



Dear Parent/Carer,

Firstly, thank you for the warm welcome I have received since joining our school as Principal.

I have now been at the school long enough to establish our priorities for the coming year, as well as embark on a longer-term journey for leading our school to being Outstanding. -

To ensure pupils and you, our parents, understand our plans, it is important to provide context. This includes explaining what we will do, why we are doing it, and how we will achieve it.

Context which requires us to make changes

Currently, only 25% of pupils are leaving the school with basic English and mathematics qualifications at Grades 5 and above (therefore 75% are not). These place our school in the bottom percentile of schools nationally for outcomes.

Only 3% of our pupils achieve Grade 5 and above in the English Baccalaureate (which includes English language, English literature, mathematics, double science or biology, chemistry and physics, history or geography and a language). This, again, puts us in the bottom percentile of schools nationally for outcomes.

Our progress measure is well below national average at -0.79 (meaning each pupil, on average, achieves almost 1 grade less than other pupils of similar ability nationally across their top 8 subjects).

Our school attendance is, on average, hovering around 88% placing us in the bottom percentile nationally for attendance.

This highlights that there is a problem.

Over the coming weeks, I will communicate what we will be focusing on in order to build the school culture.

My first pupil voice across all year groups has highlighted that my youngest, most vulnerable, anxious pupils often feel stressed during transitions across school. Gateacre is an inclusive school and to live by that, we must act upon this pupil voice.



So, this week the focus will go back to where Gateacre has had it in the past, which will be for all pupils to move 'quickly & quietly' in between lessons, and to lessons from break and lunch times. This means pupils:

1. Travel by the most direct route to their lesson
2. Walk on the left-hand side
3. Do not wait for peers
4. Make no physical contact
5. Keep noise levels low

Staff will highlight to children why this routine is important and will reinforce this each day and everyday until this becomes an automatic process.

Our best days are ahead. Together we are strong.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. N. Jamil

Principal