



Yardleys School

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER FUTURE

Information booklet for Parents and carers of children starting in 2025

Headteacher – Mr G Basra.
Reddings Lane, Tyseley
Birmingham, B11 3EY.
Tel: 0121 464 6821.



WELCOME

On behalf of all pupils, staff and governors, welcome to Yardleys School.

We are very proud of our school, our 940 pupils, their families and the diverse, multi-cultural community they represent. We believe that we need to work together as teachers, parents, pupils and local people in order to secure a better future for our children and the wider community. We were thrilled that our latest Ofsted report recognised our care for our children and staff by saying that Yardleys is a “unique and special place”.

More specifically we are a school that aims:


1. To achieve academic excellence
2. To educate the ‘whole child’ so they are ready for life
3. To work collaboratively and ethically to provide education of the highest standard

We have three overall rules in school which summarise our key expectations for everyone who is a member of Yardleys School community. These are: -




We demonstrate the three R's through the Yardleys Charter.

Yardleys School Charter




Staff & Students believe everyone at Yardleys School should:




Be Ready

- show **positivity** and enthusiasm;
- be motivated & have high expectations of ourselves & others;
- be **curious** and ready to learn new things;
- be fully prepared for all activities with everything you need;
- communicate with others regularly and effectively;
- have excellent attendance and punctuality;
- be well presented and smartly dressed;
- show **resilience** when faced with challenges



Be Respectful

- recognise that we are all equal individuals;
- have regard for each other's personal space and privacy;
- take care of the building, equipment and the environment;
- be polite, considerate and kind to everyone;
- communicate in a calm and polite manner;
- actively listen to others;
- appreciate others' beliefs, opinions & cultures;
- show **empathy** and maturity when dealing with sensitive issues








Be Responsible

- be safe and look after each other;
- complete work on time and to a high standard;
- behave well with **integrity**: even when no-one is watching;
- be a positive role model and representative of the school;
- recognise that we are responsible for our own actions;
- be fair in your treatment of others;
- give our full effort to everything you do;
- **reflect** on all that we do and learn from our mistakes

Leading to Academic Excellence and Personal Development

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER FUTURE



We also aim to educate our children in the importance of common shared values as a means of self-regulating their conduct and developing personally. Our values are:



We believe in education in the widest sense. We want pupils to be curious, independent thinkers and to try new experiences. A wide range of activities outside lessons are provided to all pupils including reading, visiting speakers, trips, careers advice, competitions, clubs, sports, the arts, charitable work and extra tuition.

Staff and governors are committed to providing high quality education but we also believe it is vital to work closely with parents and carers. We seek support from home in preparing pupils for school by reinforcing school rules & values and studying diligently and effectively at home.

We want the best for the children in our care and insist on the highest standards of work and behaviour at all times. We want every pupil to achieve their full potential; to succeed in the widest sense; to be prepared for the future and become confident, thoughtful young people so they leave us prepared for the future challenges of an exciting and increasingly global world.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any questions, concerns or information regarding your child or the school in general. We also provide extensive information and updates on the school website www.yardleys-vle.com and on Instagram [@yardleysschoolbirmingham](https://www.instagram.com/yardleysschoolbirmingham).

Gurpreet Basra **Headteacher**

Having worked at Yardleys School for ten years, and having taken two cohorts through from Year 7 – 11, I care deeply about the school, it's students and the community that we serve. A lot has changed in those ten years, the world is a very different place, but I still believe the most effective way of ensuring that students meet their potential is to ensure that parents / carers and school work effectively together in your child's best interests.

With this in mind, I see a significant part of my role as being the link between the school and the community. I want to be in contact with parents / carers on a regular basis and you should always feel free to contact me by phone or email; I am also more than happy to meet parents to discuss any issues impacting your child. By working effectively together, we can ensure that your child leaves Yardleys School with a terrific set of GCSE results that gives them options Post-16 and allows them to become effective citizens who positively influence society.

It is really important to me that your child achieves well academically as well as developing into a well-rounded young person. This is why I will place significant emphasis on behaviour in school (as well as on the way to and from school) and attendance – if we get these things right between us, your child will flourish here. I look forward to us undertaking this journey together.

Philip Buckley **Head of Year**

SAFEGUARDING AND BEHAVIOUR

In March 2023, OFSTED inspected Yardleys School and drew the following conclusions:-

- Leaders and staff insist that pupils behave and attend exceptionally well.
- Pupils learn what excellent behaviour looks like, and staff model this daily.
- Staff act promptly if pupils' behaviour should dip but do this with kindness and care.
- Safeguarding leaders have the expertise and knowledge to carry out their roles effectively.
- Inspectors observed pupils' excellent behaviour during the inspection.
- Around school, pupils are polite and respectful to one another.

STAFF

We have a dedicated team of around 100 teaching and support staff, all of whom are committed to ensuring that your daughter/son receives a first-class standard of education. Below is a list of staff who have a particular connection with Year 7.

Headteacher Mr G Basra

Senior Leadership Team

Deputy Headteacher	Ms L Yates
Deputy Headteacher	Mr D Pohl
Deputy Headteacher	Mr V Webb
Assistant Headteacher	Ms J Robbins
Assistant Headteacher	Mr E Lawrence
Academy Business and Support Manager	Ms G Webb

Head of Year

Head of Year 7 Ms P Buckley
Email – philip.buckley@yardleys.bham.sch.uk
Direct dial - 01214645641

Year 7 Form Tutors

Mr. T Armstead	7ADT
Ms C Shahwe	7SEC
Ms C Waldron	7WNC
Ms J Arshad	7AXJ
Mr M Johnson	7JNM
Mr S Rafique	7RES
Ms T Khan	7KZT

Co-ordinator of Special Educational Needs Mr R Thornton

School Telephone Number:	0121 464 6821
School Email Address	enquiry@yardleys.bham.sch.uk
School Website	www.yardleys-vle.com
School Instagram	@yardleysschoolbirmingham

EduLink – You will have all received messaging from Yardleys School via the EduLink App. This will be our primary form of communication for letters and messages; please ensure that you monitor EduLink and EduLink notifications. If you have not yet downloaded the EduLink App, please do so and if you need any help, please reach out to us.





HIGH EXPECTATIONS

At Yardleys we have 3 key rules that underpin everything we do;

- Be Ready
- Be Respectful
- Be Responsible.

AIMS

We are a school that...

1. To achieve academic excellence
2. To educate the 'whole child' so they are ready for life
3. To work collaboratively and ethically to provide education of the highest standard

We seek to deliver these aims through our commitment to:

A POSITIVE LEARNING ETHOS: *“Yardleys School is a unique and special place. Staff have built an inclusive and cohesive community. They put pupils’ best interests at the heart of all they do. Everyone is valued, and pupils attend happily, safely and with pride..” OFSTED 2023*

HIGH STANDARDS: We insist on high standards from our pupils at all times (with regard to behaviour, attendance, punctuality, organisation, presentation, effort and achievement).

TARGET SETTING: Each pupil is given both a minimum and challenging target in every subject to ensure that they reach their potential. These targets are based on pupils’ prior attainment at primary school and always match if not exceed national minimum expectations.

INSPIRING CURRICULUM: We aim not only to instruct pupils but to inspire in them the love of a subject as well as learning in general. OFSTED commented that *“Subject leaders have crafted detailed and ambitious subject curriculums. They have set out the overarching aims and have carefully sequenced the detailed knowledge that pupils will learn. They have done this to a consistently high quality..”*

REGULARLY MARKING & CORRECTING WORK: We believe it is vital that pupils receive constructive feedback on their progress both in class and in writing. We also expect pupils to respond by correcting or improving their work in light of teachers’ feedback.

HOMEWORK & EXTENSION WORK: Homework is set weekly and there is a homework club after school to support pupils.

RAISING ASPIRATIONS: We seek to raise pupils’ aspirations by celebrating success and giving guidance about progression routes into higher education and employment opportunities.



CURRICULUM

At Yardleys we are committed to providing a curriculum for the students that fosters learning, empowers all students and enriches their lives providing the much-needed cultural capital. We believe our coherent curriculum is influential in improving life chances including social mobility, employment, health and wellbeing.

Providing a secure education for the students at the school is built on a number of key principles:

1. An ambitious curriculum across the school and within subjects
2. Continual development and enhancement of whole school and subject pedagogy
3. Dedicated time allocated to give all students a well-rounded Personal Development Curriculum
4. A committed approach to developing strong literacy skills in all of the students

ACADEMIC

At Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9) all pupils follow the Yardleys School Curriculum. The core subjects are: English, mathematics and science. They also study art, history, geography, RE, modern foreign languages, ICT/Computing, design technology, music, drama and PE. In Years 7 - 9 pupils are taught in ability groups for English, mathematics and science.

At Key Stage 4 (Years 10-11) all pupils study the core subjects of English (Language and Literature), mathematics, and science, with the vast majority also asked to choose between studying a modern foreign language and history or geography, as well as non-examined courses in PE and Personal Development. Students will access to other curriculum subjects via option choices.

We have a wide range of GCSE and vocational courses covering the humanities, creative and performing arts, science and technology on offer to suit the needs of all our pupils. All course studied in KS4 lead to GCSE or other equivalent, accredited qualifications. The English Baccalaureate is available to all pupils.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

We aim to prepare pupils for life in a multicultural society, recognising and building upon the strengths of cultural diversity. We seek to promote equality and tolerance by increasing the pupils' knowledge and understanding of the world's major religions, current affairs and cultural traditions.

In accordance with the 1988 Education Reform Act, parents have the right to apply to the Headteacher of the School to have their child excused for the whole or part of Religious Education. A similar right exists with regard to School assemblies, acts of collective worship and elements of Sex Education.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT AND INTERVENTION

Pupils are well supported throughout both key stages to ensure they achieve their best. There is a particular focus on the core skills of literacy and numeracy. There are homework clubs, online exercises, revision programmes and booster sessions in place to help pupils achieve their potential.

REPORTING OF PUPIL PROGRESS

Pupils will take part in two assessment weeks each academic year. Parents will receive two reports of their child's academic progress throughout the year. Parents are also invited into school to meet with teachers and form tutors to discuss their child's progress during Attitude to Learning Days and Parents' Evenings. However, we encourage parents to contact the school at any time if they have any concerns about their child's progress or wellbeing.



YARDLEYS PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT CURRICULUM

The intent or aims of the Personal Development Curriculum is to ensure we educate the ‘whole child’ at Yardleys School. By building a robust Personal Development Curriculum the school will enable pupils to succeed in all aspects of their future and prepare them for life in ways the students may currently be unable to recognise. The curriculum is designed to develop the knowledge and understanding of the ever-changing world in which we live, develop the skills necessary to take an active role in their community and manage their life effectively in the future.

The Personal Development Curriculum is an integral part of the school programme and is implemented throughout Yardleys School via:

- Weekly themed assemblies
- Weekly Personal Development sessions delivered by form tutors
- Personal Development sessions delivered by external agencies (including the West Midlands Police and Loudmouth Theatre)
- Weekly Enrichment sessions
- Participation in school clubs
- Undertaking student leadership roles
- Our active CEIAG programme

At the heart of our Personal Development Curriculum are the 3 R’s; with our aims are outlined below.



Be READY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Students are ready to positively participate in society, including engaging with the UK’s democratic process. ✓ Students are ready to forge healthy relationships. ✓ Students are ready to participate in the world of work.
Be RESPONSIBLE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Students understand how to stay safe by making responsible decisions. ✓ Students understand how to stay healthy and make responsible decisions about how to promote their own physical and mental well-being. ✓ Students understand how to make responsible ethical decisions that are in the best interests of themselves and those around them.
Be RESPECTFUL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Students understand and are respectful of the British Values of: democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect. ✓ Students are respectful of the differences that members of society have and promote tolerance and respect for others. ✓ Students are respectful of themselves and develop self-esteem.

These guiding principles are underpinned by our six school values.



HOMEWORK AT YARDLEYS

Getting your child into good habits with their homework at the start of Year 7 will not only prove immensely valuable for their academic success, but also for their organisation and enabling them to develop good routines early on in their school life.

The homework which we set provides an opportunity for your child to consolidate and develop their understanding from lessons, as well as providing an opportunity to carry out further research. This plays a key role in your child's academic success, as our brains are designed to forget the information which we don't go back over. We believe, and having engaged with academic research, that this approach is highly beneficial for our learners in building their long-term memory, and ensuring the content they cover in class is not forgotten.

Your child's homework will be set online on Show My Homework. Homework is issued every Tuesday on Show My Homework, with completion due on the following Monday. This allows you and your child to plan out at what points in the week homework will be completed.

For times when your child has completed all of their homework, there are additional research projects which pupils can choose to engage with to enrich their learning that has taken place. Our Learning Beyond the Classroom section on our website also details how you can help develop your child's deeper thinking through increased access to watching and listening to podcasts, videos, and documentaries.

We also offer access to a computer room at a lunch time and after school to help support your child with the completion of their homework.

ENRICHMENT & EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

We believe that true education goes beyond the classroom. Enrichment & extracurricular activities therefore play a very important part in the life of the school and in the development of our pupils. All students are given opportunities to try a wide range of new activities and experiences whilst at Yardleys. We have an additional period on Wednesdays that provides opportunities for all students at KS3 to participate in a range of activities. Other extracurricular activities also run throughout the academic year which include sports such as football, rugby, athletics, basketball and cricket; outdoor activities such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award; cultural visits such as art exhibitions and theatre performances. Many teachers also enhance their lessons with trips to local, national and international places of interest.

Other activities include: -

- visiting speakers including politicians, business leaders, scientists and environmentalists
- visits to a university and 'taster' lectures
- a daily assembly or tutor period with a focus on spiritual, moral, social, and cultural issues
- fundraising for charities
- additional booster classes and clubs in a wide range of subjects
- drama, dance and music productions
- art exhibitions and other displays
- environmental and community work including gardening
- preparation for the world of work such as mock interviews

PARENTPAY

ParentPay is an online payments system and enable parents to pay online for school meals, trips, uniform items, revision guides and larger stationery items.

- ParentPay provides parents with peace of mind that transactions are being processed safely and securely.
- If you are unable to access ParentPay online, there is a paypoint facility where payments can be made at local convenience stores.
- ParentPay has a facility to show parents what their children are eating in school.
- You will receive an activation letter; please contact the school should you require any assistance in setting up ParentPay.

PASTORAL CARE

As well as being in a year group each pupil is allocated to a tutor group when they join Yardleys. Most pupils will remain in this tutor group with their tutor throughout their five years at Yardleys. In their tutor groups are other children from their year group. The activities and Personal Development education they received in their tutor groups allow for a supportive, family environment in which all pupils can make a positive contribution.

The Heads of Year monitor the well-being, attendance, behaviour and progress of all pupils within their year. This is to ensure that all pupils achieve their full potential. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's Head of Year if you have any questions or concerns about their education.

Heads of Year

Head of Year 7	Mr P Buckley	0121 464 5641
Head of Year 8	Ms C James	0121 464 5626
Head of Year 9	Mr R Vaughan	0121 675 0671
Head of Year 10	Mr S Sohal	0121 464 5638
Head of Year 11	Mr B Tilley	0121 464 5627

Online Safety

The internet is a fascinating resource, which plays an ever-increasing role in both education and our daily lives. **Mobile phones are not permitted in school**, but pupils have access to computers before, during and after school. Please support the school by ensuring your child does not bring a mobile phone to school. All school accounts are closely monitored to ensure appropriate use.

However, it is likely that your child will also be using online technology outside of school, and it is important that you are both aware of the risks associated with the internet. Help and guidance is available on our school website about how to protect your child online. If you have any concerns, please contact your child's Head of Year. Please refer to the 'Safety & Support' area of our website for assistance on how you can safeguard your child against online abuse.

In 2024 young people spend more and more time on mobile phones, social media and playing games online. If not carefully monitored, young people can often misuse or overuse this technology which can impact on learning, sleep and general health.

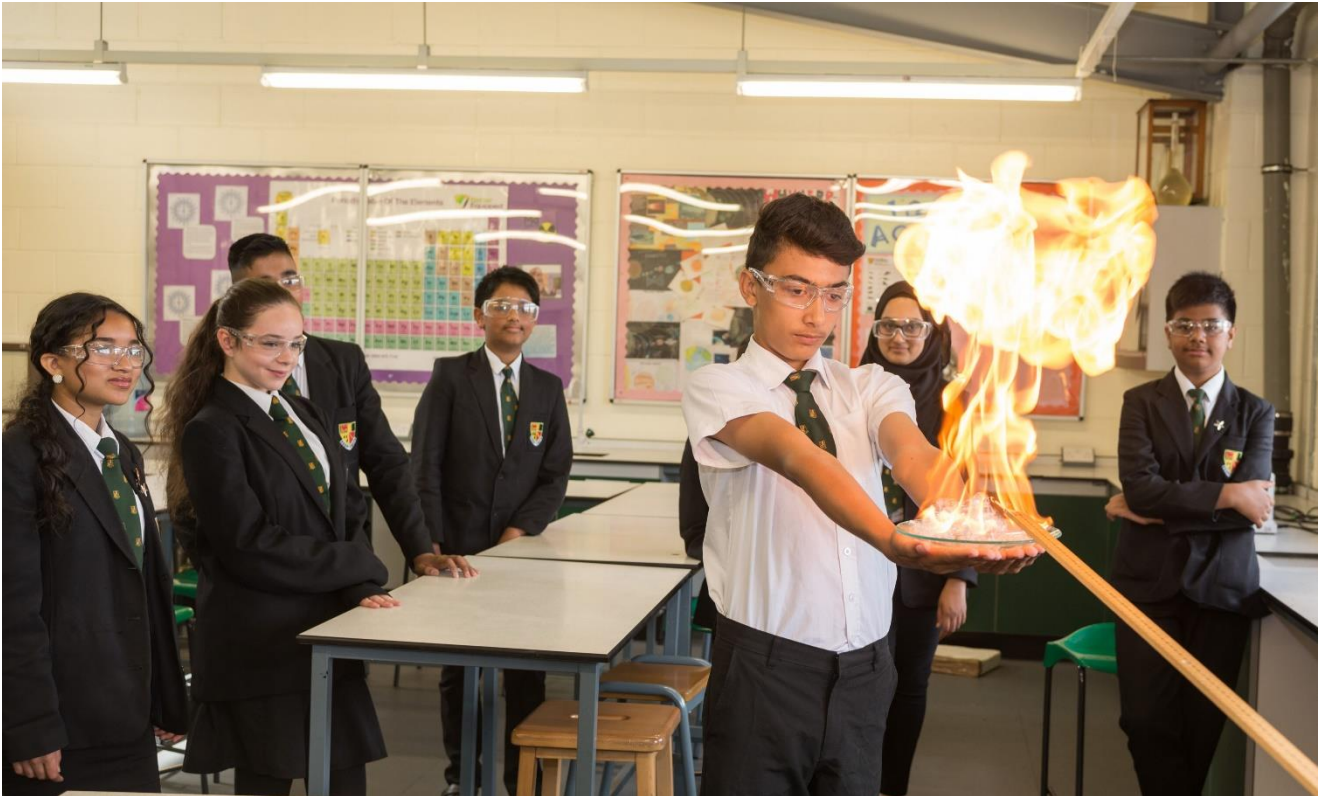
Many social media websites have specific age limits, with most requiring users to be at least **13 years old** before they can make an account. This means that year 7 should **not** have accounts with the following social media apps: Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter, Whatsapp (16 years of age), Musical.ly, Facebook & TikTok (note: this is not an exhaustive list). It is the responsibility of the parent/carer to monitor their child's online activity outside of school.

Whilst your child is younger, it is the ideal time to stop bad habits around social media and computer gaming forming.

What can you do?

Monitor your child's usage of social media closely. Do you know what they are posting and to whom?

Limit and check gaming time; games and platforms like Discord, FIFA and Fortnite swallow up hours. Limit and check use of mobile phones, for example not having phones when revising or in their bedroom.



School Uniform

At Yardleys School we pride ourselves on the high standards that we set ourselves and are always mindful that we are representing our local community at all times. As such, we would like to remind students and parents/guardians of our expectations regarding school uniform so that we can continue to realise these standards. In order to help you ensure that you are purchasing the correct uniform for your son/daughter, we have also produced a detailed illustration of what is and what is not acceptable uniform at Yardleys School.

An overview of our uniform code can also be found below:

1. Black school blazer with Yardleys School badge. Blazer sleeves should not be rolled up or folded over.
2. Plain black formal skirt or trousers (not black jeans, skin-tight trousers, leggings etc. and with no embroidery, pattern stitching, colour, visible labels, pocket zips etc.). Please note that skirts should be of an appropriate length (not significantly above the knee or below the ankle) and should not be skin tight. If a skirt is worn, trousers/leggings should not be worn underneath. Trousers should be loose fitting and of suitable length (to the shoes and not turned up/rolled up). Belts should be plain black with no logo on the buckle.
3. Plain white blouse or shirt. T-Shirts of any description are not acceptable.
4. Clip on Yardleys School tie. NB The clip must be attached; ties with clips removed must be replaced.
5. Plain knit black v-neck pullover with Yardleys School badge, this is optional. Cardigans or alternative pullovers are not permitted.
6. Plain black leather or leather effect shoes - **not boots, high heels, canvas shoes, sandals, slippers or trainers (plain black trainers are not allowed)**. Shoe cannot be made of fabric/canvas material and must be formal, completely black and plain (no excessive detailing such as stripes/decorative stitching /buckles/fur trim/colour). Shoes must be flat (no heel greater than 1 centimetre) and are restricted to a height no higher than the ankle.
7. Headscarves should be plain black.
8. School bags should be the official Yardleys School school bag.
9. Jewellery should be minimal and plain. Facial piercings are not allowed and the only earrings permitted are plain studs/sleepers.
10. Fashion belts/brightly coloured belts are not permitted.
11. Socks should be plain black, grey or white.
12. Hairstyles must not be extreme and hair should be a natural colour.
13. Excessive makeup is not allowed, students who are found to be wearing excessive makeup will be asked to remove it.
14. Baseball caps and hooded tops/training tops should not be worn at school, or on the journey to or from school.
15. Coats/jackets should be plain in design and should not be tracksuit tops/training tops.

**** In all matters relating to school uniform, the Headteacher's decision is final.**

We are all too aware that many retailers sell items in their uniform sections that do not meet our uniform expectations. With this in mind, we have provided a series of photographs to show items of clothing that are, and are not, acceptable at Yardleys School.

The three main uniform suppliers for the Yardleys' uniform are; Clive Mark; Mansuri Schoolwear and Midland Schoolwear.

We have found that items of appropriate school uniform can be purchased at a reasonable price from major supermarkets such as Asda and Tesco. However, should you have any queries regarding the acceptability of an item of uniform please contact your child's Head of Year before making a purchase.

As a school, we understand that the cost of purchasing and replacing school uniform can place a significant financial strain on families, especially as children grow. To help support our school community, we are pleased to offer a small 'shop' of pre-loved uniform which sells donated uniform at very low cost. These items are good quality, clean, and ready for reuse, providing a more affordable and sustainable choice while maintaining our school's uniform standards. To view our pre-loved uniform, then please contact the school. We hope this option helps ease costs for families and supports our commitment to inclusivity and reducing waste.

It is vitally important to us that our students arrive at school looking smart and ready to learn. With this in mind, we would like to thank parents/guardians for their support in ensuring that the highest standards are kept at Yardleys School.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

YARDLEYS TIE:
- Traditional or clip-on, tied to a reasonable length.
(Top button done up)

YARDLEYS BLAZER:
- School Badge on the pocket,
house Badge on the lapel.
(Sleeves rolled down)

HEADWEAR:
- Plain Black
(If Headscarf is worn)

EAR JEWELLERY:
- One pair of studs,
- Worn in lower ear.

SHIRT:
- Plain white and tucked

COAT/JACKET:
- Plain & Dark

JUMPER:
- With school badge may
be worn under blazer.

SKIRT:
- Plain black formal skirt of
suitable length.
(Not significantly above the
knee or below the ankle)

TROUSERS:
- Plain black formal trousers,
loose fitting and of suitable length
(No jeans or skin tight trousers)

TIGHTS:
- Plain black, Trousers may be
worn instead of skirt and tights.
(No tight trousers, leggings or jeans)

SHOES:
Plain black leather or leather effect shoes
- no boots, high heels, canvas shoes, sandals or trainers
(Shoes must be flat with no heel greater than 1cm and are
restricted to a height no higher than the ankle)

Shoes

Below are examples of acceptable and unacceptable school shoes. School shoes should be plain black leather or leather style in appearance. School shoes should be plain black with no logos or writing on them. Canvas shoes, trainers, boots, sandals, slippers and high-heels are not permitted. Shoes must be flat (no heel greater than 1 centimetre) and are restricted to a height no higher than the ankle.

Blazers

Blazers should be plain black and have the Yardleys badge on the front pocket. Blazers should be formal rather than casual/informal and blazer sleeves should not be rolled up.

			
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Trousers

Below are examples of acceptable and unacceptable school trousers. School trousers should be plain black and formal, they must not be denim and must not have embroidery, pattern stitching, colour, visible labels, pocket zips etc. or have coloured external labelling, patterns or zips. Leggings, black jeans, skin-tight trousers and hipsters are not allowed. Trousers should be loose fitting and of suitable length (to the shoes and not turned up/rolled up).

Skirts

School skirts should be black, formal, at least knee length and above the ankle. School skirts should be loose fitting and plain in design with no embroidery, pattern stitching, colour, visible labels, pocket zips etc. If a skirt is worn, trousers/leggings should not be worn underneath.



PE/Games Kit

All pupils have one indoor and one outdoor lesson in a week. All students are expected to wear uniform as follows:

Girls	Boys
White polo shirt Black tracksuit bottoms Black leggings Black/green half zip top Black microfleece long-sleeved White socks Trainers	Green/black reversible football/rugby top Black shorts Green/yellow striped socks Black tracksuit bottoms Trainers

All jewellery must be removed in PE/Games lessons – earrings and nose studs are not allowed. This is a Health and Safety requirement.

Even if your child is not able to participate fully in PE & Games lessons, they will be expected to bring their kit, as they will be asked to umpire, coach and generally help out.

**** In all matters relating to school uniform, the Headteacher's decision is final.**

Equipment

Students will need:

- A Yardleys School bag (can be purchased for £5 via Yardleys School).
- A clear, see-through pencil case containing: two black pens, two red pens, a ruler, two pencils, a pencil erasure and a pencil sharpener. A glue stick and highlighters would also be useful.
- Scientific calculator.

These can be bought from student reception at cost price.



THE SCHOOL DAY

NEW SCHOOL DAY REMINDER - SEPTEMBER 2025

	Monday & Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday & Friday
Form Time or Assembly	8:40am - 9:15am	8:40am - 9:15am	8:40am - 9:15am
Lesson 1	9:15am - 10:10am	9:15am - 10:10am	9:15am - 10:10am
Lesson 2	10:10am - 11:05am	10:10am - 11:05am	10:10am - 11:05am
Break	11:05 am - 11:20am	11:05 am - 11:20am	11:05 am - 11:20am
Lesson 3	11:20am - 12:15pm	11:20am - 12:15pm	11:20am - 12:15pm
Lesson 4	12:15pm - 1:10pm	12:15pm - 1:10pm	12:15pm - 1:10pm
Lunch	1:10pm – 1:50pm	1:10pm - 1:50pm	1:10pm - 1:50pm
Lesson 5	1:50pm – 2.45pm	1:50pm - 2:45pm	1:50pm - 2:45pm
Form Time / P6	2.45pm - 3.10pm	2.45pm - 3.40pm	

Lessons are all 55 minutes in duration.

Homework is set as online work for every subject. Homework club in the library runs each day until 4:00 pm.

Form time is when pupils meet their form tutor to look at basic procedures and to learn about study skills and the personal development programme.

Enrichment on Thursday (lesson 5) is when pupils take part in a different activity such as sport, games, craft, the arts or many other activities.



LUNCHTIME ARRANGEMENTS

The school operates a cashless cafeteria system and offers an excellent range of hot and cold foods at very reasonable prices.

As part of our commitment to supporting the wellbeing and readiness to learn of all our pupils, our school participate in the National School Breakfast Programme (NSBP) to provide free toasted bagels every morning to all students. These are available daily from **8:20am**, and are offered to everyone, regardless of whether they are eligible for free school meals. We believe that a nutritious start to the day is important for concentration, energy, and learning, and this initiative helps ensure that every child begins the school day feeling settled and ready to succeed.

At lunchtime pupils: -

- Remain on the school premises for the entire period and have a school dinner or packed lunch. Children are supervised throughout the lunchtime by members of staff.
- Students are able to purchase food from the canteen and a second service point in the Cooper Hall. Those students who have packed lunches will be able to sit in either the Canteen or the Cooper Hall.
- The children are encouraged to participate in the extra-curricular activities available during the lunch break.
- Will only, under special circumstances, be issued with a home dinner pass.

Pupils are expected to show this pass to the member of staff on duty at lunchtime.



ATTENDANCE

At Yardleys we value good attendance and punctuality. This is because it is one of the key factors that impacts on whether a student succeeds at school or not. Our school attendance target for every student is 97%. A good attendance habit starts from the first day in Year 7.

“Children who attend school less regularly are less likely to get the GCSEs that they need.”
(Children’s Commissioner, 2023)

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Hints and Tips to ensuring that your child has good attendance:

- Understand that it is your legal duty to ensure that your child attends school every day unless they are too unwell to do so: **“If you are the parent of a child of compulsory school age who fails to attend school regularly, you are guilty of an offence.”** (s.444, Education Act 1996)
- Be positive about learning and school. It is your child’s route to achieving their potential.
- Never let your child decide if they are too unwell to come to school. Such a decision must be made by an adult.
- If your child does not want to come to school contact their Head of Year to see what support we can offer.
- Please book medical and dental appointments during holidays, at weekends or after school.
- If school has to be missed due to a medical appointment try to have it at the start or end of the day to allow attendance for the rest of the day. If the appointment is in middle of the day please send your child in before and after the appointment.
- Make sure your child is getting plenty of sleep and does not stay up late on a school night.

Please be aware that the school will not authorise term time holidays due to the impact that they have on a student’s learning. Taking your child out of school may jeopardise their place and/or result in possible court action and fines for each parent/carer.

REPORTING ABSENCE

Please contact your child’s Head of Year if you would like to report an absence, calls should be made before school starts.

Key points to remember about attendance

- Students must not miss school for family events, shopping, birthdays or anything else other than illness.
- It is up to parents to decide if a child is too ill to attend school. Students must not make this decision.
- Make medical appointments out of school time and if not possible, come into school around the appointment.
- Do not permit your child to miss school for minor ill-health—stomach aches, headaches, hayfever.
- Students are permitted one day a year off for religious observance (Eid, Diwali etc.) if this falls in term time.

Attendance during one school year...	...equals this number of days absent...	...which is approximately this many weeks absent...	...which means this number of lessons missed.
95%	9 days	2 weeks	50 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	150 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	200 lessons

HOME SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

Yardleys School will ensure each child receives a high-quality education by:

- Upholding the ethos, rules and values in the Yardleys Charter
- Advocating the Yardleys Way by promoting equality and diversity and tackling discrimination, based on the nine protected characteristics outlined in the Equalities Act of 2020. These are: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation
- Creating a safe environment where all our children are valued and treated equally and in which effort, success and achievement is rewarded
- Valuing each child as an individual and raise students' self-esteem and encourage them to fulfil their true potential
- Providing a broad curriculum which inspires, challenges and engages each student through high quality teaching
- Keeping parents/carers informed of student progress, achievements and concerns at an early stage
- Assessing work and reporting on academic, attendance and any other achievements and setting targets to move pupils to the next level
- Having high expectations at all times
- Rewarding achievement and celebrating success
- Applying sanctions in line with the school Behaviour Policy

As a Parent/Carer I will ensure my child receives a high-quality education by:

- Upholding the ethos, rules and values in the Yardleys Charter
- Advocating the Yardleys Way by promoting equality and diversity and tackling discrimination, based on the nine protected characteristics outlined in the Equalities Act of 2020. These are: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation
- Supporting the school and leaders in their choice of appropriate curriculum and resources
- Supporting the school to help students become well rounded citizens that uphold fundamental British values
- Supporting the school in having high standards of academic attainment through the use of homework and independent study
- Supporting both in and out of school in maintaining high standards of behaviour, punctuality, attendance and uniform
- Sharing concerns about my child's education, welfare and behaviour with the school
- Supporting the school's Behaviour Policy, together with any sanctions applied

- Ensuring that my child is in school every day, on time. On the rare occasion my child is absent from school due to serious illness, I will contact the school on each day of absence.
- Not taking my child out of school during term time, and be aware that fines can be imposed
- Taking part in my child's progress at school throughout the year when invited to events and, if necessary, by contacting the school for an appointment
- Ensuring my child does not bring a mobile phone/expensive item(s) to school, and understanding that the school will not be responsible for any items lost or stolen
- Support the school's right to confiscate items which are deemed to be inappropriate for school
- Ensuring that my child only has social media when they are legally old enough and monitor my child's use of social media
- Ensuring my child upholds the school expectations on the way to and from school and does not get involved in anti-social behaviour
- Supporting and promoting Yardleys School within the community

As a Student I will ensure I receive a high-quality education by:

- Upholding the ethos, rules and values in the Yardleys Charter
- Advocating the Yardleys Way by promoting equality and diversity and tackling discrimination, based on the nine protected characteristics outlined in the Equalities Act of 2020. These are: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation
- Valuing and treating everyone equally
- Following school rules and routines and respecting the school property and environment
- Arriving to school every day, on time and with the correct school equipment. Ensure any equipment used or lost is replaced
- Taking pride in my appearance by wearing the correct school uniform
- Behaving in a way which does not bring the school into disrepute and respecting our local community
- Not bringing to school a mobile phone, expensive items or any items deemed unacceptable within a school setting
- Not misusing social media
- Accepting the consequences of my actions and following the Behaviour Policy in full
- Working to the best of my ability in all schoolwork, homework and independent study
- Embracing opportunities that make me think and share ideas
- Never giving up and always thinking 'I can do this'.
- Getting involved through discussing with peers, collaborating and asking questions
- Engaging with written and verbal feedback and wanting to do better
- Demonstrating pride and care in the presentation of my work
- Taking responsibility and pride in the presentation of my work
- Behaving in a way which promotes my own learning and that of my peers
- Showing pride in my achievements and sharing my successes with others
- Being an ambassador for Yardleys School within the community

This Home School Partnership has been designed to ensure we work collaboratively and ethically to provide education of the highest standard. To ensure, we stand firm that all staff and students are entitled to a safe working environment free from violence and abuse, and this type of behaviour will not be tolerated.

The Yardleys Way is.....



Respecting and valuing different races.

Understanding the value of people of different abilities.

Valuing people of all ages.

Treating people of all sexualities with respect.

Respecting and valuing the chosen gender identity of all.

Respecting and valuing the female members of our community.

Not being a bystander when we see discrimination.

Understanding that people being different doesn't impact on me.

Listening and valuing the voices of all people.

Valuing people's right to observe religion differently to me or not at all.

Knowing, respecting and valuing people with different protected characteristics.

Respecting the right for people to be different.

NEW ACADEMIC YEAR SEPTEMBER 2025-JULY 2026 – KEY DATES/EVENTS

Below are some important and useful dates for the new academic year. Please note that although term dates and holidays will remain as highlighted, other events can change. We will keep you informed of any changes.

Monday 1st September 2025	Training Day – school closed to students
Tuesday 2nd September 2025	School open to new Year 7
Wednesday 3rd September 2025	School open to all students
Thursday 18th September 2025	Open Evening for Year 6. School closes to students at 2:15pm
Thursday 23rd October 2025	Attitude for Learning /Progress Review Day
Friday 24th October – Friday 31st October 2025	Half Term Holidays
Monday 3rd November 2025	School Open to all students
Thursday 27th November 2025	Year 8 Parents Evening. School closes to students at 2:15pm
Friday 28th November 2025	Training Day – school closed to students
Monday 15th December – Thursday 18th December 2025	Whole School Assessment Week – Exams for all year groups
Friday 19th December – Friday 2nd January 2026	Christmas Holidays
Monday 5th January 2026	Training Day – school closed to students
Tuesday 6th January 2026	School open to all students
Thursday 22nd January 2026	Year 11 Parents Evening. School closes to students at 2:15pm
Thursday 5th February 2026	Year 10 Parents Evening. School closes to students at 2:15pm
Friday 6th February 2026	Training Day – school closed to students
Monday 16th – Friday 20th February 2026	Half Term Holidays
Monday 23rd February 2026	School open to all students
Friday 20th March 2026	Training Day – school closed to students
Thursday 26th March 2026	Year 9 Parents Evening. School closes to students at 2:15pm
Monday 30th March – Friday 10th April 2026	Easter Holidays
Monday 13th April 2026	School open to all students
Monday 4th May 2026	May-Day Bank Holiday
Tuesday 5th May 2026	School is closed to students
Wednesday 6th May 2026	School is open to all students
Thursday 7th May 2026	Year 7 Parents Evening. School closes at 2:15pm
Monday 25th -Friday 29th May 2026	Half Term Holidays
Monday 1st June 2026	School open to all students
Monday 30th June -Thursday 2nd July 2026	Assessment Week – exams for Year 7-10
Friday 3rd July 2026	Marking Day - School closed to all students
Friday 17th July 2026	Last day of the academic year for all students
Monday 20th July 2026	Summer Holidays begin

First day of school: Tuesday 2nd September 2025 at 8:40am.
We look forward to welcoming your child to Yardleys School on Tuesday

How can parents & carers help?

Contact school if:

- Your child is unable to attend or is going to be late (doctors/dentist etc).
- Your child has a problem that you need help with or that the school needs to be informed about.
- You change your contact details.

Help by:

- Ensuring that your child has excellent attendance and punctuality to school.
- Ensuring your child is wearing all the correct uniform including the school bag.
- Ensuring that your child has all the correct equipment with them.
- Checking that your child has completed all their homework
- Asking your child about their work or asking them to show you their work.
- Encouraging them to read.
- Encourage your child to take part in extra-curricular activities and one physical activity a week.