

26 January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

RE: School Toilets

It has been reported that some **inaccurate information** is being circulated about school toilets. Let me address each concern individually because I understand why you would be concerned by this false information:

- **Cameras in toilets.** There are no cameras in toilets as this would be a serious safeguarding concern for obvious reasons. There are cameras looking into the communal areas near the hand washing and toilet doors (see above). This has been the case since the Academy opened and is for safety reasons because if there is an incident we can easily check the cameras.
- **Staff do not open doors when children are using the toilet appropriately.** We do warn students who attempt to hide in the toilets that we can open them if necessary if they don't come out and be where they should be.
- **Students' access to toilets.** This is a basic human right and every student has access to toilets at all times. We prefer they use the toilet every hour if necessary between lessons but if there is a genuine emergency children are able to exit the classroom to use the toilet.
- **There are reports of students not being able to find an open toilet.** This is not the case. I assure you there are always open toilets. What has happened on 2-3 occasions is that a few students have misused the toilet area as a social space and been found in groups inside a single cubicle. This is unacceptable and we are closely monitoring and taking appropriate action if groups are in toilets preventing students from using them.
- **Staff talking about students on radios and discussing personal information.** This does not happen. Personal information is not shared on the communication radios but to share requests and check on whereabouts of students.
- **There are regular checks now on the toilet areas to make sure they are being used appropriately and by individual students only.**



I hope this helps to alleviate your concerns but do please contact me directly if you have specific issues.

Warmest wishes,



Catherine Davies
Executive Principal
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