

Head of School

Friday 5th September 2025

UPDATE

Dear parents/carers and students,

It has been an absolute pleasure to welcome all of our students as they start or return to Giles Academy this week following the summer break! I trust you and your family enjoyed the holiday period and it is great to see how refreshed our students are presenting following the summer break!

On Thursday this week, 185 new Year 7 students walked through the doors at Giles Academy, this is the largest cohort we have welcomed into the school! I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge well done to all the Year 7 students in managing their first few days at their new school. I understand how daunting it may be to start secondary school, to take the school bus and meet new people but they have all done incredibly well. In addition to this, thank you to all of the Year 8 buddies who also supported the Year 7 students on their first day. The buddies volunteered an additional day to assist the Year 7 students during their first day and highly contributed to them having a positive first experience.

We are very proud of how smart all of our students presented on return to school, they consistently maintain our high standards and expectations and with this, it is clear to see the sense of pride, equality, and belonging across the school. Full details of our uniform policy can be found on the school website, and we ask for your continued support in making sure students arrive each day in the correct attire.

There have been some exciting new developments to the school site over the summer period. These improvements have enhanced the facilities and further improved site security. Our students have been very impressed with the changes made to their school environment. We have been very fortunate to have gained a downstairs Science lab, a new 'masterchef' food room and a modern Safeguarding Suite, in addition to further enhancements to the entrance of the school site and reception area. We will continue to invest in our school environments as our students deserve the very best during their school journey.

Our Pastoral Year Leads are fundamental in supporting your child during their time at school. Please note that we have new email addresses to contact the Year Lead for your child – please use the following if you wish to make contact:

- | | | |
|-----------|--|----------------------|
| • Year 7 | Year7@gilesacademy.co.uk | Mrs Simons |
| • Year 8 | Year8@gilesacademy.co.uk | Mrs Lovelace |
| • Year 9 | Year9@gilesacademy.co.uk | Mr Mason / Mr Wright |
| • Year 10 | Year10@gilesacademy.co.uk | Miss Perry |
| • Year 11 | Year11@gilesacademy.co.uk | Mr Relton |



Next week, on Wednesday and Thursday evening, we will be holding two very special events at the Springfield Events & Conference Centre in Spalding: our fourth South Lincolnshire Academies Trust Upper School Awards Evening, and our first House Celebration Evening. These will be wonderful opportunities to celebrate the excellent results achieved by our Year 11 students, and for the first time celebrate the achievements of our Key Stage 3 students. I am very much looking forward to these events, particularly meeting the families and guests of our award winners.

Throughout the year, we will continue to share positive news stories and highlights from our school on our social media platforms. I encourage you to follow us to stay up to date:

- www.instagram.com/GilesAcademySLAT
- www.facebook.com/GilesAcademy
- www.x.com/GilesSLAT

Our website www.gilesacademy.co.uk also contains a wealth of important information, including term dates, uniform expectations, and safeguarding details.

We will be reminding our students in a series of assemblies this week regarding the wealth of information they can access through our fantastic and informative school website. Please take time to familiarise yourself with the information and resources available on our website.

Finally, as we begin this new year, I would like to draw your attention to our South Lincolnshire Trust's Working Together, Communication Policy for Parents and Carers. This is included at the end of this Update and as a separate attachment on ParentMail. We are fortunate to work with families who are supportive and respectful, and we thank you for recognising the professionalism, skills, and commitment of our staff, along with their right to a healthy work/life balance. Please note that parents/carers must not come into school to see a member of staff without a pre-arranged appointment as staff are fully committed to teaching and supporting students during the school day. A scheduled appointment ensures that your query will be dealt with appropriately and that the relevant staff member can give you their full attention.

It has been a fantastic start to the year, and I am very much looking forward to this academic year!

Kindest regards,



Miss Katie Belcher

Head of School, Giles Academy

Upcoming key dates



Prospective students in **years 4 to 6** and their parents/carers are invited to our

Open Evening

Thursday 2nd October 2025
5.30pm to 8.00pm

SAVE THE DATE

Aspire • Challenge • Achieve





Years 10 & 11 from all schools in the local area are welcome to our

SLAT SIXTH FORM Open Evening

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

**BOURNE
ACADEMY**

Thursday 13th November 2025
6.00pm to 8.00pm

Aspire • Challenge • Achieve

For the **latest news**

You can follow Giles Academy on our official social media platforms as follows:

- www.instagram.com/GilesAcademySLAT
- www.facebook.com/GilesAcademy
- www.x.com/GilesSLAT

Working Together

Communication Policy for Parents & Carers

Rationale

The South Lincolnshire Academies Trust is fortunate to work with parents/carers that are supportive and polite. Most of our parents/carers recognise that educating children is a process that is strengthened by a positive partnership between parents, staff and the school community. This positive partnership and strong working relationship equips children with the necessary skills for adulthood. For these reasons, we continue to welcome and encourage parents/carers to participate fully in the life of our School.

Parental engagement with their child/children's learning is important in supporting attainment and progress and parents/carers have a legitimate right to understand what their child is learning at school and what progress they are making.

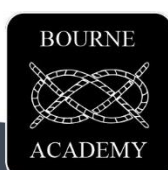
However, it is also important that any contact between parents/carers and the Trust/School must be appropriate, proportionate and respectful, in terms of the professional knowledge, experience and skill of the staff and of the entitlement of staff to an appropriate work/life balance.

Policy purpose

The purpose of this policy is as a reminder to parents/carers and visitors to our School of their expected conduct, in order that we can continue to flourish, make progress and achieve in an atmosphere of mutual understanding.

The policy sets out:

- The general principles underpinning the conduct of members of the Trust/School community;
- How it is expected that communication between parents/carers and the Trust/School will take place;
- What behaviours towards the Trust/School and members of our school community are deemed unacceptable and open to challenge by the Trust/School;
- The additional steps the Trust/School can take in respect of unacceptable behaviour by a parent/carer/visitor.



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General principles

The Trust Staff and Governors will always endeavour to be accommodating and prompt in their communication/s with parents/carers. All communication/s to the Trust/School should be acknowledged within 48 hours and given a timeframe for the matter to be dealt with.

If parents/carers do not receive an acknowledgment within 48 hours, they should contact the Trust/School again to check that the communication has been received.

NB: Please note that a 48-hour acknowledgment does not apply when the Trust schools are not in session, for example, during holiday periods or weekends.

If parents/carers wish to correspond by email, they should use the School's central email address at:

- Bourne Academy: office@bourneacademy.org
- Spalding Academy: enquiries@spaldingacademy.org.uk
- Giles Academy: enquiries@gilesacademy.co.uk
- Cowley Academy: enquiries@cowleyacademy.org.uk

This email address is monitored during the school day, with emails forwarded to the appropriate member of staff.

Please note that parents/carers should only use the personal direct email address for staff if the member of staff has provided them with this directly.

All communication should respect the caring ethos and values of our Trust and reflect the rationale detailed at the start of this policy.

Please remember:

- To ensure that all communications, be they written or verbal, are calm and polite and that parents/carers remain mindful of the right of the recipient to be treated with respect;
- The School Reception opens at 8am and closes at 4.15pm;
- Please note that mornings and the end of the school day in particular, are very busy;
- All our staff are contracted to different working ours, so this may impact on when a response may be sent, including that staff may not answer parent/carer emails after 4 pm;
- Members of staff are very busy during the school day, i.e. with pastoral staff having many pre-booked meetings and with teachers who teach for the majority of the day. Therefore, when parents/carers would like to speak with a member of staff, we ask that they make an appointment to do so at a time when staff can give both sufficient time and their full attention;
- It is important to note that it will not be possible to see parents/carers who arrive at school without an appointment, due to the prior commitments of staff;
- If the matter that you need to contact the Trust/School about is still not resolved, parents/carers should follow the procedure in the School's Complaints Policy (available on the website).

The need to maintain positive communication

As stated above, the School enjoys very positive and productive relationships and communications with the majority of our parents/carers.

Please remember:

- Timeframes for a matter to be dealt with appropriately will be decided by the recipient of the communication or by the Trust/School's Complaints Policy. Parents/carers should not demand an immediate response or a response within their own timeframe;

- Lengthy, frequent, demanding, or disrespectful communications to staff will seriously undermine their ability to carry out their core duty of educating the children;
- When communicating with Staff/Governors, language should remain respectful and calm. It is not acceptable to use language that calls into question colleagues' professional ability; represents any form of personal attack or seeks to direct how they carry out their professional role;
- It is entirely inappropriate to use raised voice, invade personal space, and use language that is disrespectful, rude, offensive, aggressive or threatening. Parents and carers will be given a warning about the use of their language, if there is a continuation the member of staff may terminate any communication and refer the matter onto the Senior Leadership Team or Chief Executive Officer;
- It is unacceptable to record conversations/meetings with Staff/Governors without making them aware of the recording and seeking their express permission to capture what could be personal information and breach their human right to privacy, which extends to their workplace;
- Please note that for staff safety, in the majority of meeting rooms we have CCTV recording, but with no audio;
- We politely ask parents/carers not to resort to any form of communication over Trust/School related matters, including of its staff or Governing Body or any other matters that relate directly to the Trust/School, via a medium other than the School's Complaints Policy, including social media platforms. We do however, strongly encourage parents to communicate with us, if there are any issues, so we can resolve any matter/s together.

Inappropriate use of social media sites

The Trust/School seeks to teach students the importance of appropriate and responsible use of social media and it is therefore vital that everyone in the school community, including parents/carers lead by example.

The Trust consider the use of social media platforms and websites to complain/make personal comments about the School or members of staff/Governors as unacceptable and inappropriate behaviour and not in the best interests of the students nor the School. Instead, concerns and queries parents/carers may have should be made through an appropriate channel such as the School's Complaints Policy so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.

In the event that any student or parent/carer of a child/children being educated in any of the Trust schools is found to be posting libellous or defamatory comments on social network sites, they will be reported to the appropriate 'report abuse' section of the network site.

All social network sites have clear rules about the content, which can be posted, on the site and they provide robust mechanisms to report contact or activity which breaches this. The Trust/School expects that the parent/carer or student will remove such comments immediately.

In serious cases the Trust/School will also consider its legal options to deal with any such misuse of social media platforms.

Additionally, and perhaps most importantly, is the issue of cyber bullying and the use by one child or a parent/carer to publicly humiliate another by inappropriate social network entries. We will deal with any such matter as a serious incident of school bullying. However, please be reassured that thankfully such incidents are extremely rare.

Please note that the inappropriate use of a communications network can give rise to offences under the Malicious Communications Act 1988 or the Communications Act 2003 and if persistent, could be deemed to constitute the offence of harassment.

Attending the school premises

All of the Trust schools are a place of learning, with an important duty to safeguard and protect the health and safety and well-being of the students and staff we serve.

Schools are private premises and not public spaces. Parents/carers have an implied right to enter the School as a parent/carer of a child/children currently attending the School but it is open to the School to remove that right of entry at any time it deems this to be a necessary course of action.

Please remember:

- Parents/carers should behave appropriately when on the School premises. We politely ask and remind parents/carers to not shout, swear or cause any form of disruption that interferes or threatens to interfere with the core operation of the School.
- Threats of violence, use of violence towards people or property on the School's premises is a criminal offence, and will likely result in the matter being reported to the police;
- Approaching someone else's child in order to discuss or reprimand them because of their actions towards your own child is inappropriate. Such an approach to a child may be seen to be an assault on that child and may have legal consequences;
- We cannot give out any other student's address due to GDPR regulations.

Additional steps by the school

The following is not an exhaustive list:

- A member of staff/Governor will challenge unacceptable behaviour calmly and by asking the person/people concerned to stop; to respect personal space; stop shouting or using inappropriate behaviour or may end a telephone call/meeting or direct the person to leave the premises.
- The Trust/School may communicate with a parent/carer to challenge unacceptable behaviour and set out conditions to establish a way forward, this may include a Communication Strategy (e.g only communication through email or letter).
- The School will comply with, and fully implement, the Department for Education Controlling Access to School Premises, should it deem it appropriate to do so.
- If the School decides the matter requires a more formal approach we may instruct our legal advisers to communicate with the parent/carer, warning them about their behaviour and/or putting in place Communication Strategy to restrict their means of corresponding with the Trust/School and/or banning them from School premises if felt to be appropriate.
- In serious instances where the peace is breached or the law broken, the School will report the matter to the police.

We trust that parents and carers will assist our School with the implementation of this policy and we thank you for your continuing support of the School.

