



Transition FAQs

How do I contact my child's teachers?

The best way to contact school staff is by emailing the school office at office@arden.solihull.sch.uk, you should indicate who you are wishing to contact and why in your email and your message will be forwarded on to the relevant member of staff. Alternatively, you can call the main school number, however, please be mindful that staff may be teaching and unavailable to speak to you at that time. We do try and respond to requests as quickly as possible, but please do allow up to 48 hours for non-urgent enquiries.

How will students be set?

For the majority of lessons, students are taught in mixed ability classes. When we do set, for example in Maths, students will initially be taught in mixed ability groups (their forms). In the first few lessons they will sit a baseline assessment consisting of two papers: Arithmetic and Reasoning. We then use a robust system to set our pupils, which incorporates the baseline data and the data we get from the primary schools.

In Years 7-9 the students are put into sets 1-5 (we have two set 3 groups) with students in sets 1-3 eventually studying the GCSE Higher Scheme of Work and students in sets 4-5 studying the GCSE Foundation Scheme of Work.

Why can't my child move form group?

Placing children in form groups is a huge process and we have to ensure that forms are balanced, taking into consideration a large range of information. Pupils are only grouped as a form for a certain amount of lessons in Y7 and when they move to Y8 they will not have any lessons taught in form, to allow them to strategically group pupils to ensure maximum progress can be made. It also encourages pupils to mix and build relationships with a range of peers in the year group.

How much homework will my child get? What should I do if they spend too much time on a piece?

In year 7 your child will get a maximum of 3 pieces of homework per night that should take no longer than 20 minutes each.

Are there school buses for children who live out of the catchment area?

Arden does not provide any school buses. Please contact your home Local Authority to enquire about transport and bus passes.

What is your anti-bullying policy and what do you do if my child has issues relating to social media?

Bullying is minimal at Arden and we have a strong Anti-Bullying policy. Any incidents of perceived bullying should be reported immediately to your child's form tutor or Head of Year 7 in order for it to be investigated. Our Policy is on our website.



Please note: we cannot police social media and strongly encourage parents to monitor their children's use of platforms and ensure they have privacy settings on their accounts. Please remember to check age limit and know that most social media platforms have an age limit of 13 years and above.

How many teachers will I have?

You may have 14 or more teachers as there are a lot of subjects on the curriculum and some groups might be shared between two staff.

How will I remember all of my teachers' names?

At Arden we call male teachers "Sir" and female teachers "Miss" so don't worry about learning names in the beginning.

What if I can't get any all the necessary uniform parts?

Please advise the school and we can agree a course of action until the uniform arrives

How will I know what equipment I will need?

All of the equipment you need is in your information booklet under "equipment list" and this will also be in your planner which we will give you when you start.

How will I know where everything is?

You will have an opportunity to look around on the taster day but don't worry if you don't remember there is a map in your planner and there will be lots of staff and students around to guide you during your first few weeks should you get lost.

I don't know anyone coming to Arden?

Our school community is warm and welcoming, we are sure you will make new friends. Joining in with our co-curricular activities is a great way to meet people. You can always speak to your form tutor or Head of Year if you have any worries about this.

What happens if I can't find my bag/lose my trainers/think my property has been lost?

You need to go to P1 (the Pastoral Office for Year 7) and report it. We will help you find it, more often than not, a pupil with a similar bag has picked up yours and we will be able to locate it for you. Make sure all of your personal belongings are named and remember to take all your equipment with you after each lesson.

Will I get detentions? Why do you get given them?

Not if you follow the 3 golden rules.

1. We always do our best
2. We are part of a team
3. We always do as we are told

You will only receive a detention if your behaviour does not meet the standards required. You have detentions to allow you to reflect on the behaviour and ensure you correct them in order not to repeat the same mistakes.



When do we have lunch? Can we buy snacks at morning break?

Lunch is from 12:25 to 13:25. There is a reminder bell at 13:20 so you can start to make your way to period 4. You can buy snacks from the canteen, The Pod or The Cube at morning break. There is lots of information about break times and meals in the information pack.

What happens if I forget my PE kit/book?

If your lesson is in the afternoon you can go to the P3 office and call home to see if parents can bring them in. If not you will be likely to receive a C2 detention (10 minutes) if this is the first offence. If you forget your PE kit you will need to borrow kit from the PE department in order to take part in your lesson.

What happens if I feel ill at school?

You must ask your class teacher for a note to go to Student Services at Reception where you will be assessed and a decision will be made on whether you need to go home. Under no circumstances should pupils call their parents directly, as mobile phones are not allowed to be used whilst on the school site.

You can go to the P3 office and ask any Pastoral Officer for an allowance slip, parents must then top up your ParentPay account as soon as possible.

Can I bring my phone?

You can bring your phone but it must be turned off and put in your bag or zipped blazer pocket. If your phone is seen or heard it will be confiscated and it can only be collected by a named contact. Please read the 'Mobile phones and Smart watches' page in the New student Information pack'

Do I need my PE kit on the first day?

No, you will not need your PE on your first day. Your first PE lesson will be an induction lesson which will be done in your school uniform.

How do you get awarded badges?

Colours are awarded during the end of year celebration assembly and we give 10 colours per subject, 5 for effort and determination and 5 for academic progress/achievement. Very few sports colours are awarded in year 7, only for exceptional performance. Half colours are awarded in Year 8 for two years of commitment and dedication.