



West Calder High School

P7 TRANSITION

Information for Parents & Carers





Frequently Asked Questions

Do I get to be in a class with my friends?
 You will be asked to identify up to 3 people you might want to be in class with. You will definitely be in a class with at least 1 of these people

How will I travel to school?
 You will either walk to school or, if you live further away but within the WCHS catchment, you will be entitled to free school transport.

What equipment will I need?
 You will need a schoolbag, a pencil case, a scientific calculator and PE kit. You are also welcome to bring your own digital learning device e.g. tablet.

Can I bring my phone to school?
 Yes however it must remain in your bag during lessons

What do I do if I need help?
 Your Wellbeing Support Teacher, along with all staff, will be able to help and support you if you need anything.



School Uniform

We have high standards for every individual young person at West Calder High School. This includes expecting everyone to wear full, correct uniform. Uniform can be ordered from the school office or our school website

Our dress code is simple & cost effective:

**Black or Red WCHS Branded Hoodie,
 Plain Black bottoms or WCHS Branded Joggers,
 Appropriate Footwear for School Activities (not Ugg Slippers or Crocs)**



Welcome to West Calder High School

How will we help you to get ready for Secondary School?

**Ambition Respect
 Equity**



'Uniquely Us, Uniquely You'

Welcome to **West Calder High School**

We are delighted to welcome you to West Calder High School as you begin your journey into S1. Starting secondary school is an exciting step, and we hope this leaflet gives you and your family a helpful introduction to our school community.

At West Calder High School, we want every young person to feel safe, supported and inspired. We believe school should be a place where pupils can enjoy learning, try new things and grow in confidence. Our values of Ambition, Respect and Equity are at the heart of everything we do – we want all young people to aim high and believe in their own potential.

We are committed to creating a welcoming, inclusive and nurturing environment where everyone has the chance to succeed. We work closely with pupils, families and partners to make sure every young person receives the support they need to thrive.

We celebrate the achievements of our young people and staff regularly through our Social Media platform including Facebook and our weekly newsletter, Snippets. We encourage you to follow us online to see what's happening in school and to stay up to date.

We look forward to sharing your West Calder High School experience together

Gerry Higgins
Headteacher





We are delighted to welcome you to our school

We have 3 school values in West Calder High School: **Ambition**, **Respect** and **Equity**. We aim to ensure that you are supported to become your best unique self.

We know that moving from Primary to Secondary school is a huge step. It is likely that you feel excited but also nervous and you will probably have lots of questions. This flyer is designed to answer many of your

We look forward to being able to provide you with many unique opportunities and experiences when you join West Calder High School which will develop your skills, talents and interests.



How will we prepare for your arrival in S1?

West Calder High School staff have also been working closely with your P7 teachers to gather as much information as possible about you as an individual and as a learner in order that we can make your transition to secondary school a smooth one.

Which subjects will I study?

In S1 you will study Maths, English, French, PE, Art, Music, Technologies, Social Subjects, Science, Outdoor Learning, and Wellbeing .



The School Day

- School day starts at 8.40am
- Period 1 & 2 (both 50 minutes)
- Break: 10.20 - 10.35am
- Period 3 & 4 (both 50 minutes)
- Period 5: 12.15 - 1.45 (which includes lunch 12.45 - 1.15pm)
- Periods 6 & 7 (both 50 minutes)
- End of day - 3.20 (12.20 Friday)

The Cafe

The school Cafe is open from 8am, at Breaktime and Lunchtime every day. Breakfast, Snacks and Hot and Cold Lunches can be purchased using our Cashless Catering System. Alternatively, you can choose to bring a Snack and/or Packed Lunch from home. All dietary requirements can be catered for.



School Uniform

We have high standards for every individual young person at West Calder High School. This includes expecting everyone to wear full, correct uniform. Uniform can be ordered from the school office or our school website

Our dress code is simple & cost effective:

Black or Red WCHS Branded Hoodie &/or T-Shirt,
Plain Black bottoms or WCHS Branded Joggers,
Appropriate Footwear for School Activities (not
Ugg Slippers or Crocs)

*PE kit can be the above or sportswear (no
football strips)

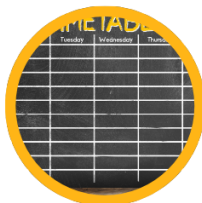


The School Day

Below is some key information about the school day

School day starts at 8.40am

- Period 1 & 2 (both 50 minutes)
- Break: 10.20 - 10.35am
- Period 3 & 4 (both 50 minutes)
- Period 5: 12.15 - 1.45 (which includes lunch 12.45 - 1.15pm)
- Periods 6 (50 minutes)
- Period 7 (45 minutes)
- End of day - 3.20 (12.20 Friday)



In S1 your young person will study Maths, English, French, PE, Art, Music, Technologies, Social Subjects, Science, Outdoor Learning, & Wellbeing .

The school Cafe is open from 8am, at Breaktime and Lunchtime every day.



Breakfast, Snacks and Hot and Cold Lunches can be purchased using our Cashless Catering System or pre-ordered using the catering app which you will be able to access once your young person starts with us in August .

Alternatively, you can choose to bring a Snack and/or Packed Lunch from home.

All dietary requirements can be catered for.

Please note that S1 pupils are not permitted to leave the school campus during the school day



Support at WCHS

The Wellbeing of your young person is our priority at WCHS as we know that young people who feel valued, included and cared for in school, are much more likely to achieve success. Your young person's Wellbeing Support Teacher will act as their Key or Trusted Adult and will be both the first point of contact for your young person and yourself if any concerns arise. The Wellbeing Support Teacher will have an overview of your young person's likes/dislikes, skills and talents as well as any additional support needs or barriers to learning which may impact on their experience in school. The Wellbeing Support Teacher will continue working with your young person as they progress through the school in order to provide continuity and consistency.

Classes at WCHS

At WCHS, we know that the greatest cause of anxiety as young people and families approach transition to secondary school, is that they may be in a class with people they don't know. Our priority is that every young person feels safe and secure in their S1 class. During the final term in P7 and once your young person has received a place at WCHS, they will be asked to identify up to 4 young people they would like to be in an S1 class with. We guarantee that they will be in a class with at least one of the young people they have identified.

Please note that classes will not be confirmed until the first day of term in August due to late enrolments during the summer period.

Attendance at School

High levels of school attendance provide the foundation for educational success. In addition attendance at school nurtures social skills – making friends, co-operating, resolving conflict, and increasing confidence; develops life skills such as resilience and responsibility, develops a sense of belonging and develops positive habits for your young person's future.

At WCHS we will work in partnership with you to ensure that your young person maintains high levels of attendance. We would ask for your support in ensuring that maintaining high levels of school attendance is prioritised as they embark on their secondary school career.



What can you do?

- Value and promote education and attendance
- Have structure, routines, boundaries which support school attendance
- Avoid holidays during term time
- Look for warning signs that there might be an issue – regular sore stomachs, headaches
- Be aware of your child's attendance/ lates data

Contact the school if you require support

School Transport

If your young person lives within the WCHS catchment and the distance from home to school exceeds 2 miles, they are entitled to school transport.

It is the responsibility of Parents/Carers to apply for school transport. This can be done using the link below:

<https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/78480/Applications-Referrals-for-Home-to-School-Transport>



School Transport Pick Up Information

Shortly before your young person is due to start S1, (usually shortly before the start of the new term in August), you will receive confirmation from the School Transport department along with information regarding pick up times and locations.

*Please note that WCHS has no jurisdiction over School Transport or the application process

Frequently Asked Questions

Will my young person be provided with a locker?

Every young person is provided with a free locker and key. If the key is lost, there will be a charge for a replacement

What equipment will be required for S1?

Your young person will require to bring a school bag containing pens/pencils, a scientific calculator (available from the school office) and a digital device if they have one.

Are mobile phones allowed at school?

Young people can bring phones to school however they do so at their own risk. Phones must be placed in school bags during classes unless advised by the teacher

What happens if my young person requires to take medication during the school day?

You will be invited to complete the paperwork to enable your young person to have medication administered during the school day.

What happens if my young person becomes unwell during the school day?

You will be contacted by the school office and asked to collect your young person. Please do not attend school to collect them unless you have been contacted by the school office.

What clubs are available for my young person at WCHS?

A wide range of clubs and activities will be available for all young people to access. Details of these will be shared at the start of term.

What do I do if my young person is absent from school or has an appointment?

At WCHS we encourage full attendance at school however if your young person is unable to attend, you should contact the school providing the reason for their absence.