



Smithdon High School
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Dear Parents

Following concerns raised individually to the school and highlighted to us on Social Media platforms I wanted to write to clarify the situation with toilet use at Smithdon.

Our policy with using toilets has remained the same for a number of years. In short we expect students to use the toilet before school and at break and lunchtime. We recognise however, that this presents challenges to some of our students and therefore provide both temporary and permanent toilet passes on a case by case basis where requested and deemed necessary. Please note that, as outlined in my previous letter, new toilet passes will be phased in over the next week, please bear with us while this happens.

None of our facilities are locked at Smithdon at any time (other than one boys' toilet in the Smithson building, due only to disrepair).

At breaks and lunchtimes the facilities are regularly checked by staff to ensure that all students that need to use them are able to do so in a safe and comfortable way.

I am sure you can appreciate that in a school environment there has to be some level of control over toilet use, both to ensure the safety of our students and to reduce disruption to learning. Our teachers are professionals, however, and will always use their judgement to ensure a child doesn't face distress, likewise they will impose sanctions when a student pushes the boundaries.

I hope that this helps to explain the situation at Smithdon.

Yours sincerely

A. Gibbins

Mrs A Gibbins
Headteacher

