Glossopdale School & Sixth Form

Parent Forum Feedback

16th March 2026

To **aspire**, **endeavour** and **thrive** together.

As part of our commitment to working in partnership with families, the school recently hosted a Parent Voice Forum to gather views on three key areas of school policy: a proposal to support a phone-free school, the school uniform policy, and an evaluation of the bi-weekly whole school homework timetable.

We are grateful to all parents and carers who contributed their time, insights and constructive suggestions. The key themes from these discussions are summarised in the following slides.

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1. Phone-Free Proposal

Parents discussed the possibility of introducing phone pouches to create a phone-free school day. The conversation highlighted clear benefits as well as important considerations for implementation.

Benefits identified

- Reduced distractions and improved focus during lessons.
- Mental-health and wellbeing benefits, including reduced social-media pressure.
- Better concentration and engagement in learning.
- Encouragement of healthier face-to-face interactions.

Points for clarification

- How forgotten or lost pouches would be managed.
- Support for pupils who need phones for medical reasons (e.g., diabetes monitoring).
- Whether the pouch could damage phones.
- What happens if a pupil forgets to unlock their pouch.
- How family emergencies would be handled.
- How the school would prevent pupils from bringing two phones or purchasing an unlocker.

Questions raised

- Support for pupils with SEND, particularly those who rely on phones for routine or reassurance.
- Mental-health considerations, especially for pupils who use texting as a “safety net”.
- Ensuring all pupils can unlock pouches at the end of the day, including after clubs.
- Cost and replacement of lost pouches.
- Personalisation, to avoid mix-ups or stress if pouches are misplaced.

2. Uniform Policy Review

Parents were invited to share their views on comfort, affordability, inclusivity and practicality. Research from the Education Endowment Foundation and university studies on uniform and gender-neutral approaches was shared to support the discussion.

Comfort and participation

- Comfort was seen as important for confidence and participation.
- Some parents supported a trouser-based uniform for all, citing comfort and safeguarding benefits.
- Many parents felt choice should remain, especially for pupils with sensory sensitivities.
- Questions were raised about summer uniform options if trousers became standard.

Cost and access

- Strong emphasis on keeping uniform affordable.
- Support for minimising branded items and allowing purchases from multiple suppliers.
- The cost of blazers was raised.
- Parents requested early communication about any changes.

Skirts

- Suggestions included skorts or wearing shorts underneath skirts.
- Little support for logos on skirts due to cost.
- Limited support for thick tights year-round, due to comfort and temperature concerns.

Blazers and temperature

- Many parents felt blazers can be uncomfortable in warm weather.
- Suggestions included making blazers optional in summer.

Practical considerations

- Allowing students to arrive in PE kit if they have PE first lesson.
- Allowing students to remain in PE kit on days with double PE.

SEND and sensory needs

- Some pupils find shirts and ties difficult.

3. Bi-Weekly Whole School Homework Timetable

Parents discussed the accessibility, clarity and effectiveness of the current two-week homework timetable.

Access and navigation

- Mixed experiences using MyChildAtSchool (MCAS) and the school website.
- Some links within the timetable did not function reliably.
- Confusion about whether homework was set on MCAS or Google Classroom.
- Variation in homework formats created inconsistency.
- Some parents liked the two-week structure; others found the volume challenging.

Suggestions for improvement

- More adaptations for SEND pupils, including differentiated tasks.
- Reducing the number of platforms used.
- Reviewing the volume of homework.
- Concerns about pupils' engagement with Knowledge Organiser-style tasks.
- Requests for more consistent notifications and reminders.

Clarity and level of detail

- Some parents could not open links at home.
- Parents felt pupils should take greater responsibility for completing homework.
- Lack of clear deadlines made planning difficult.

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Thank you for your feedback

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