

July 2024

Annwyl Parent/Carer,

A recent review has shown that **20% of our school community currently have a pass** that allows them to leave lessons for a variety of reasons. There are multiple examples of classes where over a **third of pupils have a pass to leave lessons**. This is having a **detrimental effect on pupils' progress and attainment** whilst also **making it impossible for teachers to teach their lessons effectively**. Quite simply, if pupils are not present in lessons they cannot effectively learn and make progress.

We of course recognise that some pupils require regulation time or support with a medical condition and so **from Tuesday September 2nd we will only be issuing medical or sensory passes**. This means that pupils with a medical condition which is supported by medical evidence or those who have a recognised additional learning need supported by an IDP or a diagnostic assessment will be issued with a pass.

Toilet passes will no longer be available, as pupils have seven opportunities throughout the day to visit the toilet. If they need to access the toilet in excess of this it would be a medical condition and would require medical evidence to support this. Pupils who currently have medical passes supported by evidence will keep these. Any pupil who has an injury will have a temporary leave lesson early pass as a health and safety precaution.

Medical or Sensory passes will be available by request for those pupils who have a condition that meets the following criteria:

- A formal medical diagnosis from a GP or consultant with written evidence;
- A formal psychological diagnosis from a medical practitioner (not CAMHS advice);
- A specific sensory need formally written into an IDP or formally noted in a diagnostic assessment;
- Safeguarding concerns where they would need to check in with our Medical Officer.

All supporting evidence can be emailed to us on the main school email address bassaleg.school@newportschools.wales

If wellbeing support is required, then parents/carers or pupils should speak with their Director of Wellbeing who can signpost them to the many support systems in school we currently have, such as:

- Pastoral Support Officers;
- Talking Zone Counsellors;
- Bereavement Support.

Our staff will always use their professional judgement and caring nature to allow anxious pupils to have a 5 minutes outside opportunity to self-regulate or to have an opportunity to reset themselves within the classroom.

Support will be undertaken with students in communicating and managing this change, as well as further support for staff. Please always liaise with your child's Director of Wellbeing for any wellbeing concerns and our Medical Officer for any medical concerns about your child.

Thank you for your ongoing support in ensuring that we are able to support the wellbeing of our pupils whilst encouraging them to be present in and engaged in their lessons.

Cofion Cynnes

Bassaleg School

