



Mather Street Primary School

Mather Street, Failsworth, M35 0DT

Tel: 0161 219 1051

info@matherstreet.oldham.sch.uk

Executive Head: Mr D Moore

Head of School: Mrs S Brown

At Mather Street Primary School, we try our best in everything we do. We are proud of all the children that work hard and put 100% effort into all their lessons; this is reflected in the progress our pupils make.

In addition to the children's academic achievements, we strive to develop important life skills. These include taking a pride in their appearance by adhering to our school uniform policy; coming to school every day and being on time; looking after themselves by eating healthily, drinking plenty of water and brushing their teeth; and following our School Standards.

Here are some reminders to help you and your children understand what our expectations are. If you have any worries or are struggling, please contact school and we will see what we can do to help.

Uniform

We want our children to look smart and feel proud of being a pupil at Mather Street. It is the policy of the school that all children wear school uniform; it is simple, practical and inexpensive.

The full uniform consists of:

- Royal blue sweatshirt/cardigan with the appropriate logo on
- White polo shirt
- Grey/black trousers or skirt/pinafore (tracksuit bottoms are not permitted)
- Plain black low-heeled sensible footwear
- Plain socks or tights (only school socks are allowed – socks with ruffles are **not** permitted)

During the summer months/warmer weather, children can wear summer dresses or dark shorts and a polo shirt/white t shirt.

All uniform should have the child's name on it.

We have clean, undamaged, pre-loved uniform available from our 'bargain box'. Please ask a member of the office staff for more information.

PE Kits

School provides all children with a t-shirt and shorts for PE lessons.

Trainers or pumps are required for PE lessons.

Hair should be tied back for safety reasons during PE lessons.

General Guidelines

- Analogue or digital watches may be worn. Smart watches are not allowed.
- Make up, false tan, false eyelashes and false and or painted nails are not allowed in school.
- Jewellery should not be worn except for small, plain studs if children have pierced ears. If earrings cannot be removed, they should be covered with micropore tape during PE lessons.
- All children require a coat in school when the weather is changeable, cold or wet.
- On hot sunny days children should be protected from the sun when outdoors by wearing a hat or cap and wearing an appropriate SPF sunscreen that has been applied at home, or that they have brought to school to apply themselves.
- Long hair should be fastened back with a simple bobble or headband. Oversized bows are not allowed.

Attendance

The new guidelines from the DfE – ‘Working Together to Improve Attendance’ – are now statutory. This means that where parents decide to have their child registered at school, they have an additional legal duty to ensure their child attends that school regularly. This means their child must attend every day that the school is open, except in a small number of allowable circumstances such as being too ill to attend or being given permission for an absence in advance from the school.

What YOU must do:

- If you are not sure whether your child is well enough to attend school, send them in anyway as they often perk up on arrival – if there is a problem, school will contact you.
- Contact school via the StudyBugs App, telephone, text or e mail before 8:30am each day of your child’s absence.
- Tell the school in advance of any medical appointments and bring in evidence of the appointment such as letters or text messages.
- Have a backup plan in case there are problems with transport.

If you and your child are experiencing difficulties with school attendance, then talk to us as a first step so that we can help.

What school will do:

- Check your child’s attendance every day.
- Phone home to discuss your child’s attendance with you.
- Invite you into school for attendance meetings if we are concerned.
- If we cannot establish a reason for absence, then we may make a welfare home visit.
- If we still have concerns, then we may request a welfare check from the police or children’s services.

Punctuality

We expect the children to be in class, ready to learn by 8:50am every morning. Children enter school by the identified entrance nearest to their classroom.

We are aware that mornings can be difficult for some families, and we are keen to help you get your children to school every day on time. If you and your child are experiencing difficulties with punctuality, then talk to us as a first step so that we can help. You may need to consider what you can do to avoid this happening. For example, getting uniform and school bags ready the night before; getting up a few minutes earlier or leaving home earlier.

When children are late for school, they must enter school via the main entrance. **Parents** must sign their children in on the Inventory screen in the entrance hall stating the reason for lateness. If parents do not sign their child in, they will be contacted by a member of the school’s attendance team.

End of the day

Children should be collected by a responsible adult promptly at 3:20pm from the nearest point to their classroom. Collection points are the EYFS gate, the KS1 playground, the KS2 doors or the KS2 playground. Where families have children in different classes, we advise that parents collect the youngest child first. Please let school know if someone other than the usual carer is going to collect the children.

In the case of an emergency, please let the school office know if you are going to be late collecting a child.

Children should stay in school until the end of the day, except in a small number of allowable circumstances such as being too ill to stay in school or being given permission for an absence in advance from the school.

Lunchtimes

The school's kitchen staff have to adhere to the Government School Food Standards which have been in place since 2015. These standards ensure that children are offered healthy, nutritious meals – in many cases, at no cost to parents. The children are given a choice of meals each day. Parents need to select the meals for their children via the Orion online platform.

The School Food Standards state for example that

- One or more portions of vegetables are to be on the menu every day
- There is an emphasis on wholegrain foods in place of refined carbohydrates (e.g., brown bread instead of white)
- No more than two portions of pastry products are to be served each week
- One or more portions of fruit are to be on the menu every day
- Drinking water is made available

Packed lunches

Unfortunately, there are no such standards for packed lunches. A recent survey found that only 1 in 100 packed lunches would meet the School Food Standards. Packed lunches can contribute to almost a third of a child's weekly food intake, therefore, we want to encourage healthy packed lunches for those children who bring them into school.

This guidance has been designed to help you provide a healthy and nutritious packed lunch for your child.

Things to include in a packed lunch

Packed lunches do not have to be boring or bland!

With a little thought and imagination, they can be healthy, tasty and fun too!

Try to base the contents around the main food groups as shown on the 'Eat Well' chart.



Make sure your child's packed lunch contains:

- 1) A portion of bread (or similar), rice, potatoes or pasta.
- 2) Plenty of fruit and vegetables
- 3) A portion of dairy or a calcium-rich alternative
- 4) Some protein in the form of beans, pulses, fish, egg, meat (meat must **not** contain bones)
- 5) A healthy drink (fizzy drinks are **not** allowed)

Please note – Take away meals such as chicken nuggets and chips are **not** allowed.

Water bottles

It is recommended that children of primary school age should drink at least one litre of fluids a day; this equates to approximately 6-8 glasses. Drinking water improves memory and attention, helps children maintain a healthy weight, reduces the risk for some chronic diseases, such as type 2 diabetes and heart disease, and helps prevent dental cavities. At school, we encourage the children to drink water throughout the day. Since Covid, most of the children bring their own water bottle to school so that they can access water easily. If children do not have their own bottle, we have cups available in all the shared areas for them to use. In KS2, the bottle needs to fit in the chair bag sacks that we use. As the children drink water in class, it has to be clear so that it does not spoil their work if it is accidentally spilt.

Teeth brushing

The children in Early Years and KS1 are provided with a drink of milk each day as it contains a wide range of vitamins and minerals, including calcium. This will help young children build bones and keep teeth healthy. In addition, the children in Early Years are taught how to brush their teeth properly to develop good habits and help avoid tooth decay. It is extremely important that all children brush their teeth at least twice a day and visit the dentist regularly.

Please keep this document as a point of reference.

We will be reminding the children about our expectations on a regular basis. We will acknowledge the children that are doing the right thing and contact parents where we have concerns.

If you have any worries at all about any of the points raised above, please do not hesitate to contact school as we are here to help.

Useful information

Further information can be found on the school's website – www.matherstreet.oldham.sch.uk

Keep up to date with school activities via the school's Instagram account – [matherstreetprimaryschool2020](https://www.instagram.com/matherstreetprimaryschool2020)

Studybugs – download the app and register – <https://studybugs.com/about/parents>

DfE attendance guidance

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/back-into-school/resources-for-families/>