



DE LA SALLE SCHOOL

Mill Brow, Eccleston, St. Helens, Merseyside. WA10 4QH

Telephone: 01744 20511 Fax: 01744 20543

Email: delasalle@sthelens.org.uk

Headteacher: Mr. A. Rannard BA (Hons) NPQH

Information for Parents Regarding Lockers September 2018

Following several communications from parents regarding the removal of lockers and requests to have a refund for part of their original £5 fee, I thought it would be useful to clarify the context of the decision.

To start, if I could explain why we have taken the decision not to continue with the locker system, except for the new Year 7 intake students. Firstly, the students, in a recent student voice survey carried out by the students themselves, indicated overwhelming opposition to having to use lockers and much greater preference for being able to take their bags around. Secondly, much of the stock of lockers now needs replacing, at a cost of approx. £5,000 per year group (or £20 per student). Thirdly, the locker system itself was problematic: taking up considerable space in classrooms, students needing to leave lessons to get items from their lockers and also being late for buses at the end of the day as they return to their lockers. Indeed we trialled not using lockers last year with Year 11 and this worked very well.

As for the money parents pay, parents have made a single £5 contribution towards the ongoing upkeep of the school lockers. This is a single payment made in the summer before students join us in September, it is not an annual charge. Any monies collected for the lockers are used to offset the costs for upkeep, cleaning and replacement. For students who have gone through the school for 5 years, this equates to approx. 2 and 1/2 pence per week, or for parents whose students were in Year 7 last year and will only have received 1 year of access to the lockers, 12 and 1/2 pence per week.

Even if we charged parents annually, which we don't, this would in no way cover the actual cost of upkeep and replacement, but the single £5 payment has helped reduce the burden on the school. We have tried to sell the old stock of lockers but, owing to their condition, we have had no takers, nor can we give them away, so the cost of their disposal will also be incurred.

I hope this helps to clarify the situation and explain that, far from being a lucrative system for the school, lockers are, in fact, costly and unpopular. I should also point out that if the school ever builds up a balance of money from any form of parent or student contributions, then we try to use these funds for the benefit of students such as subsidising events or purchasing equipment.

I hope this helps to clarify the situation and address any concerns parents may have.

Andrew Rannard

Headteacher