



William Ford C of E Junior School | Ford Road | Dagenham | RM10 9JS

Tel: 0208 270 6582 | Email: Office@Williamfordschool.co.uk

Headteacher: Mr David Huntingford

Tuesday 17 June 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Reminder about school rules

At William Ford, we always try to be understanding and fair. There are many things we are not strict about compared to other schools. For example, we do not have a strict uniform policy because we know some families are finding things hard financially. We also do not have strict rules about hairstyles because we respect the different cultures in our school and want children to be free to express their personalities.

However, we do have some simple rules that must be followed. We know some parents may not have been aware of them, but we are also aware that a few parents are sadly encouraging their children to break these rules. This is not acceptable and can lead to further problems.

The first rule is that **all mobile phones must be handed in to a teacher when a child arrives at school**. Phones should never be kept in bags or pockets during the day. If a child is found with their phone, it will be taken away and a parent will need to come and collect it. If this happens again, the child will no longer be allowed to bring a phone to school. If a phone is brought in after that, it will be kept by the school for a full week.

The reason for this rule is simple. Phones are much less likely to be stolen or misused if they are handed in. At William Ford, and in other schools I have worked in, there have been serious problems with children using phones to take photos of other children, for example in the toilets, or without their permission. This has led to very serious consequences for those involved. We never want that to happen.

The second rule is about drinks. **Children may only have water in their bottles during class**. Water is the best drink to help them stay hydrated and focused. It contains no sugar, it makes less mess if spilled, and it can be easily refilled. Some parents have asked if squash could be allowed instead, but the answer is no unless this has been agreed with our SENDCo because of a medical need or additional need such as diabetes or the need for dietary supplements. If we allow squash, it opens the door for requests for all kinds of drinks which could cause confusion and inconsistency. If other drinks are found, they will be replaced with water.

We are asking for your support. When children see their families supporting the school, even if they don't agree with every rule, they are far more likely to succeed. When children are encouraged to break rules at primary school, it often leads to much bigger problems at secondary school, where the consequences can be very serious. Both of these are very common and simple rules implemented by most schools.

Children do not need to like every rule, but they do need to learn how to follow them. It is a vital part of growing up. Research shows that children do better in school, both in learning and behaviour, when home and school work together.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. David Huntingford
Headteacher