



COLNE VALLEY
HIGH SCHOOL

Communication Charter

2024-25

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Table of Contents

<i>Context and aims</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Expectations and facing communication challenges.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Communicating with school as a parent</i>	<i>5</i>
Guidance for parents.....	5
Contacting school.....	5
<i>School communication with home</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Appendix A : Who should I contact?.....</i>	<i>8</i>



Context, aims

The Great Heights Academy Trust mission is '**Achieving Excellence Together**'. Together we can support every child to achieve, opening doors to excellent futures.

'*Together*' includes students, staff and families and we aim to build strong and mutually supportive relationships between schools and communities.

Our trust mission is underpinned by the RITA values at Colne Valley High School:

RESPECT

INTEGRITY

TEAMWORK

ASPIRATION

These values underpin everything we do and can also be used to define our aims for healthy and effective communication between home and school. These are summarised in our **communications code of conduct**:

Respect – considerate and courteous communication, where all parties feel heard and regard for the feelings, opinions, and perspectives of others is shown.

Integrity – communication is honest and transparent. We do what we say we will do.

Teamwork – We recognise the strength in working together order to achieve the best possible outcomes.

Aspiration – We are committed to doing whatever we can in the best interest of our students to help them achieve.



Expectations and facing communication challenges

- Colne Valley High School is committed to community engagement and there is an expectation all communications adhere to our *communications code of conduct* as defined above. This code of conduct applies to staff and equally to parents, other community members and visitors to our settings.
- We thank the overwhelming majority of visitors and parents who consistently demonstrate our values through the way they communicate. We have a duty of care to our staff as well as to our students and we are committed to this responsibility. We will not tolerate our staff being subjected to rude, abusive, discriminatory, aggressive or threatening language and behaviour, whether this is during a telephone conversation, in an email or in-person. On the rare occasions parents or visitors do not meet our expectations they will be reminded of our communication code of conduct. If the behaviour persists, we will terminate the call or ask the visitor to leave the premises.
- Communication can present challenges in terms of the number of emails and other communications received each day. Many staff are working directly with pupils and students throughout the school day and so an immediate response is often not possible. We ask for patience to allow requests to be considered. Our schools will endeavour to respond within 2 working days.
- Parents and visitors should make an appointment in advance if they wish to see a particular member of staff. Without an appointment it may not be possible to see that member of staff as they will be fulfilling other duties.



Communicating with school as a parent

Guidance for parents

- I. Consider which communication method is best for the situation – some conversations are best face to face, whilst others, given their nature, can be resolved via email or over the phone.
- II. The reception team at Colne valley High School are available term time from 8.15am to 4.30pm (4pm Friday). Staff are not expected to be available in the evenings or at weekends.
- III. We endeavour to respond promptly and effectively to all parental communications and will aim to respond within ***2 working days**. We will prioritise communications based on need. There may be times that we are able to respond sooner than this; however, there may also be times when school is exceptionally busy, when this timescale is not achievable.
- IV. Appointments with staff should be booked in advance - this is to avoid disappointment. Many of our staff will be teaching or in meetings during a school day. Anyone arriving to reception unannounced will be advised to request a meeting unless the matter is deemed an emergency.
- V. All communication should be respectful and adhere to our communication code of conduct.

**Some staff work part time, this may delay their response in line with their work pattern.*

Contacting school

Staff recognise the importance of responding to parental queries and will always do their best to do so in a timely manner. However, staff have a range of responsibilities during their working day including teaching, planning, preparing for lessons and supporting students, and many staff have responsibilities beyond the classroom. Therefore, staff may not be able to respond to parents on the day that a query is made. We have also agreed with staff that there is no expectation to respond to queries outside of their working hours.

For day-to-day issues relating to care, welfare and academic progress, the person best placed to respond is your child's Achievement Co-Ordinator (head of year) or another member of staff who works closely with them. Please use the communication flowchart details in Appendix A to identify the most appropriate person to contact.

There are a number of ways of contacting Colne Valley High School including:

Website – contact information can be found on the school website under 'Contact Us' to ensure your query is directed to the right person and can be dealt with promptly. If you would like to contact a member of staff directly, details can be found in Appendix A. If you would like to request a paper copy of the website information, please contact the School Office for assistance.

Email - emails can be a useful way of communicating quickly and easily. However, as a school, our first priority is to deliver high quality teaching and learning. Teaching staff cannot and are not expected to monitor and manage their inbox during lessons or at other times in the day, when they should be planning and preparing for lessons, assessing student work or carrying out school duties. Support staff also have busy schedules and are not always immediately available. To help manage the expectations of all, please bear in mind the following guidance:

- We aim to respond to you as soon as possible and within 2 school days (during the working week).
- Part-time staff may take longer to reply.



Telephone – If you do need to contact school via telephone, please use the main reception number on **01484 848680**. Reception staff will relay messages to staff when they are not available. However, please note that lessons and meetings will not be interrupted for staff to take calls.

School will aim to respond to you within 48 hours (during the working week). If a call is urgent, please inform the member of staff who takes your call, who will arrange a relevant member of staff to speak to you as soon as possible.

Meetings – Meetings with members of staff should always be arranged in advance. If there is an emergency or a child protection issue, please phone ahead and a suitable member of staff will be notified. Non-urgent meetings will be scheduled at a mutually convenient time.

Communication by letter - letters (sent with your child) to staff can be an easy way to pass on a message promptly and can be used as everyday communication. The student or pupil is responsible for showing the letter to the correct staff member.

See Appendix A for summary contact information.



School communication with home

Colne Valley High School recognises it is important to keep you informed regularly regarding your child's experience and progress. At CVHS, this information is communicated in a number of ways:

- Academic reports
- Parents' Evening
- Information evenings (as applicable to the Key Stage and/or subject)
- Postcards
- Newsletters
- Letters
- Texts/Arbor notifications

Email – the most common method of communication is using email, as it allows us to communicate with parents quickly and cost effectively.

Telephone calls – Staff members will contact parents by telephone when necessary.

Other useful places to find out important information

The **school website** provides information on all aspects of school life, including forthcoming dates, curriculum information, assessment details and other updates about school life. Any emergency information will be announced on the school website and social media. <https://thecvhs.co.uk/>

Social media - we use social media channels to share and celebrate what has been happening in school, including student achievements, subject information and generic educational information. You can find the school on Instagram by searching @colne_valleyhigh

A number of subjects and other areas of school life also have social media channels that you can follow to keep up to date.

Please note, we do not use social media to respond to comments or questions posted.

Please be respectful at all times when using social media.



Appendix A : Who should I contact?

Colne Valley High School – External communications chain

