



Alsager School

An Achieving School
A Caring Community



Parent and Carer Handbook

taking families step-by-step
through starting school



Welcome to Alsager School



Andrea O'Neill, Headteacher, says:

We are delighted that you are considering entrusting your child to Alsager School for the next five and possibly seven years.

Mission Statement

Our mission statement is: 'An Achieving School - A Caring Community'. This underpins our approach to education and young people. At Alsager School, we believe that happy children work to their full potential, and we make it a priority to create the right conditions to ensure that all our pupils are able to flourish.

High expectations

We believe you will be impressed by our high expectations, quality of teaching, vibrant learning environment and our motivated pupils.

Welcome to our school

In this handbook, you will find lots of useful information and the answers to some frequently asked questions. Happy reading!

Got more questions?

If you have any questions that are not answered, please contact Alsager School on: 01270 871100, or email us at admin@alsagerschool.org and we will be happy to help.

Partnership

I look forward to working in partnership with you and getting to know you and your child. Welcome to our wonderful school.

Key information



What are our school times?

Pupils should arrive on site between 08:20 and 08:38

Start	End	Duration	Note
08:40	09:05	25 mins	Form
09:05	10:05	60 mins	Lesson 1
10:05	10:25	20 mins	Break
10:25	11:25	60 mins	Lesson 2
11:25	12:25	60 mins	Lesson 3
12:25	13:10	45 mins	Lunch
13:10	14:10	60 mins	Lesson 4
14:10	15:10	60 mins	Lesson 5

Transport

There are multiple transport options for students attending the school. Depending on the area you live in, your child may be entitled to a free bus pass. You will need to contact the Local Authority to arrange this. Tel: 0300 123 5012 or apply online www.cheshireeast.gov.uk – click Schools and Learning then School Transport

For students living in the Kidsgrove areas, there is a First Bus, Number 3/3a that goes through Kidsgrove to Alsager. The information is available at www.firstbus.co.uk.

For those wishing to use the Wychwood Park/Weston bus, this is a private arrangement between parents/carers. Bus routes operated by the local authority are available to view in the transport letter on our website.

Uniform

Pupils in Year 7-11 are required to wear school uniform at all times. We expect all parents to support our high standards of appearance.

The school uniform consists of:

- Maroon school blazer with embroidered badge.
- Mid-grey tailored trousers or mid-grey pleated skirt no shorter than just above the knee or mid grey tailored knee length shorts.
- Black or grey socks/black or grey plain knit tights (socks must not be above the knee).
- White school shirt/blouse – this must not be a fitted blouse.
- School tie with clip on fastener.
- Black leather or leather type school shoes.
- Plain fine knit v-necked grey jumper embroidered with the school logo (optional).

P.E. and games compulsory kit

- Long black socks
- Trainers
- Shin guards/gum shields (for hockey and football)
- Football boots/astro trainers (for field games).

Compulsory kit - Tops

Choose one or more from:

- School badged polo (unisex or fitted)
- School badged long-sleeve rugby top

Compulsory kit - Bottoms

Choose one or more from:

- School badged shorts or skort
- School badged black leggings
- School badged tracksuit bottoms

Optional outdoor kit

- School badged full-zip pro jacket
- School badged long-sleeve sweatshirt
- Long sleeved black cire base layer

Please also refer to the rules on personal items and appearance on page 5.

Labelling of clothing

All clothing and possessions should be clearly marked with your child's name. The school will not accept responsibility for lost or damaged belongings.

Uniform stockists

All items of uniform are available from five local suppliers as listed. Standard items such as trousers, skirts and shirts are available from high street stores and supermarkets.

- Badged by Davenports - Betchton
- Hightown Menswear - Sandbach
- Alsager & Sandbach Saddlery - Sandbach
- National Schoolwear Centres - Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent
- Smart Choice Uniform - Alsager

Further details are available on our website, please familiarise yourself with our full policy: <https://www.alsagerschool.org/uniform/>

Food in school

Our external caterers, Aramark, provide school lunches and always have a range of filling and healthy options and meal deals. The canteen offers a range of international, traditional and vegetarian dishes alongside sandwiches, wraps etc. Aramark use a cashless system that will involve using your child's biometrics. You will be able to top up and add money to your child's account via ParentPay.

Canteen service times

- Breakfast 8:20-8:30am
- Break 10:05-10:25am
- Lunch 12:25-1:10pm

Our Catering Manager is happy to discuss any special dietary needs (01270 877294). There are places to eat for pupils who want to bring their own lunch.

Free school meals

If you think your child might be entitled to free school meals, please visit our website <https://www.alsagerschool.org/school-meals/> for more information.

Leaving the school premises at lunchtime

Years 7-9 must stay on campus during lunchtimes. Years 10-11 are only allowed to leave the campus if their parents/carers have given signed permission. The school has the right to withdraw this privilege.

Drinks

Drinks are on sale in the canteen but there are water dispensers in school for pupils to use. It would be helpful for your child to bring a plastic bottle to refill. This can cut down the cost of lunch.

Frequently asked questions



Here are our answers to what we find are the most frequently asked questions. If you have any questions that are not answered here, please contact the school office and we will be happy to help.

Absence

Any student absence must be reported to the school by 8:30am every day. Please call the Absence line on: 01270 871107 or email: absence@alsagerschool.org as early as possible on **each day** of absence.

Illness

If your child is taken ill at school and is too unwell to stay, you will be asked to come and collect them. Your child will not be able to contact you on their own mobile phone but should allow the school to communicate with you.

Medical conditions

If your child has a serious medical condition or an allergy, contact Mrs Walker our SENDCO, who will advise you on how the school and the county school nurses can help.

Medication in school

If your child needs to take medication in school, you must drop this, complete with the box and prescription label to the school reception and complete the relevant form.

Injury

If your child suffers an injury such as breaking a limb, then student services will be able to support your child so they do not miss out on valuable lesson time. Contact your child's Head of College to arrange this.

Security

We must know your child is in school to ensure safety and security. If we haven't heard from you that your child isn't going to be in school, and your child does not arrive for registration, the school will contact you. We must have your up to date contact details.

Collection

If your child has to leave school during the day we must, for safety reasons, have a request from you and they must be collected. Children will never be allowed to leave the premises by themselves during school hours.

Holidays in term time

In 2013 amendments to the Education Regulations 2006, make it clear that a headteacher may not grant any leave of absence for holiday during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. Further details can be found in our Attendance Policy on our school website.

Other absences

Other absences or lateness, without school being informed of an acceptable reason, will be classified as Unauthorised Absences. These will be published as part of the school's annual statistical record and in your child's annual report.

Emergency arrangements

We will, of course, endeavour to keep the school open, if at all possible, but severe weather conditions could make it necessary to close the school if it were dangerous or unreasonably difficult:

- For children or sufficient numbers of staff to reach school and provide an adequate educational service.
- For children or staff to journey to and return from school safely and without undue delay.

In the event of an emergency closure, parents/carers will be contacted, and the information will be published on our website and social media platforms. Lessons will be delivered remotely.

Stay in touch

The school appreciates that during bad weather children may arrive later than normal, but parents/carers should endeavour to contact the school to let them know they are on their way if likely to be delayed. The school recognises there will be isolated instances where families are cut off, even where the clear majority of children can get into school. In such instances, parents/carers should inform the school of the circumstances of this exceptional situation.

Contact numbers

In the event of the school having to close during the day due to unforeseen worsening weather or similar unforeseen circumstances, parents/carers will be contacted. Such an early release will only be contemplated in very extreme circumstances. All parents/carers are urged to ensure that mobile phones are switched on and audible in case we are trying to contact you.



Personal items and appearance

- No canvas shoes/pumps/logoed shoes/trainers/boots/high heels/slipper-type pumps.
- No hoodies.
- No short or fitted skirts.
- No hipster/jeans-style/frayed/lycra/decorated or casual trousers.
- No jumpers or cardigans without the school logo.
- No wide belts or large buckles.
- No makeup/nail varnish/nail extensions.
- Hair - extreme colours or styles are not permitted (for example, but not limited to, unnatural dyes or unnatural patterns cut/shaved into the hair). Hair must be one natural colour. Long hair must be tied back for practical subjects.
- No HD/artificial eyebrows or eyelash extensions.
- No piercings except for single piercings in earlobes.
- No jewellery other than discreet stud earrings and/or a wristwatch and one charity band.

This list is not exhaustive.

Mobile phones

Pupils may not use phones or smart watches in school. If they use a phone for their journey to and from school, it must be switched off and locked away in their mobile phone pouch before they enter, and until they leave, the school site. Phone pouches will be provided for all pupils on their first day at school.

Pupils are responsible for their own belongings. Alsager School accepts no responsibility for any loss or damage to any electronic device.

E-safety

We offer a wide range of ICT opportunities to our pupils and believe in teaching the skills needed to access the technology on offer in the modern world.

Use it wisely

E-safety is very important. All pupils are taught about online safety as part of the curriculum. We ensure children understand a range of ways to use technology safely, respectfully, responsibly and securely including protecting their online identity and privacy. Pupils are taught to recognise inappropriate content, contact and conduct and know how to report concerns. Everyone is made aware of their responsibilities in terms of how ICT equipment is used and in terms of remaining kind and respectful towards other people online. Cyberbullying is an issue we take very seriously. More information is available in our E-safety Policy and Acceptable Use Policy on our website.

Equipment

Students at Alsager will need certain fundamental items of equipment at school daily. These include:

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| • School bag | • Student Planner |
| • Black pens (2) | • Green pen |
| • Pencils (2) | • Ruler |
| • Eraser/rubber | • Calculator |

Homework

Home Learning is set regularly, and this will vary by subject and key stage. All home learning is designed to reinforce the learning that is happening inside the classroom, but it also allows students to work independently, at their own pace, to develop their organisational skills and use their knowledge, skills and understanding.

To aid with transition, homework in Year 7 is limited to English, Maths and Languages. See the Year 7 Home Learning Hub in the Curriculum section of our website for details of the online learning platforms we use.

As well as working from home, Home Learning can be done in school in the LRC until 4.30pm Monday to Thursday or by attending Homework Club. Sanctions are in place for non-compliance.



Enrichment, clubs, activities, trips and visits

We offer ALL pupils a broad and wide experience of school life. The purpose of SPIRIT Enrichment is to enable students to engage with skills, ideas and activities which they can see have an immediate link with the world outside of school as well as in. The SPIRIT ethos is the heart of our school and is focused around a main set of values.

- **S** - Self Regulation
- **P** - Participation
- **I** - Integrity
- **R** - Resilient
- **I** - Inspired
- **T** - Tolerant

It is this set of values that Alsager School promotes, recognises and follows in all areas of school life.

The SPIRIT Enrichment programme is used throughout the year, through the extensive range of extra-curricular activities, development days, enrichment trips, focus afternoons, and of course our main SPIRIT week.

SPIRIT week enables all pupils to engage with a wider range of skills and activities that enable them to facilitate new interests, friendships and skills, whilst having a great amount of fun.

Clubs

We offer a range of lunchtime and after-school clubs. All pupils are welcome to come and join in.

Lunchtime Clubs run between 12.30pm and 1pm. After School Clubs run between 3:10pm to 4:15-4:30pm. Examples of clubs available throughout the year include:

- Football
- Rugby
- Trampolining
- Table tennis
- Dance
- Badminton
- Basketball
- Choir
- Orchestra
- Chess club
- Debating
- Journalism
- Textiles

Residential

As part of our SPIRIT enrichment programme, we plan residential experiences for the students to provide real-world experience and grow independence. When a SPIRIT residential visit opportunity comes up, we will inform you regarding application procedures, costs and payment options.



Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

Inclusive

At Alsager School we believe that success is a right for all students, allowing them to become confident young people, live fulfilling lives and make a successful transition to adult life. We work to ensure that all students are included in the life of the school.

Flexible approach

We believe that every teacher is a teacher of SEND and has the responsibility to meet learning needs through appropriate assessment and differentiation. All teachers strive to remove potential barriers to learning and achievement.

Support

Alsager School's team of experienced and dedicated staff provide support for SEND students. We ensure they are supported across the curriculum making certain that they have every opportunity to access, enjoy and progress effectively in their lessons, alongside their peers. Students are supported through a combination of in-class support, small group work as well as 1:1 bespoke interventions. In addition, we work with a range of outside agencies to provide the expert help needed by some students.

Learning Support Department

Our Learning Support staff actively engage with parents/carers of our students with additional needs and/or disabilities, holding informal engagement events such as coffee mornings throughout the school terms, allowing us to focus on different areas of need.

SENDCO

Special Educational Needs & Disability Co-ordinator:
Mrs R Walker 01270 871100 / r.walker@alsagerschool.org

Higher Ability Learners (HAL)

We aim to support our higher ability learners by creating opportunities to add breadth, depth and pace to their learning. We expect our HALs to set themselves a personalised target to focus on each term. The target should deepen their understanding, extend their knowledge, share their ability or spark their curiosity about their chosen subject.



Working with parents and carers

Communication with parents and carers

We like to feel that, in partnership with parents/carers, we are a team working together to create an environment of excellence where each child is valued, nurtured and guided in preparation to face the challenges ahead with confidence. We believe that a positive relationship between home and school is extremely important. We encourage parents/carers to take a real interest in their child's schooling and to work together with the school in helping them to achieve the very best standards.

Our parent/carer portal – TALAXY

This involves using the internet to enable you as a parent/carer to receive and access information about your child's work, progress, attendance and behaviour when and where you want. Once we receive your most up to date contact details, we will contact you with a username and password to enable a secure login.

Our parent/carer evenings and reports

You will get reports throughout the year about your child's progress; these are available on Talaxy. Should you have any concerns about your child's progress you are also welcome to contact the relevant Head of College or teacher.

During the year there will be opportunities for you to meet with teaching staff to discuss your child's progress. In addition, you are welcome to make appointments to meet with staff at any time and join us at our regular Tea, Toast and Talk events.

Parent/carer communication

The school uses email to send letters and points of information electronically. Please make sure we have your correct email address and mobile phone number.

School website

There is lots of information on the website for parents/carers and it is constantly updated. The website address is www.alsagerschool.org.

Social Media

The school has a Facebook and Instagram account, which provide up-to-date information only and is not a means for parents to communicate with the school. Should you wish to communicate with school please do this via email or phone.

The Home School Agreement

Good communication between school and home is essential. Our home/school agreement will provide the opportunity to stimulate the level and quality of communication; it outlines what parents/carers can expect of the school and what the school expects from parents/carers in the way of support to ensure that children achieve their full potential.

Phone calls

Teachers or form tutors may contact you by phone to let you know about your child's progress. It is important to keep your phone contacts up to date so that we can reach you in an emergency.

ParentPay

We are a cashless school and www.parentpay.com is the school's choice for topping-up canteen credit, paying and giving consent

for school trips, music tuition etc. Once registered, a single log-in will give parents/carers access to all items for each of their children.

Your child's unique activation code for Alsager School will be issued to you later during the summer term; kindly register straight away to avoid disappointment as information for all trips open to your child will be emailed via this system.

Please don't hesitate to contact the Finance Team should you experience any difficulty with ParentPay; email stating your child's name and form group to: finance@alsagerschool.org or telephone: 01270 871100 ext 240.

Parents in Partnership

Parents in Partnership (PIP) aims to provide additional benefits for the students of Alsager School. This is both a cost and time-effective way of fundraising and making a huge difference in improving the learning experience of your child here at Alsager School. Previously, donations through PIP have paid for guest speakers, the purchase of musical instruments that our students can hire, CDT machinery and science equipment to name a few of the projects they have funded.

What are we asking you to do?

We are asking you to make regular gift payments, which will go directly to enriching your child's education. Tax relief on these payments may be claimed by Parents in Partnership provided that you pay tax already and, if you pay taxes at the higher rates then you may receive additional tax relief. Most people choose to pay by banker's order (please see below form) or you can make occasional donations but it's up to you.

What are the benefits?

Whatever sum you choose to give, the Government gives us an additional 25% in tax relief (subject to current tax rates), for example, for every £10 that you give the school benefits by an additional £2.50. By joining Parents in Partnership (PIP) and making a donation of any size, you will make a huge difference to your child's learning experience here at Alsager School.

How much should I give?

This is entirely up to you, it does not matter how small your donation might seem, all will be gratefully received.

Who administers the Fund and how will the money be spent?

The funds are managed in the school but remain under the control of the Trustees who meet once a year to distribute funds.

If you are willing to donate, please visit our website:

<https://www.alsagerschool.org/parents-in-partnership-gift-aid/>



Governors

Our board of governors is made up of a varied selection of people from the local community, school staff and parents/carers. The breadth of experience of the governors ensures a wide range of perspectives are considered when making strategic decisions for the school and overseeing issues such as spending and staffing. When we have vacancies for parent governors, we will write to you to give you the chance to nominate suitable candidates.

Issues concerning children's welfare

If you are concerned about any aspect of your child's schooling, welfare, or the welfare of another student the first step is to speak to your child's College Manager.

College	Head of College	Telephone	Email
Dod	Miss N Salt	01270 871103	n.salt@alsagerschool.org
Royce	Miss V Monaghan	01270 871111	v.monaghan@alsagerschool.org
Lovell	Mrs C Richardson	01270 871108	c.richardson@alsagerschool.org
Moreton	Mr S Bamba	01270 871109	s.bamba@alsagerschool.org

You can also contact our Safeguarding Lead, Mr Pearce: 01270 871100/ r.pearce@alsagerschool.org

Policies and term dates



Policies

Why do we need policies?

For a school to offer high-quality education and care, it needs policies. Policies help develop and define a set of consistent rules, regulations, procedures and protocols.

High standards

At Alsager School, we believe that policies are vitally important, and help us to create standards of quality for learning and safety, as well as expectations and accountability. If you want to know what policies we have, you can either call the school office or visit the school website.

Key policies

Some of our key policies are:

- Attendance
- Emotional, Resilience, Wellbeing and Mental Health
- Behaviour
- Child Protection and Safeguarding
- E-safety
- Accessibility

Term dates

Autumn term 2026

Tuesday 1st September - INSET DAY

Wednesday 2nd September - Friday 23rd October

Monday 26th October - Friday 30th October - HALF TERM

Monday 2nd November - INSET DAY

Tuesday 3rd November - Friday 18th December

Spring term 2027

Monday 4th January - Friday 12th February

Monday 15th February - Friday 19th February - HALF TERM

Monday 22nd February - Thursday 25th March

Summer term 2027

Monday 12th April - Friday 28th May

(Monday 3rd May - BANK HOLIDAY)

Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June - HALF TERM

Monday 7th June - Friday 16th July

Monday 19th July - Wednesday 21st July - INSET DAYS

Our Mission Statement

An achieving school, a caring community.

Our Values:

- Self-regulation
- Participation
- Integrity
- Resilient
- Inspired
- Tolerant



Alsager School

Hassall Road, Alsager, ST7 2HR

Tel: 01270 871100

Email: admin@alsagerschool.org

Website: www.alsagerschool.org

