



Pensby High School

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Headteacher: Mr K Flanagan

30 April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

I wanted to write and thank you for your support regarding our community and how we support each other to hold to the values that allow for our children to feel safe, learn and find their own success; whatever this may be. Part of creating this success is how our children understand that how they choose to behave has an impact on others. I have to say, that the vast majority of children are a credit to themselves and to us as parents every single day. However, we do on occasions receive what amounts to an instruction to school from a parent, in effect requesting that the school applies its behaviour system to everyone except their child.

All of us benefit from knowing that there are rules and staff will apply these fairly, because that makes for the safest and calmest environment for our children. An environment that they are more likely to succeed in.

All of us need to know where boundaries lie, perhaps even more so when we become teenagers and young adults, as we all test how far we are able to go. As a school, we are known for our expectations and standards, and we base all of this on a fairly simple maxim, 'treat others as you wish to be treated yourself'. It is a simple, but an effective measure, as I have yet to find a child that wants their lesson to be disrupted by others, or wants another child to push in front of them in the lunch queue or listen to unkind words directed to another child.

We are very fortunate that most of the children here need very little support to make positive behaviour choices; they do it because they see the value in treating others as well as they can, they are a credit to you and I thank all of you who help our children see the world that way.

There are though occasions when children make poor choices and as a result there is a consequence. These are given, amongst other reasons, partly to help children reflect and partly to show others that we are looking after them and that we have their backs when poor choices are made. All children then benefit from this, because all children can see the benefit in making better choices and they understand that by being kind and compassionate to others, others are more likely to be kind and compassionate to them. You would be amazed and how often children ask us to help manage the behaviours of other children or come and ask that another child is supported, because they are worried about that child. Adult intervention is sought on an innumerable number of occasions every day.

It does mean though, that when a consequence is given, the consequence has to happen or we will signal to children that adults are not really in control and those that shout, push or stop us from learning are actually the ones that are. We do really appreciate how much support we get from parents, just how many students come to school ready to learn, able and willing to be kind and look out for each other, thank you. However, where these choices fall down we will issue a detention or keep a student back, take them out of a trip or a team. This is something that all schools do and to be clear, no school is expected to seek permission from parents or simply withdraw a consequence as a result of a parent's objection. To do so, would be to leave children unprotected from unkind words or actions, from poor choices that may cause harm or upset and to a school where they are less able to treat people as they wish to be treated, with kindness and care.

I would like to thank all of you who help to keep our school calm and kind, thank you. I promise you that we will continue to support your children by ensuring that we expect the same kindness and care from all children and parents. The truth is and I say this as a parent of a child in our school, our children get the classrooms and corridors that reflect our expectations and values as adults. Detentions will be issued, staff will not remove them if a parent tells them they have to. If a child does not attend a detention, because they are told that they do not have by a parent, the consequence will escalate. We do so, because as the adults in school, our role is to whenever and wherever possible create the conditions where children can be their best.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'K Flanagan', written in a cursive style.

Mr K Flanagan
Headteacher