

Year 6 Transition 2024 - Frequently Asked Questions

Will Paddington Academy be running a student transition day?

Yes. Our year 6 transition day is on Friday 5th July. This will allow students a chance to see what life is like here, get used to the school building and to meet their classmates and the staff at Paddington. You will receive further detail on this via email contact by the Admissions Team but please be aware that the transition day will start at 9.00am and finish at 12.30pm. Parents will need to identify in their interview today whether they would like to collect their child at the end of the transition day.

How will my child find their way around school?

All children are given a tour of the building as part of their transition day in order to get used to the school site. Additionally, we always have members of staff on duty who can help to direct students. We have a very big school in comparison to many primary school buildings but our students have the support they need to work this all out.

Will my child receive homework?

Our students are expected to complete homework as part of their learning and you should expect your child to have homework to complete each night. This may include paper-based homework as well as homework online on Microsoft Teams or on websites such as Sparx Maths and Sparx Reader. The transition from primary to secondary school can be challenging in terms of homework and so we try to encourage our Year 7s to develop their habits early on to ensure success in their homework. We set lots of homework because we understand that that this can add nearly a whole school year to student learning during secondary school.

Do I need to buy my child a laptop?

Some of your child's homework will be done online and it will help them to do this if they have a laptop or Chromebook. A cheap Chromebook can be purchased for £200 and this is good enough for all their homework needs. Some children share one with a sibling, this is usually fine as they can take it in turns. However, if you already have a device that allows your child can access these online homework sites, you do not need to purchase a laptop.

How can I check to ensure that my child is completing their homework?

Every student at Paddington Academy is given a student planner which they use in every lesson to ensure that they are recording the homework that they have been set. This also includes recording the self-quizzing homework that they have been set. This is the best place to check to see what homework needs to be completed.

How can I order uniform and when is best to do this?

All Paddington Academy uniform can be purchased from Price and Buckland who are our uniform suppliers – Price and Buckland's website can be accessed by the main Paddington Academy website under "parents" and then "uniform". It is best to order this uniform as early as possible to ensure that students are ready for their first day at Paddington. The deadline for uniform orders through Price and Buckland is July 20th and all orders must be made by then in order to ensure that uniform arrives on time for starting in September.

Will students be given lockers?

We do not have lockers on site at Paddington Academy other than for use by our 6th form students. Instead, we encourage our students to organise themselves each day so that they only pack their school bag with the school books/equipment relevant for the day ahead. This avoids our students having to carry heavy bags full of everything they have. Because our lessons are longer, they only have three a day which limits the number of books they need to bring.

How does my child pay for their lunch?

At Paddington Academy we operate a cashless system which means that students do not pay for their lunch using cash or card. Instead, they pay using Parent Pay. Many parents may be familiar with Parent Pay from primary school but essentially this system allows parent to top up an online account which students can then use to pay for break time snacks or lunch.

Will my child receive detention? What happens if they do?

At Paddington detentions are given when students do not meet our expectations. In order to ensure that these detentions are fair, we always ensure that students are made aware of our expectations and we revisit these expectations regularly. If your child does receive a detention, you will receive an email to inform you of this as well as the reason for this detention. All of our communication is by email so it is important to let us know if your email address changes. You can also check this in the Arbor app which is something many of our parents use to help monitor their children.

Do you cater for children with different dietary requirements? For e.g. Halal

Yes. All of the food served at Paddington is halal and we are able to cater for students with different dietary requirements. This is because we have a large selection of hot and cold options at lunch for our students. If there is a specific dietary requirement or allergy, please tell the member of staff in your transition interview. Students can also bring a packed lunch to school if they choose.

What is the school's procedure on holiday requests?

Holiday requests must be made 3 weeks in advance and will only be authorised if it is an extreme circumstance and only when the attendance of the student is 96% attendance or above. This is because at Paddington Academy we know that the best place for our students to be is in their classrooms, learning with their teachers. To apply for leave, students are asked to complete our yellow "application for leave" form which can be obtained from the Attendance Office and must be completed and handed back to the Attendance Office. The Principal will then review this application and make a final decision, you will then receive a letter or a phone call from the attendance team to update you regarding this decision.

If my child is sick, who is the first point of contact?

We encourage all of our students to strive to achieve 100% attendance, but we do understand that there are occasions where they may not be well enough to attend school. In this case, the first point of contact would be the attendance office which can be reached via the main school phone number of 02074793900.

What should I do if my child experiences an incident of bullying/fighting/racism?

At Paddington Academy we do not tolerate incidents of bullying, fighting or racism and if this is something which your child experiences, you should report this to their Head of Year immediately. This will allow the pastoral team to respond to this. Bullying is very rare at Paddington because staff are always on duty and students feel comfortable to report any problem, however small.

I have heard that there are Silent Transitions at Paddington? What does this mean?

Silent Transitions at Paddington Academy mean that our students move around the building at transition points in silence. This means that when students are moving between lessons or moving to a lesson from a break time, that this is done in silence across the academy. We introduced our silent transitions in order to ensure that our students always felt safe around the school as feedback from some of our youngest students was that this was a very difficult time for them. Our transitions also help to ensure that students arrive at their classrooms, calm and ready to learn.

Is there provision for students who have learning needs and if so, what are they and who would be my first point of contact?

Students with additional learning needs are supported by our inclusion team as well as the pastoral team who work together to ensure that all of our students can thrive here at Paddington. The first point of contact would always be the Head of Year who will be able to help to ensure that the correct support is put in place. You can also contact the inclusion department to speak to the SENCO if you have a specific concern – again, your child's Head of Year is your first point of call and they can direct your questions to the relevant member of staff.

Apart from Parents Evenings, are we able to contact teachers if we have any concerns regarding the student's learning?

Parents Evenings are an important opportunity for parents to communicate with teachers here at Paddington but this is not the only way that parents can raise concerns regarding student learning. Parents can always contact Paddington via our office@paddington-academy.org email.

What equipment does my child need at Paddington?

We have a 14-item equipment list which students need in lessons. You can purchase a pencil case with all these items in from the school for £4, or you can buy your own but it is important that the pencil case is see-through in line with the guidance for examinations. Students also need a scientific calculator which can be purchased from school for £10. Both of these are sold at cost price and much cheaper than in the shops. Every student also needs a refillable water bottle as we have water bottle refilling stations in all areas of the school. More information on equipment will be shared in the transition interview.

What happens if my child is referred to the Reflection Room?

At Paddington Academy we have a warning system in our lessons which provides students with If a student receives 3 warnings in a lesson they will be referred to the Reflection Room. This is because we believe that every student deserves disruption-free learning. It is our insistence on this which has allowed so many of our students to go on to achieve such success. While in the Reflection Room students will continue to complete work and access the curriculum. You will receive contact to inform you that your child has been referred to the Reflection Room from our Reflection manager and you will also receive contact from the teacher who made the referral who will explain in more detail what led to your child being referred to the Reflection Room. We understand that every referral from lesson is significant and so we aim to meet every parent following every referral so that we can put the right support in place for your child to avoid a repeat referral to Reflection. We need your support with helping to hold our students to high standards, we hold these high standards because we care.

What type of coat can my child wear to school?

Coats should be smart and plain. These should be of a dark colour and without large logos. They should not be made of denim and please remember that hoodies are banned in school.

Can my child bring a phone to school?

Students can bring phones to school, but they are not allowed to use them or have them out during the school day – they cannot be seen or heard. This is because we want students to be completely focused on their learning in school and it stops children being able to bully each other with their phones. We also think that social interaction is important when in school. Your child should turn their phone off before they enter the school site to avoid any problems. If a child is found using their phone, it is confiscated and kept until a parent collects it from school.

If you have any further questions which have not been answered above, please do email the Admissions Team at: admissions@paddington-academy.org