

# Stranraer Academy

McMasters Road  
STRANRAER  
Wigtownshire  
DG9 8BY



Head Teacher  
Mr Jamie Farquhar

Ref: JF/lj

22<sup>nd</sup> November 2024

Any enquiries please contact

**Mr J Farquhar**

Telephone: 01776 706484  
e-mail: gw08officestranraer@glow.sch.uk

Dear S1 Parent / Carer

It is with regret that I write to you today to inform you of the unacceptable behaviour of too many of our S1 pupils. I hope my response, detailed below, demonstrates how seriously we take unacceptable behaviour at Stranraer Academy, it simply will not be tolerated.

The culture at Stranraer Academy is one we are proud of. Almost all of our pupils are respectful, kind and safe. More than that, they are fun and inspiring young people. Like any large school, we have incidents of poor behaviour, but these are usually quickly resolved.

Many pupils in our current S1 however, seem unable to meet our expectations or to improve their behaviour when challenged. I have met with the S1 year group through assemblies and spoken to classes and individuals, over the last two weeks; providing ample support, clarity of expectation and time for improvement.

At Stranraer Academy 'Merits' are awarded by teachers when pupils exhibit positive behaviour. 'Demerits' are issued for low level, disruptive behaviour; with 'Referrals' logged for serious incidents of misbehaviour.

Each pupil in S1 has been given a behaviour summary to take home. If your child has received no Demerits or Referrals – around half the year group - then please congratulate them. I have already expressed my pride in their maturity and conduct. You should be proud that your child is adhering to our values and is a credit to the school.

Your child may have received a few (5 or less) Demerits. Please discuss this with them and encourage a real effort to improve and avoid any further poor behaviours and sanctions.

If your child has received more than 5 Demerits and/or any Referrals, then I respectfully inform you that their behaviour is not acceptable and must improve immediately.

From Monday 25 November any S1 pupil receiving a Demerit or Referral will serve an after-school detention with me until 4.20pm - Parents will be notified by Groupcall Text Message.

I hope you will understand that there can be no exceptions to this approach. Pupils can avoid any inconvenience, missed appointments etc. by simply behaving appropriately like our other pupils.

I have explained my expectations to pupils before and have done so again today.

To help parents in their conversations with pupils please see below from our Behaviour and Ethos Policy - Stranraer Academy

Stranraer Academy's Values are:

Aim High, Work Hard, Be Kind

Please see below, taken from our Behaviour and Ethos Policy with additional detail.

Expectations

– Always treat others with respect and kindness

Acts of aggression, bullying or violence are not acceptable. The police will always be informed and supported to press charges.

– Follow instructions

Pupils at Stranraer Academy must respect that the adults are in charge. This is not negotiable.

Refusal to follow instructions by adults is a serious matter and will result in parents being called to the school.

I do not expect pupils to enter into an argument or debate with teachers.

Pupils should follow instructions immediately and then discuss the issues calmly at an appropriate time.

– Arrive to class on time and prepared to learn

Too many S1s take an unacceptable time to move from class to class or return from lunch.

– Use Mobile Phones responsibly and with permission to support learning

– Attend timetabled classes – keep any toilet breaks etc. to a minimum

– Move around the school calmly and quietly

Too many S1 see the school as a playground. With over 1100 pupils and staff, it is essential for safety that movement is calm, quiet and ordered.

– Show you are part of our school community – wear our uniform and represent our school

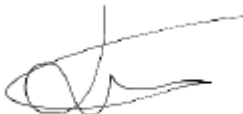
It is an unfortunate truth that older pupils (and many S1) are ashamed and frustrated by the behaviour of the S1 year group. Our pupils are proud of their school and expect better.

– Do and be your best

The degree of rudeness, selfishness and immaturity displayed by some pupils is not their best. I know you as parents expect better, as do we. Our pupils are better than this, I believe in their ability to be better, and look forward to seeing this improvement immediately.

My sincere thanks to all parents for their ongoing support and understanding. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's Pupil Support Teacher or me directly if we can help you or your child in any way.

Yours faithfully



Jamie Farquhar  
Headteacher

# Stranraer Academy

McMasters Road  
STRANRAER  
Wigtownshire  
DG9 8BY



Any enquiries please contact

**Mrs K McClelland**

**Head Teacher  
Mr Jamie Farquhar**

Telephone: 01776 706484  
e-mail: gw08officestranraer@glow.sch.uk

Dear Parent/Carer,

## **Staffing update**

As you may be aware Mrs Sisi is absent from work for a short period of time. I will be the link member of staff for Aird until Mrs Sisi's return.

If you need to communicate any information to the staff within Aird for example absence or general day-to-day communications, please do not hesitate to phone the school on 01776706484. You will be put through to either Ms Ferguson or Mrs Nimmo-Scott who I am sure you are very familiar with.

If I can be of help to you directly in this time please do not hesitate to either call the school and ask to speak with me or my email address is gw08mcclellandkirst2@glow.sch.uk.

Kirsty McClelland  
Acting Depute ASN

# Stranraer Academy

McMasters Road  
STRANRAER  
Wigtownshire  
DG9 8BY



Head Teacher  
Mr Jamie Farquhar

Ref: JF/lj

22<sup>nd</sup> November 2024

Any enquiries please contact

**Mr J Farquhar**

Telephone: 01776 706484  
e-mail: gw08officestranraer@glow.sch.uk

Dear S1 Parent / Carer

It is with regret that I write to you today to inform you of the unacceptable behaviour of too many of our S1 pupils. I hope my response, detailed below, demonstrates how seriously we take unacceptable behaviour at Stranraer Academy, it simply will not be tolerated.

The culture at Stranraer Academy is one we are proud of. Almost all of our pupils are respectful, kind and safe. More than that, they are fun and inspiring young people. Like any large school, we have incidents of poor behaviour, but these are usually quickly resolved.

Many pupils in our current S1 however, seem unable to meet our expectations or to improve their behaviour when challenged. I have met with the S1 year group through assemblies and spoken to classes and individuals, over the last two weeks; providing ample support, clarity of expectation and time for improvement.

At Stranraer Academy 'Merits' are awarded by teachers when pupils exhibit positive behaviour. 'Demerits' are issued for low level, disruptive behaviour; with 'Referrals' logged for serious incidents of misbehaviour.

Each pupil in S1 has been given a behaviour summary to take home. If your child has received no Demerits or Referrals – around half the year group - then please congratulate them. I have already expressed my pride in their maturity and conduct. You should be proud that your child is adhering to our values and is a credit to the school.

Your child may have received a few (5 or less) Demerits. Please discuss this with them and encourage a real effort to improve and avoid any further poor behaviours and sanctions.

If your child has received more than 5 Demerits and/or any Referrals, then I respectfully inform you that their behaviour is not acceptable and must improve immediately.

From Monday 25 November any S1 pupil receiving a Demerit or Referral will serve an after-school detention with me until 4.20pm - Parents will be notified by Groupcall Text Message.

I hope you will understand that there can be no exceptions to this approach. Pupils can avoid any inconvenience, missed appointments etc. by simply behaving appropriately like our other pupils.

I have explained my expectations to pupils before and have done so again today.

To help parents in their conversations with pupils please see below from our Behaviour and Ethos Policy - Stranraer Academy

Stranraer Academy's Values are:

Aim High, Work Hard, Be Kind

Please see below, taken from our Behaviour and Ethos Policy with additional detail.

Expectations

– Always treat others with respect and kindness

Acts of aggression, bullying or violence are not acceptable. The police will always be informed and supported to press charges.

– Follow instructions

Pupils at Stranraer Academy must respect that the adults are in charge. This is not negotiable.

Refusal to follow instructions by adults is a serious matter and will result in parents being called to the school.

I do not expect pupils to enter into an argument or debate with teachers.

Pupils should follow instructions immediately and then discuss the issues calmly at an appropriate time.

– Arrive to class on time and prepared to learn

Too many S1s take an unacceptable time to move from class to class or return from lunch.

– Use Mobile Phones responsibly and with permission to support learning

– Attend timetabled classes – keep any toilet breaks etc. to a minimum

– Move around the school calmly and quietly

Too many S1 see the school as a playground. With over 1100 pupils and staff, it is essential for safety that movement is calm, quiet and ordered.

– Show you are part of our school community – wear our uniform and represent our school

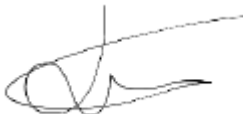
It is an unfortunate truth that older pupils (and many S1) are ashamed and frustrated by the behaviour of the S1 year group. Our pupils are proud of their school and expect better.

– Do and be your best

The degree of rudeness, selfishness and immaturity displayed by some pupils is not their best. I know you as parents expect better, as do we. Our pupils are better than this, I believe in their ability to be better, and look forward to seeing this improvement immediately.

My sincere thanks to all parents for their ongoing support and understanding. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's Pupil Support Teacher or me directly if we can help you or your child in any way.

Yours faithfully



Jamie Farquhar  
Headteacher

# Stranraer Academy

McMasters Road  
STRANRAER  
Wigtownshire  
DG9 8BY



Head Teacher  
Mr Jamie Farquhar

Ref: JF/

6<sup>TH</sup> November 2024

Any enquiries please contact

Telephone: 01776 706484

E-mail: [gw08officestranraer@glow.sch.uk](mailto:gw08officestranraer@glow.sch.uk)

Dear Parent/Carer

Your child has signed up to represent Stranraer Academy in the U16 Schools Rugby Finals at Dumfries Saints Rugby Club on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November. The bus will depart Stranraer Academy at 8am and return at around 4pm. Pupils should be at the school no later than 07:50am.

Pupils should bring a packed lunch with them; strips will be provided including shorts and socks. It is the pupil's responsibility to bring any protective gear and boots with them. There will be a charge of £5 per pupil to cover the cost of the bus.

If you are happy for your child to participate, please respond to this groupcall message with a "yes" to confirm. The £5 should be paid directly to the office or by bank transfer so a receipt can be shared with yourself.

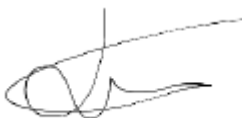
If you wish to pay the £5 by bank transfer-

Account Name: Stranraer Academy School Fd

Sort Code: 80-18-93

Account number: 00321606

Yours faithfully



Jamie Farquhar  
Headteacher

13<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Ref: JF/eb

# Stranraer Academy

McMasters Road  
STRANRAER  
Wigtownshire  
DG9 8BY



Head Teacher (Acting):  
Mr Jamie Farquhar

Any enquiries please contact

**Mr Jamie Farquhar**

Telephone: 01776 706484

Fax: 01776 704748

e-mail: [gw08officestranraer@glow.sch.uk](mailto:gw08officestranraer@glow.sch.uk)

Dear Parent Carers,

Due to very high temperatures, I am writing to confirm that pupils at Stranraer Academy can wear black shorts for the remainder of this week, as part of their school uniform. Pupils should continue to wear white shirts, school ties and black footwear. There is no need to wear a blazer. Please also encourage your child to wear high SPF sunscreen and drink plenty of water (fresh water available in school).

This temporary change will end on Friday 16 June, with the weather forecast to cool next week. I will keep this under review dependent on the weather.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely

Mr Jamie Farquhar  
Head Teacher (Acting)

# Stranraer Academy

Ref: JF/am

14<sup>th</sup> June 2023

McMasters Road  
STRANRAER  
Wigtownshire  
DG9 8BY



Head Teacher (Acting):  
Mr Jamie Farquhar

Any enquiries please contact

**Mr J Farquhar**

Telephone: 01776 706484  
Fax: 01776 704748  
e-mail: gw08officestranraer@glow.sch.uk

Dear Parents / Carers,

You will notice that we have temporarily adjusted our uniform guidelines due to the very hot weather.

Our PE guidelines have not changed however and can be found here: [School Uniform - Stranraer Academy](#)

Key point to note is the expectation of pupils to wear t-shirts. T-shirts provide protection from sunburn and are universally appropriate for a school PE setting.

A key advantage of school uniform guidelines is they reduce young people's desire to follow fashion trends. In various advice in respect of our main-school uniform and PE uniform we ask pupils to avoid 'gym' fashion wear.

Thank you for your support in this matter, it is appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Jamie Farquhar  
Head Teacher (Acting)



# Stranraer Academy

McMasters Road  
STRANRAER  
Wigtownshire  
DG9 8BY



Our Ref: JF/kr

21 March 2023

Any enquiries please contact:

**Michelle Jackson**  
**Ext. 48432**

Telephone: 01776 706484  
Email: gw08officestranraer@glow.sch.uk

Dear Parent / Carer

## **CREATING STRANRAER**

Your child has been chosen to attend the Creating Stranraer meeting being held on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March in The Rugby Club, Ladies Walk, Stranraer from 5pm till 8pm.

The school will be working alongside the Stranraer Development Trust in the hope of creating more opportunities for Stranraer Academy to work closely with them in volunteering, employment etc. within the Community.

Pupils will be collected from their home address and taken back home after the meeting.

Please complete the form below and return to Michelle. If you would like to discuss anything with Michelle please phone her on 07999002967.

Yours faithfully

Jamie Farquhar  
Acting Headteacher

---

## **STRANRAER ACADEMY – Michelle Jackson**

Travel arrangements for the Creating Stranraer meeting, 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 5pm in The Rugby Club: -

I, \_\_\_\_\_ parent/carer of \_\_\_\_\_ (pupil at Stranraer Academy), give permission for Michelle Jackson to collect my child for the Creating Stranraer meeting and to return him/her after the meeting.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Stranraer Academy

McMasters Road  
STRANRAER  
Wigtownshire  
DG9 8BY



Head Teacher  
Mr Jamie Farquhar

Ref: JF/lj

9<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Any enquiries please contact

**Mr J Farquhar**

Telephone: 01776 706484  
e-mail: gw08officestranraer@glow.sch.uk

Dear Parent

## **Cyber Bullying and Phone Safety**

I always try to be open with parents and seek their support when needed.

My expectations of behaviour and kindness at Stranraer Academy are high and our pupils usually meet these expectations. Recently however there have been a number of incidents that fall below this standard. These incidents range in severity but centre on two common themes which I would like to share with you here. We are discussing these issues explicitly with all pupils and I ask for your help in addressing at home as well. Thank you.

### Issue 1: Specific Pupils

There is currently a small number of pupils causing, as a group, considerable concern in school and in the community. I cannot share personal details of course but these pupils are being robustly supported by the school, parents, Police Scotland and various other agencies. Please let us know of any school worries and report concerns in the community directly to the police. I am confident we are making progress in this regard.

### Issue 2: General Unkindness / Verbal Abuse

Without exception, every incident of bullying, friendship breakdown, mental health concerns or violence has resulted from young people being unkind and using appalling language toward each other. This is rarely face-to-face but via their mobile phones.

### Group Chats:

- These are often established with the sole intention of bullying
- The language and images children are exposed to in these groups can be extremely worrying
- The language used by children in these groups is appalling
- These groups often contain hundreds of people, most of whom will not be known by your child. This is a significant risk.

### SnapChat

- The primary platform for online bullying
- Significant concerns about the exchange of sexual, bullying and otherwise inappropriate images
- This platform is extremely difficult for adults to supervise as it is designed to remove messages as soon as they have been seen

PlayStation / Xbox

- The culture of verbal abuse exchanged while gaming can lead to real-life fallouts, police involvement and emotional distress
- We often have to support pupils who are awake all-night gaming. Pupils often admit their parents are unaware how long they are playing

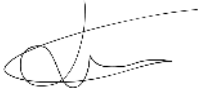
As a parent I know how sensitive children can be of their privacy, but I would respectfully advise you sit with your child and view what they are experiencing on their phones in their social media/group chat use. I know I have been shocked in the case of my own children.

I have met with pupils today and advised them in the clearest terms, my expectations around kindness and the language they choose to use with each other. I am grateful in advance for the support I know you will provide.

I hope as a result of our efforts our children will be safer and happier, in both the real world and the virtual one.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mr Farquhar', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mr Farquhar

# Stranraer Academy

Ref: JF/

29<sup>th</sup> October 2024

McMasters Road  
STRANRAER  
Wigtownshire  
DG9 8BY



Head Teacher  
Mr Jamie Farquhar

Any enquiries please contact

Telephone: 01776 706484

E-mail: [gw08officestranraer@glow.sch.uk](mailto:gw08officestranraer@glow.sch.uk)

Dear Parent/Carer

Your child has signed up to represent Stranraer Academy in the U16 Schools Rugby Qualifier at Stewartry Rugby Club on Thursday 31st October. The bus will depart Stranraer Academy at 9am and return at around 2:30pm. Pupils must come to school in their school uniform.

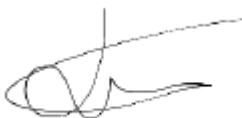
Pupils should bring a packed lunch with them; strips will be provided including shorts and socks. It is the pupil's responsibility to bring any protective gear and boots with them. There will be a charge of £5 per pupil to cover the cost of the bus.

If you are happy for your child to participate, please respond to this groupcall message with a "yes" to confirm. The £5 should be paid directly to the office or by bank transfer so a receipt can be shared with yourself.

If you wish to pay the £5 by bank transfer-

Account Name: Stranraer Academy School Fd  
Sort Code: 80-18-93  
Account number: 00321606

Yours faithfully



Jamie Farquhar  
Headteacher