

PARK MAINS HIGH SCHOOL

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How will my child cope with increased homework demands?

S1 pupils will receive homework from the vast majority of their subjects. Teachers will post homework on Satchel One to allow parents to keep track of what is being issued/completed. Teachers are mindful of the demands placed on S1 and most homework pieces are given out well in advance of the deadline. S1 will learn about managing their time in Tutor Group and there will be opportunities for S1 to attend homework club throughout S1.

Will French or Spanish be taught?

S1 will have the opportunity to learn French and Spanish in S1. They will have 2 periods of French and 1 of Spanish. This is to give them a flavour of both languages they can opt to study as they go further up the school.

How will my young person find their way about the building?

New S1 pupils will be assigned S6 guides for their first week in secondary. The building is well designed and all departments (except PE) are situated around the Street Area. There are maps on every floor to help young people navigate their way around the building. We find that S1 find their feet very quickly! Ms Stewart, Miss Keane and Mrs Kirkwood will be on hand throughout the day to guide S1.

‘Even though the building is bigger than primary school, you quickly find out how easy it is to move around and get to your classes.’

- Current S1 Pupil

Will my young person be allowed to bring their mobile phone into school?

S1 can bring mobile phones into school but they must be off and in bags during lessons. Anyone with a phone on their person as they enter classrooms must place their phone in the box!! Sometimes phones can be used for learning. If that is the case the teacher will invite young people to use their phones for a specific purpose. Once the learning episode is over phones will be returned to bags or the box!

How does the school deal with unacceptable behaviour?

We are in the very fortunate position that unacceptable behaviour is rare in our school. We have a Promoting Positive Relationships policy and our ASPIRE programme focuses on the behaviours we expect and want to see from our young people. We recognise excellence in conduct termly and rightly praise the vast majority of our young people who give their best every day. Where poor conduct occurs we deal with it sensitively at classroom, departmental and Year Group Team level. We have excellent relationships with families and work together with parents to resolve any issues which arise.

What are the differences between Primary and Secondary School

S1 pupils continue with their Broad General Education in S1. The main difference between Primary and Secondary school lies in the fact that S1 pupils are taught in 50 min periods by subject specialists throughout the week. S1 move from class to class and teacher to teacher throughout the day. Whilst parents often worry about how overwhelming this may be for young people almost all of current S1 would tell you this is what they like about Secondary school the most!

My child has an additional support need. How will they be supported in Park Mains?

Your child will be supported by their classroom teachers and the Inclusion Support Team. Support will vary from child to child depending on the nature of their need. Any child with an additional support need will have an individual pupil profile created for them. This will be shared with staff and will outline difficulties they may have and strategies which should be used to support their learning. The profile will be created in partnership with you and your child and will be reviewed regularly.

Common supports include differentiated work, use of ICT, use of overlays, digital readers and regular check-ins with the Inclusion Support Team.

What happens at break and lunch?

S1 pupils are not permitted to leave the school grounds at break or lunch. S1 pupils have a dedicated playground just for them and there is a good choice of meals and snacks during break or lunch.

"On starting at Park Mains you quickly realise that you can not use money and instead everyone is given a code to use in the canteen. The codes are easy to use and makes it quicker to get your food. You have the option between three queues where there is either main meals or grab and go options." - Current S1 Pupil

"In the morning you can have breakfast bars, toast or potato scone. At lunch there is really only one option for me and that is the macaroni cheese!

The range of food options is more than primary but you quickly figure out the system and the different lines. You can eat your lunch in the street area or we also have our own S1 social area outside (which is the biggest one!) where we can enjoy our lunch."

- Current S1 Pupil

Will I be with my friends?

It is likely your son/daughter will be with some of the young people they already know in P7. We will speak to our primary colleagues to try and ensure pupils are grouped in classes with some people they know well. S1, however, is also an opportunity to make new friends.

S1 Pupils have a register group (normally around 30 pupils). 1A, 1B, 1C etc for subjects like English, Social Studies, PE and a practical set (20 or under). 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 etc for subjects like Technical, Home Economics and Science. They will stay in these classes until they select their course choices for S3.

What does the school do about bullying?

Park Mains High School has a clear Anti-Bullying policy. Any issues which arise will be dealt with promptly by the S1 Year Group Team. The S1 Year Group Team will get to know pupils quickly (that work has already started) and pupils will know who to talk to should any issues arise.



P7 - S1 TRANSITION

PARK MAINS HIGH SCHOOL



Park Mains is very different to Primary school. Every S1 has two different classes – we have a teaching class with up to 30 pupils and a smaller practical class with up to 20. My advice is not to be nervous because everyone will feel the same way. Not just you.

The range of food options is more than primary but you quickly figure out the system and the different lines. You can eat your lunch in the street area or we also have our own S1 social area outside. My advice would be to do your homework as soon as you can to stop it building up. If you do it last minute it won't be your best work.



Over the course of a week we have 33 different periods. There may be some subjects that you are not familiar with such as graphics, home economics and woodwork. My advice is don't get a small bag, we have loads of subjects and loads of folders!

Every morning we meet our year head and pastoral care teacher. This lets us all hear any important messages about the day ahead and gives us the opportunity to talk to them before school starts. My advice would be to be calm. Even though the building is bigger than primary school, you quickly find out how easy it is to move around and get to your classes.



CURRENT S1 PUPILS

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