

Ark Pioneer Academy

Information for Parents

2021 - 2028 Cohort

“Our vision is to ensure that pupils leave with real choices. The choice to go on to a career of their choice or to university. Our six pillars guide us in everything that we do to help ensure this becomes a reality for every pupil” – Ms Ryan, Principal



Strong Discipline

Our pupils will show high levels of self-discipline. You can be confident that your child will be in an environment where corridors and courtyards are safe places, teachers and pupils are respectful to each other and where your child's progress is rapid because the lessons are focussed, calm and teachers can teach to a very high standard. Fundamental to this will be our 'Catch-up' system - where pupils have an opportunity to reflect and think about how they can avoid repeating the same mistakes. I want to ensure you are fully aware of how it works and why we have chosen to run it this way.

- Catch-ups are held on the same day that they are issued as this is the best way for pupils to learn; it means that they can come into school the following day having reflected on what went wrong the day before and are therefore more likely to succeed.
- Parents will be notified before 5pm via text message.
- If you ever require further clarification, please request a meeting or phone call with your child's Head of Year.

We very much appreciate the support of parents on this matter and are always willing to discuss questions or issues when they arise. You can help by:

- Signing their planner each week and looking at the checks they are receiving so you are aware of any issues
- Discussing their self-discipline in relation to their future aspirations and how self-discipline can help them to achieve their goals
- Asking your child what they have learnt from their checks and how they will improve for next time rather than what they did wrong
- Focussing on broader areas that they need to develop rather than discussing individual checks
- Reminding your child that they can ask their teacher politely about any check they are unsure of before school, at break, lunch or after school or they can ask their Head of Year (we do not discuss checks or behaviour during lessons because it takes away from learning time)
- Speaking to your child's Head of Year for clarification if you have any questions about checks or catch-ups
- If your child is getting equipment or homework checks, supporting them to get into a routine of checking their homework and packing their bag before they go to bed each night
- Look through your child's exercise book, asking them what they are learning in the subject, what they are doing well with and need to improve and check their presentation of work meets your expectations

Note: all phones brought to school must be handed in and collected at the end of the day

Equipment

Ark Pioneer Academy will be a well organised school. Pupils with the correct bag, books and equipment show us they are ready to learn. Equipment will be checked every morning to ensure we are training pupils to be well organised and work-ready. It is very important that new year 7 pupils are dressed in full school uniform and have the correct equipment when they have their assessment and induction day.

Equipment list

- **Pens:** A number of black or blue pens & a red pen
- **Pencil, eraser & sharpener**
- **Pencil case:** Professional, with no graffiti
- **Scientific Calculator:** We recommend the Casio model
- **Maths equipment:** You will need a 12 inch ruler, protractor & compass
- **Re-usable water bottle:** Can be filled up before school or at break or lunch
- **School rucksack & school PE kit bag:** Navy rucksack with school logo (see below)
- **A reading book or electronic reader,** such as a kindle

We will supply your child with a **school planner, exercise books** for all their subjects, **revision guides**, printed resources and the use of textbooks where needed. They can also loan subject material from our library.

As part of our digital strategy **we will provide every child joining us with a Chromebook to use at home.** This will be issued when you join us. It will allow you to access a variety of learning resources at home including for example, Hegarty maths.



Our Uniform

The school uniform consists of the items listed below; they must be purchased from the school uniform shop (*Howard Bros, 30 The Broadway, Mill Hill, NW7 3LL, 020 8959 4987* or online at www.uniform4kids.com). Any items not purchased from the school shop may be deemed not in line with the above uniform requirements. Parents will be contacted to change these items. Read about it on our website [here](#).

The exceptions to this are shirts - these may be purchased elsewhere as long as they are the same as those on sale in the uniform shop. Jackets, tights and socks can also be purchased elsewhere, as long as they are the correct colour and type.

Uniform

- **Blazer:** Navy with red lining
- **Shirt:** Plain white with collar; Long or short sleeved and tucked in at all times, with the top button done up
- **Tie:** Striped red Ark Pioneer tie, worn at an appropriate length down to the navel
- **Jumper:** Navy knitted V neck with school logo
- **Trousers:** Navy school trousers with pleated front *or*
Skirt: Navy pleated front skirt; Must be worn knee length, with navy tights as listed below
- **Plain black shoes:** No trainers, boots or high heels; laces must be black (*further details below*)
- **Navy tights (worn under skirt)** Navy tights worn with the school skirt
- **Dark socks (worn under trousers)** Black or navy only
- **Dark coloured jacket:** No branding or pictures; all jackets must be zipped – no hooded jackets that have to removed over the head are permitted
- **School rucksack:** Navy rucksack with school logo



PE Kit

- **Tracksuit:** Ark Pioneer branded top and bottoms
- **Polo shirt:** Ark Pioneer branded navy polo shirt
- **Shorts or skort or sports leggings:** Ark Pioneer PE shorts or skort or sports leggings (M/F) – whatever your child prefers to wear
- **Navy football socks:** Knee length
- **Trainers:** Must be appropriate for sports. No converse trainers
- **PE bag:** Navy PE bag with school logo

Footwear

- Pupils must wear closed-toe, hard-soled, all black, plain shoes with a flat sole. All laces need to be black. Footwear with flashing lights are not appropriate for school. Boots are not allowed. Please see examples overleaf.

Acceptable shoes:



Unacceptable shoes:



Outdoor clothing

- Pupils should bring appropriate outdoor clothing during cold or wet weather; any outdoor clothing should be dark in colour and worn on top of the academy blazer, not underneath or as an alternative to the blazer
- Pupils should bring an umbrella during wet weather
- Hats, scarves, and gloves must be dark or academy colours; they can be worn when weather appropriate, but should not be worn inside the academy building

Hats, headscarves or headwear

- Pupils are not allowed to wear hats, headscarves or any other head covering inside the academy building unless it is due to religious or cultural reasons. Any head covering for religious or cultural values should be navy or black.

Hairstyles

- Hairstyles should be such that pupils' faces are not obscured, so the teacher can judge their engagement with learning and their participation in discussions and practical activities. Pupils may not wear designs or words cut into their hair.
- Pupils may not dye any part of their hair either permanently or temporarily, using colours that are unnatural.

Fingernail polish and make-up

- Pupils are not allowed to wear fingernail polish or false nails. Make-up is not allowed.

Jewellery and accessories

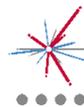
- Pupils may not wear any jewellery except for one watch (no sound effects or smart watches) and if they wish, one pair of stud earrings, worn in the lower ear lobe. These should not be bigger than the lobe. Earrings must be removed for PE, and as such this should be considered when getting any new piercings. Taping over them will not be allowed.

Body piercing or tattoos

- Body piercing is prohibited, with the exception of single, standard ear piercing, as mentioned above. No other forms of body piercing will be allowed for any pupil.
- Pupils are not allowed to have tattoos of any kind on their body.

Naming clothing and property

- Please ensure all clothing and property is clearly marked so that lost articles may be easily traced and returned. Clothing labels are available from the uniform shop.



Ark Pioneer School Meal Offer

At Ark Pioneer, lunch time will offer an opportunity to pupils to sit down together to chat, relax and enjoy a tasty meal. Our canteen will offer a selection of freshly cooked hot meals which meet the nutritional standards set by the government, and are enjoyable for our pupils, staff and visitors. We will follow the National Government Food Standards, ensuring for example that all children have at least one portion of fruit and one portion of vegetables every day.

Our canteen will provide hot meals every day, rotating through a three weekly menu. In the main this will include one meat and one vegetarian dish, with a choice of sides. Our vegetarian dishes will be vegan where at all possible and our meat dishes will include at least one day of red meat, fish, chicken. We will also offer a jacket potato option. We will signpost any likely allergens e.g. nuts/seeds/eggs as main ingredients.

We will operate a **cashless system** in the canteen. Parents will set up a **ipayimpact** account (we will give you details in August) and add money to the account via the website; pupils pay at the till using their pupil card. Parents can login and see what their child has had each day.

We think our school meal offer will be popular with all pupils and staff. You can see the menu and price list here: <https://arkpioneer.org/life-school/school-meals-5>.

Parents who wish to make packed lunches will receive the checklist of appropriate foods. Please note that packed lunches need to be subject to the same standards as school lunches and will be spot checked by staff on duty.

We will give all pupils a taster of our school provision, providing a free lunch for all pupils on their induction day in September!