



**Ramsey Grammar School**  
*Scoil Ghrammeydys Rhumsaa*

RAMSEY  
Isle of Man  
IM8 2RG

*Headteacher*  
*Ard-er-ynsee*  
*Mrs S Taylor*

Telephone: 01624 811100  
Email: [RGSEnquiries@sch.im](mailto:RGSEnquiries@sch.im)

18<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

**Re: Access to toilets**

There have been many enquiries about students access to the toilets during the school day, and much speculation on social media around availability and when students can use the facilities, so please allow me to explain.

**What has given rise to this debate?**

At the start of term, many students were leaving lessons to visit the toilet for various reasons. A small number of students were genuinely going to the toilet, but many were using it as a reason to not engage in their learning, meet friends in places not supervised by staff during lessons, use mobile phones in the toilet, to vape and, some, to vandalise the facility. Having high numbers of students freely leaving lessons to go to places not supervised by staff during lessons is not safe, nor is it conducive to a good education. Student's regularly leaving lessons also disrupts the learning for others.

**The solution**

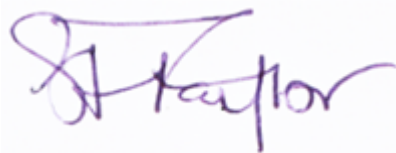
- All students will aim to access the toilet facilities before and after school, at break and lunch times, or when moving between lessons. This gives students seven opportunities outside of lessons to visit the toilet on any given day.
- Toilets in each building will be supervised by a member of staff who is on duty at social times to ensure no students loiter in the toilet, use mobile phones, vape, or cause other students to feel intimidated.
- Staff will, as a rule, not give permission for a student to leave their lesson unless a) a student has a toilet pass for a medical condition (this is a discreet pass and staff know which students have them), b) a female student asks for permission to go to the toilet, as they may need to manage their monthly menstrual cycle or c) the student is desperate to go to the toilet.
- If a member of staff gives permission for a student to go to the toilet during lesson time, they will write a note in the students' academic diary as this will show staff around the school during lessons that the student does have permission to be out of lessons, while also showing other teachers how many times a students may have asked to go to the toilet during lesson time. As parents, you will also be able to ask your child to see their academic diary to see how often your child may have been out of lesson during the day.

Our aim is not to make life difficult for students or parents, but we do have to ensure students are making the most of their time in lessons. Some subjects may only see students once a week and its vital students make the most of every minute of learning they have access to.

Please be assured that we take the health, safety, and wellbeing of all students seriously. Our students have at least four opportunities to go to the toilet outside of lesson time (if they have double lessons all day, which is very rare) and seven opportunities if they have single lessons all day.

I look forward to working with you and thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely.

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'S Taylor', is centered on the page. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'S' and a trailing flourish.

Mrs S Taylor  
Headteacher