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Head Teacher
Jonathan Graham

10 November 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

TOILETS DURING LESSON TIME

I write to seek your support in addressing an ongoing concern. Unfortunately, we are experiencing a difficulty with pupils missing learning due to going to the toilet during lesson time.

At Eastbank Academy we care about young people's physical and emotional wellbeing, as well as their learning. We also respect young people's rights and dignity. In view of this, we would never dream of implementing a blanket ban on pupils being released from class to use the toilet.

The downside of our nurturing approach is that when young people visit the toilet during lessons, they are not in class and are therefore missing important learning. They are also not being supervised which is a safeguarding concern. Moreover, our understanding approach sometimes has unintended consequences, with some young people asking out of class several times each day or taking the long way to and from the toilet.

I completely understand that as parents and carers you will want your children to be healthy and comfortable in school. Part of this is being able to use the toilet when required. However, I expect that you also want your children to learn and gain the best possible skills, attributes, and qualifications to prepare them for life beyond school. I therefore need your help in ensuring that your children are not asking out of class unless absolutely necessary. This could be done by encouraging them:

- To ensure they use the toilet at break and lunchtime.
- To be honest with themselves about whether getting out of class is necessary or can they wait.
- To take the quickest route to and from class if they need to visit the toilet.

The fact that I am writing about this at all indicates the scale of the problem. I need young people to be responsible and to make good choices in relation to time out of class and recognise the impact on their learning. I will continue to monitor the situation and may contact you if I have concerns about the amount of learning time your child is missing. I am determined that we will continue with a supportive, nurturing, and rights-respecting attitude to toilet access. I trust we can continue to work together, and that I can rely on your continued support, to make this possible without affecting young people's learning.

Your faithfully,

Jonathan Graham
Head Teacher



Our School, Our Work, Our Future

