

## Transition to Holy Family – FAQs

### Pupils

#### Where do I go on my first day?

You will be able to enter through the main entrance or in through the main hall.

There will be plenty of lovely staff and helpers to show you where to go and signs to make sure you get the right place. You will be directed into the main hall where you will see a sign with your tutor group on.

Everyone is really friendly and helpful so do not worry. We will help you get to the right place.

#### What if I get lost?

No need to worry about getting lost, you will not really be lost, but at some point you may be unsure where your classroom is: you don't need to panic.

All our teachers and pupils are really helpful, all you need to do is ask and someone will point you in the right direction or often, walk you to lesson.

Most of our building is in a square shape across two floors, and all the classroom doors are clearly labelled. You will additionally have a tour of the school and be provided with a map on your first day. By October, you will be brilliant at knowing your way around. Trust us!

#### What happens if I feel like I don't know very many people?

There are lots of ways you can get to meet new people at Holy Family. We will set up activities on your first day to make it easier to get to know people, but there are lots of clubs and societies you can join too. This is a great way of meeting likeminded people. You can always talk to your tutor or Year Leader if you would like some help meeting new people or joining a club.

#### Will the work be really hard?

All your work will be specific and targeted towards your own ability level, this will be different for everyone. If the work is too easy you will become bored and uninterested, so the work will be challenging but still achievable.

We work very closely with primary schools to find out your ability levels and any additional support you might need.

If there is a piece of work you are finding difficult, you can speak to your teacher as they will be able to help you and explain it in a different way. There may be some resources or books to help you, and we also have a Homework Club where you could get support.

#### How much homework will I get?

We would expect you to get up to 6 hours of homework a week. If you need support to help you organise yourself please come along to homework club.

To make sure you keep on top of your homework, you will be given a school planner where you can write everything down and the date it is due in. It is best to do your homework the night you get it, then you know it has been completed and you will not forget to do it.

Reading books at home is a key expectation of homework, so we hope you are already making a start of this whilst learning from home!

You and your parents will also be able to gain access to [www.classcharts.com](http://www.classcharts.com) where you can access and submit your homework online.

### **What does a typical day look like?**

You should arrive at school by around 8.40 am and be in your tutor room for 8.45 am.

One day a week, instead of tutor time, you will have assembly with Mr Wadsworth, your Year Leader and different guest speakers. The school day finishes at 3pm where you will make your own way home or stay for an after-school club. Bells sound at the end of each session so that you know when you go to the next lesson or break time.

### **What can you do at break and lunch time?**

Year 7 spend break and lunch time near the basketball court where you have the chance to socialise with friends, eat lunch or snacks or read and sit on the benches.

There are also lunch time clubs such as football, the library or a computer room (homework club). We find break and lunch time flies by.

### **What extracurricular clubs can I join?**

At Holy Family we offer lots of extracurricular opportunities in a variety of different subjects. A few examples of clubs that have run this year for Year 7 are: Science club, Choirs, Music clubs, Art club, Homework club, PE clubs like football, netball, gymnastics, rounders and more.

We love it if pupils take their transition to secondary school as a chance to try something new and join a club: you can go to as many as you like. It is also a great way of meeting new people and making friends. When you start at Holy Family, there will be an extracurricular timetable outlining all the activities on offer.

### **How do you collect rewards?**

Teachers will reward positive behaviour, good work, correct uniform and helpfulness by giving you points that are logged on the school's database system. Pupils that have the highest are given certificates and/or prizes every fortnight. Parents are also sent a text if you do exceptional work in class.

We also recognise achievements and good attitudes to learning by sending postcards and letters home, you may also be invited to breakfast with the Headteacher! At the end of the year, pupils who have maintained high attendance and have set themselves high standards all year will be invited to go on a rewards trip.

## Parents

### How will the school be up to date with the child's needs if primary school is closed?

We are working closely with primary schools and the Year 6 teachers to collect all key information and data to ensure a smooth transition into Year 7 at Holy Family.

Primary colleagues and Holy Family staff have positive relationships and both parties are working collaboratively to meet pupil needs. However, if you feel there is new information that the primary may not be aware of, you are welcome to contact us on [enquiry@holyfamilycarlton.org](mailto:enquiry@holyfamilycarlton.org).

### How will the school decide which tutor group a pupil is placed in?

We collect information from your primary schools and ask them about the relationships that they have with their peers. These are peers that work well together to bring out the best in each other.

We do not take requests to be with friends as this is a great opportunity to meet new people, and as a school we have found this to be a very successful approach. If your child is coming from a school where they are the only pupil, we would place them in a tutor group where there are other's in the same situation so that they can support each other.

### How will parents know what uniform and equipment is needed?

The uniform requirements and uniform policies can be found on the school website: [www.holyfamilycarlton.org/about-us/uniform/](http://www.holyfamilycarlton.org/about-us/uniform/) They can also be found in your transition booklet.

The PE kit requirements can be found on the [PE department](#) information.

Each day pupils will be required to have a blue, green and black pen, pencil, rubber and a ruler.

We advise coloured pencils and a sharpener would be useful. Additionally, pupils will be provided with a school planner. A strong and sturdy school bag will be needed to carry equipment and school books for the day. We do not provide lockers. Equipment checks will be done daily during registration; it would be a good idea to practice being organised with all the equipment you need.

### What happens when your child has additional needs?

We are working hard to ensure each individual has a settled and positive start to their journey at Holy Family High School.

Unfortunately, we cannot confirm additional transition dates at this moment, but we have plans in place for supporting Year 6 pupils and these will be as soon as we have the go-ahead.

If your child has a special educational need that you would like to discuss further, please feel free to contact our SENCO, Miss Agar on [sendteam@holyfamilycarlton.org](mailto:sendteam@holyfamilycarlton.org)

### What do I do if I have a concern or a question in relation to my child?

We always welcome parents keeping in touch with us. This can either be by enquiry email or phone with your Year Leader/pastoral team member.

You can call the main office any time and ask to speak to a member of staff who will be happy to help. Staff will be teaching during the school day so they may not always be able to get in touch immediately, but we will always aim to respond within 24 hours.

### **How often to I hear about how my child is doing?**

As a parent, you will receive a progress check to let you know how your child has settled into school within the first half term. There is also a tutor evening where you can meet your child's tutor planned for the end of October.

Following this, you will receive further attitude to learning and progress checks every half term. If you would like any further updates, then you are always welcome to get in touch.

### **Is there an opportunity to come in and talk to my child's tutor or teachers?**

Yes, there will be a tutor evening where you will meet with your child's tutor within the first half term and then a subject evening where you can meet with your child's teachers. Again, if at any point you would like to speak to your child's tutor, or a subject teacher don't hesitate to contact them via [enquiry@holyfamilycarlton.org](mailto:enquiry@holyfamilycarlton.org)

**If you have any other questions, please just ask!**