



## FAQs for parents and carers

You will find the answers to some frequently answered questions from parents and carers of pupils joining Penair in Year 7 September 2023. Here is a list of questions. Please click on the question to be taken to the answer.

- [How can I contact my child during the school day?](#)
- [What should I do if I need to report my child's absence?](#)
- [How do I support my child with the transition from primary to secondary school?](#)
- [What contact will I have with Penair when my child starts?](#)
- [How do I pay for my child's school dinners?](#)
- [How is the school day made up? Where does my child need to be & at what time?](#)

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### HOW CAN I CONTACT MY CHILD DURING THE SCHOOL DAY?

If you need to speak with your child urgently you should ring the school office and not your child. If your child needs to speak to you, they should speak to a member of staff and not ring you directly. We will support them in making this contact with you. Students do not need to have a mobile phone - if they need to access the internet in lessons, we have ample computers for this purpose. There is no expectation that students should have a mobile phone to use in class. The school operates a strict 'no mobile phone policy' in that we do not allow pupils to use a mobile phone on the school site. As is the case with all personal belongings, Penair accepts no responsibility for the loss, theft or damage to any personal property.

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### WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I NEED TO REPORT MY CHILD'S ABSENCE?

We advise all parents to download the 'Studybugs app'. This is to be used to inform us only of any absence for your child, but it is not a general communication platform. For all matters relating to attendance, behaviour, welfare/personal development please contact your child's form tutor. If your query relates to a subject, then please e-mail the class teacher direct.

- <https://studybugs.com/about/parents>

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## **HOW DO I SUPPORT MY CHILD WITH THE TRANSITION FROM PRIMARY TO SECONDARY SCHOOL?**

The transition from primary school to secondary school is a big one for all children. Your children may not know many other children starting at Penair apart from those who attended their previous school. This is not at all uncommon. With over 20 primary schools sending students to Penair school this year, there will be many children who do not know a lot of other pupils. The induction day in July and the first day of term in September are both designed to support the process of your child getting to know other children in their tutor group where they'll be making new friendships as the weeks and months progress. Pupils feel much better about making friends once they have met the others in their tutor group. If they do struggle to make friends, please do let their Form tutor know and we'll support them. Please discuss these points with your child. If your child is lucky enough to be coming with a close friend or a group of friends from primary school, encourage them to look out for those who don't know anyone and to make the first move to approach them.

### **Academic Challenge**

At primary school, your child may have found the work easy, or they may have experienced challenges with the work that was presented to them. At Penair we aim to present your child with challenge in their work that they are given, regardless of their ability. However, how your child responds to the challenge will determine the progress that they make. Please discuss the level of academic challenge with your child ahead of starting at Penair. We intend to share with pupils and parents 'knowledge organisers' for each subject area so that you can support your child at home in their learning journey where you will be able to access the content of work that is being studied. There is also a careful balance to be struck in children 'finding what is right for them' in terms of either working too hard and spending far too long on homework or conversely, not spending enough time in reinforcing the work that they have been given during their lessons. In either case, if you notice these changes, please contact your child's form tutor for advice and support.

## **Travelling to School**

If your child is going to catch a bus to school, help them to plan what time they will need to wake to get to the bus stop on time. Put a back-up plan into place in case they miss the bus.

## **Routine**

Your child will be very tired at first when they start at Penair. They may well be getting up much earlier than usual and their brain will be working very hard. Please put into an early enough bedtime routine to enable them to get plenty of sleep. This will ensure they feel happy in themselves and will have the ability to learn. We advise at least 9 or 10 hours sleep a night. Many Year 7 students are tucked up in bed by 8pm or 8.30pm, which may seem early, but a good sleep is vital to enable children to function well in their learning. As your children will be learning so much, and growing up rapidly their sleep requirements are higher at this age than you would think.

Ahead of starting at Penair it would be good to discuss and develop a routine with your child for completing homework as soon as your child arrives home from school then packing their bag ready for the next day before relaxing for the evening. All homework should aim to be completed the day that it is set. If homework isn't set, then there is always reinforcement of learning by reading around the topic that is being studied. Please assist your child with this by checking their homework record in ClassCharts – you will receive your own log in details for this when your child starts with us in September. This platform will also provide you with feedback on your child's behaviour.

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## **WHAT CONTACT WILL I HAVE WITH PENAIR WHEN MY CHILD STARTS?**

At Penair we believe that to ensure that pupils make the most of their talents and abilities then we must work closely together with parents and carers in a partnership. We know that children of involved parents/carers are absent less frequently (our minimum school attendance target is 96% which equates to 7 missed days in one academic year), behave better and perform better academically. Secondary school is different from Primary school in that you may miss the day-to-day contact at the 'school gates' (and your child may not necessarily want you to meet them at the school gates at the end of the day.....), however there are various points of contact in school to keep you up to date.

ClassCharts is valuable in terms of seeing what lessons your child has each day and any homework they may have. Your child will be given a small planner to help them write brief notes and reminders. The school social media feeds as well as the school website are key areas from which parents can obtain information about the school. The Studybugs app is also the main way in which we share messages and letters with parents/carers.

You will receive feedback during the year about your child's progress in their subjects. You will be invited to a meeting in the autumn term to meet with your child's form tutor for feedback on how your child has settled into Penair. Later in the academic year you will have the opportunity to book an online appointment with some of your child's subject teachers during a virtual parents' evening.

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### **HOW DO I PAY FOR MY CHILD'S SCHOOL DINNERS?**

The school operates a cashless system and uses ScoPay. Any purchases need to be made using ScoPay whether this be for school dinners, school trips, etc. When your child starts with us in September, they will have details given to them about purchasing food from the canteen. We'll need your support here so our Finance team will send you a letter to guide you in setting-up your ScoPay account.

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### **HOW IS THE SCHOOL DAY MADE UP? WHERE DOES MY CHILD NEED TO BE & AT WHAT TIME?**

Punctuality is particularly important, especially at the beginning of the day and at the start of lessons, so that all the day's activities may progress in an orderly manner. Pupils must arrive in school and go straight to the Astro-turf pitch (they can go to breakfast club should they wish). They will be dismissed from the Astro-turf pitch so that they are at their form rooms by 8.30am which is when the legal registration takes place. If the weather is inclement then they will be informed to go straight to their form room. If your child arrives at their registration after 8.35am then they will be marked as late. The school day finishes at 3.00pm. If a student is ever late to school, they must sign in at student enquiries with a reason for being late. Detentions are issued for lateness to school or lessons. You will have already been provided with details about the timing of the school day.

School day timings - <https://tinyurl.com/54xejvwb>

School calendar - <https://tinyurl.com/bd3kd2wc>