aider in the customary way. If an ambulance is needed, every effort will be made to contact parents/carers immediately but, failing this, a first aider or member of staff will accompany the student.

If your child needs to take prescription medication regularly or when he/she experiences symptoms of an illness, please ask us for an administration of medicines form. The completed form, the clearly labelled medication and instructions on how and when the medication should be administered can then be left with Reception.

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL MEDICATION BE GIVEN WITHOUT THE AUTHORITY OF THE PARENTS/CARERS.

Students are allowed to carry over the counter products such as paracetamol and throat lozenges themselves and can self-medicate if you are happy for them to do so.

Please see our Supporting Students with Medical Conditions Policy on our website.

Mobile phone use is not allowed during the school day and this includes students calling parents if they feel unwell. We would ask parents not to respond to such calls or texts by coming to school but instead to let reception know who will assess the health of the student and let parents know if they need picking up.

How to get more involved with Wye School

If you wish to get more involved in the life of Wye School, there are a number of ways you can do so:

Wye School PTA

This group meets at least three times a year, with a mission statement of enhancing the experiences of children at Wye School. They play a key role in organising events and fundraising.

Fundraising

We have already established a fine tradition of raising money for charity and we are very grateful to parents/carers who help out by baking or sourcing prizes.

Parental/Carer Feedback

Parents/carers are at the heart of Wye School as it is because of them that the school exists. Our approach to engagement is founded on our desire for inclusion. We want all parents/carers to have the opportunity to contribute positively to the future success of the school. Please feel free to let us know when things go well, or not so well, from your point of view as feedback is always noted and useful for us

Wye School Home-School Agreement

By enrolling your son/daughter at Wye School, you are agreeing to:

As a parent I will:

- Support Wye School's behaviour policy and system.
- Be responsible for my child's behaviour in and outside of school.
- Work with the school to support my child.
- Ensure my child comes to school with the correct uniform and equipment for learning.
- Treat all members of the school community with tolerance, understanding and respect in any written or verbal communications.
- Contact my child's Form Tutor/ Head of Year whenever necessary (e.g. any worries, change of address etc.).
- Attending parents' evenings and information evenings.
- Ensure my child attends school regularly and punctually.
- Email or telephone school as soon as possible before school starts on each day of absence.
- Not take my child on holidays in school term time.

As a student I will:

- Try my hardest to achieve the best I can at everything I do in order to fulfil my potential.
- Be kind and thoughtful towards other students and staff every day.
- Be honest.
- Try new things.
- Have good attendance and pay attention in my lessons.
- Take on board the advice given to me about my work to help me improve.
- Be polite and respectful to other people in school and in the community.
- Wear my uniform with pride and represent my school positively.
- Always follow the requests of a teacher or other member of staff in any educational context whether on the school site or on a school external activity.
- Behave well at all times and not act in any way which will distract others from learning.
- Always arrive on time to school, lessons and assemblies.
- Come to lessons with the correct equipment.
- Remain on the school site as required.

Wye School Internet and Email Use Agreement

(Note: All Internet and email activity is subject to monitoring)

The Internet in school is a vital part of the education of your son/daughter. Our school makes extensive use of the Internet to enhance their learning and provide facilities for research, collaboration and communication.

You will be aware that the Internet is host to a great many illegal and inappropriate websites, and as such we will ensure as far as possible that your child is unable to access such sites. We can do this using advanced software known as an Internet filter. This filter categorizes websites in accordance with their content; the school allows or denies these categories dependent upon the age of the child.

The software also allows us to monitor Internet use; the Internet filter keeps logs of which user has accessed what Internet sites, and when. Security and safeguarding of your child are of the utmost importance in our school; in order to ensure that there have been no attempts of inappropriate Internet activity we may occasionally monitor these logs. If we believe there has been questionable activity involving your child, we will inform you of the circumstances.

At the beginning of each school year we explain the importance of internet filtering to your child. Furthermore, we explain that there has to be a balance of privacy and safety; we also inform them that we can monitor their activity. All children are given the opportunity to ask questions and give their viewpoint.

By enrolling your son/daughter at Wye School, you are agreeing that:

I have read the above and understand that my child's Internet access could be monitored to ensure that there is no illegal or inappropriate activity by any user of the school network. I acknowledge that this has been explained to my child and that he/she has had the opportunity to voice their opinion, and to ask questions.

As a student I will:

- . I Promise – to only use the school ICT for schoolwork that the teacher has asked me to do.
- . I Promise – not to look for or show other people things that may be upsetting.
- . I Promise – to show respect for the work that other people have done.
- . I will not – use other people's work or pictures without permission to do so.
- . I will not – damage the ICT equipment; if I accidentally damage something, I will tell my teacher.
- . I will not – share my password with anybody. If I forget my password, I will let my teacher know.
- . I will not – use other people's usernames or passwords.
- . I will not – share personal information online with anyone.
- . I will not – download anything from the Internet unless my teacher has asked me to.
- . I will – let my teacher know if anybody asks me for personal information.
- . I will – let my teacher know if anybody says or does anything to me that is hurtful or upsets me.
- . I will – be respectful to everybody online; I will treat everybody the way that I want to be treated.
- . I understand – that some people on the Internet are not who they say they are, and some people can be unpleasant. I will tell my teacher if I am ever concerned in school, or my parents if I am at home.
- . I understand – if I break the rules in this charter there will be consequences of my actions and my parents will be told.