

PDH/RTS

16 July 2026



Dear Parents/Carers,

As another successful school year comes to a close, I would like to thank you for your continued support throughout the year. There has been much to celebrate at Caldew School and we are incredibly proud of all that our students have achieved both in and beyond the classroom.

As we prepare for the new academic year, we remain committed to providing a calm, safe and purposeful environment where every student can thrive academically, socially and personally. The partnership between home and school is vital in helping students achieve their very best and we are grateful for the support that parents and carers provide every day.

At Caldew School, our expectations are clear and consistent. We ask every student to **be present, be punctual, be prepared and be respectful**. These simple expectations underpin everything we do and help to create a school culture where learning can flourish, students feel safe and supported, and everyone is able to achieve their full potential.

The information in this letter outlines some key expectations for September, including attendance, behaviour, uniform, punctuality, mobile phones and equipment. Taking the time to review these together over the summer will help ensure a positive and successful start to the new term.

Attendance

Excellent attendance is one of the strongest indicators of academic success and we expect all students to attend school every day unless they are genuinely unwell. Regular attendance not only supports academic achievement but also plays a vital role in promoting wellbeing, building positive relationships and ensuring students feel fully connected to school life.

Wherever possible, medical appointments should be arranged outside of the school day, and holidays should not be taken during term time. Every day in school counts and we value the support of families in helping students attend regularly, arrive on time and be ready to learn. Over the summer, we will be writing to you with further details about our new Attendance Strategy.

As part of our continued focus on attendance, we are introducing **Attend**, a new system designed to help us monitor attendance more effectively and keep families informed. Through Attend, we will share regular attendance updates and communicate any attendance-related information in a timely and supportive way.

Please note that messages from Attend will be sent separately from our main school communication system, so we kindly ask that you look out for these emails and text messages and acknowledge receipt where requested. The first communication from Attend will be sent on Friday this week and will provide an overview of your child's attendance throughout this academic year.

Punctuality

Being on time demonstrates respect for others and ensures students do not miss valuable learning. Students are expected to:

- Arrive at school by 8.35am.
- Be present at tutor time and registration.
- Move promptly between lessons so they are not late to lessons.

Persistent lateness to school or lessons disrupts learning and will result in appropriate sanctions.

Uniform

Our uniform is an important part of our school identity and promotes a sense of belonging and pride. Students are expected to wear the correct school uniform every day. We have recently reviewed our uniform policy to ensure it remains affordable for families and is fully aligned with Government guidance on the cost of school uniforms.

A link to our uniform guidance is below:

caldew.cumbria.sch.uk/parents/uniform/

Any student arriving in incorrect uniform should expect staff to address the issue with consequences put in place from the first day in September. Parents/carers may be contacted where necessary.

Please be aware of the following:

- New skirt – please remember we have introduced a new Caldew School skirt. This is the only skirt that can be worn by all year groups. Non-Caldew skirts are not allowed. Any student arriving in a skirt that is not uniform will receive detentions until the issue is fixed.
- Nails – painted nails and long nails, including acrylics, are not allowed. Long nails can and do cause issues in PE. Please make sure long and acrylic nails are removed before the start of term as well as any nail varnish. If students arrive wearing these, they will receive detentions until the issue is fixed.
- Trainers – trainers or shoes that look like trainers are not allowed. Students should wear fully black polishable footwear only, with no visible logos or flashes of colour. Any students arriving in footwear that does not meet our uniform expectations will receive detentions until the issue is fixed.
- Jewellery – students are allowed to wear one stud earring in each ear, a watch (but not a smart watch) and a small, flat nose stud. Any other jewellery will be confiscated and returned at the end of the day. Students will be issued with a detention if jewellery is confiscated.

Please can we ask for your support in ensuring that your child is in correct school uniform and following the policy from the first day in September.

Equipment

Students are expected to arrive every day, fully equipped for learning. Every student should bring:

- School bag
- Pen
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Pencil case
- Scientific calculator
- Planner
- Any books or specialist equipment required for the day's lessons.

Students need all of this equipment for the first day in September.

To make equipping our students as straightforward and as accessible as possible, we are pleased to offer pre-stocked pencil cases containing a pencil, pen, ruler, and rubber for just £2.

Parents/carers can purchase these via iPay, and the pencil cases will be ready for collection from the school library on the Monday following payment. On the first day back in September they will be handed to students.

Scientific calculators can also be purchased through iPay for £10.

For those who want to buy items individually, our school library continues to stock stationery at reasonable prices. We hope that this will help to support all of our students to make the most of their time in our classrooms.

Students who repeatedly arrive without the necessary equipment are not fully prepared for learning. Where equipment concerns are logged multiple times within a week, detentions will be issued (6+ lessons: Middle Leader Detention; 11+ lessons: SLT Detention).

Behaviour

At Caldew School, we have high expectations of every student. We believe that excellent behaviour creates the conditions for excellent learning and helps to ensure that every student feels safe, respected and able to achieve their full potential.

The overwhelming majority of our students meet these expectations every day, and we are proud of the positive contribution they make to our school community. Our behaviour systems are designed to recognise and reward positive choices, whilst addressing behaviour that falls below our expectations in a fair, consistent and supportive manner. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you and your children of our school rules and expectations.

Students who make positive contributions to school life will continue to be recognised through our rewards system. Equally, where students choose not to meet our expectations, sanctions will be applied consistently to support improvements in behaviour and ensure that learning is not disrupted for others.

We ask for your continued support in reinforcing these expectations at home. By working together, we can ensure that Caldew School remains a calm, orderly and positive environment where all students can flourish.

Mobile Phones

It is now a statutory requirement from the Department of Education that students do not have access to mobile phones and other digital technology including smart watches. You can find the link to this guidance below.

[Mobile phones in schools - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/mobile-phones-in-schools)

This means that students are not allowed access to their mobile phones or other digital technology, including smart watches, at all during the school day. To enable school to create a workable solution, we will continue with the Not Seen, Not Heard, Not Used policy in the school. If these devices are

seen, used or heard anywhere during the school day, they will be confiscated immediately and this will be logged.

- 1st Phone confiscation - SLT Detention
- 2nd Phone confiscation - Refocus 1 day
- 3rd Phone confiscation - Refocus 2 days – Parents/ carers to collect the phone or it will be returned to the student at the end of the week.

We are reviewing how we will implement a mobile and smart technology free environment for January 2027 and we will keep you informed.

As always, thank you for your continued support and partnership. By working together and maintaining high expectations, we can ensure that every student is given the best possible opportunity to succeed at Caldew School. We hope all students and their families enjoy a safe, restful and well-deserved summer break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in September.

Yours faithfully,

P Hammond

Mr Paul Hammond
Deputy headteacher