

24 February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

You may be aware from the media of instances of student protest that are happening at the moment in schools, both nationally and in Cornwall. The reasons for these vary but seem to focus on access to the toilets and school rules. Unfortunately, as the media reports show, impromptu student protests can and do quickly escalate to unsafe and unacceptable behaviour.

I am writing to you firstly to reassure you that with regard to toilet access, we have the same common sense approach that has been in place for at least the twenty years that I have worked at The Roseland Academy. This will be similar to the rules that were in place when many of you were at school as well. We encourage students to use toilets at breaks and lesson changeover. For obvious reasons leaving to use the toilet during lessons is discouraged, but if students need to they of course will be allowed. All of our other school rules and policies are well considered and part of our Roseland Cultures. When students join us in Year 7 the home-school agreement confirms acceptance and understanding of these.

We have a number of ways that students can raise questions or concerns about everything we do at school. Our student leaders are part of a process that engage with the school leadership team to enact positive change. All of our staff are willing and available to explain to students our school policies and this is part of our values of kindness and respect.

Unfortunately, the way some of these protests have played out in other schools is wholly unacceptable as it has created unsafe situations for students and staff. Any student who chooses to behave in an unsafe way that undermines our values and endangers others will be managed in line with our behaviour policy and I cannot have any misunderstanding of this. Freedom of speech is different to freedom from consequence. I am asking all parents and carers to talk to their children proactively about this as I do not want to be in the situation of having to follow up any actions or behaviour that make students or staff in school unsafe.

I very much value your ongoing support in modelling to our young people, calm rational decision making and positive use of social media.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Richard Clarke
Headteacher