

Co-op Academy Failsworth Pastoral Newsletter



Co-op Academy
Failsworth

Issue: July 2026

Attendance & Punctuality

Thank you for your continued support with our Attendance Drive this year.

We would like to remind you of the following key details in order to maintain our high expectations next academic year:

- Students are expected to arrive at the Academy at 08:15 ready to start Form Time at 08:20. Breakfast Club is open from 07:45.
- Absences can only be reported by phone (0161 688 3900, Option 1).
- All children who reach a third day of absence will receive a courtesy Safe and Well home visit. In some circumstances, these home visits will be made from the first day of absence. These are supportive visits and are in place to ensure children feel comfortable returning to school. They are also an opportunity for parents to speak to staff if they need to.

We hope you have a restful break and look forward to welcoming students back in September 2026.

Behaviour, Uniform and Standards

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of another fantastic academic year, we want to take a moment to thank you for your continued partnership, support, and engagement. Our students have achieved incredible things this year.

To ensure we maintain our high standards and expectations, we want to remind you of following before the new academic year in September begins:

Uniform and Appearance

We take great pride in our school uniform; it creates a sense of belonging and equality. If you are purchasing replacement items over the summer, please ensure they comply with our uniform policy.

Note: Our full, detailed uniform guide can be found on our website.

Trousers – Policy Reminder; As part of our updated uniform policy starting this September, girls are

expected to wear tailored style trousers.

School Bag and equipment - As you prepare for the new school year, please ensure that any replacement items purchased over the summer strictly adhere to our uniform policy.

We hope you all have a wonderful and safe summer break. We look forward to welcoming our students back in September.

Year 7

As we approach the end of the summer term, I want to take a moment to look back on what has been an incredible first year for our Year 7 cohort. It feels like only yesterday we were welcoming a nervous, excited group of students through our doors in September.

This year has been all about transitions - navigating new subjects, finding classrooms, building new friendships, and adapting to the change of Secondary School. I am incredibly proud of how well the year group has risen to these challenges.

This year, a group of our Year 7's took part in the Time for Change project which encouraged them to think creatively about making a positive difference, they had to present this in front of other schools and a panel of judges. Their ideas to support the elderly with technology meant they were runners up! We have also had many other exciting events, we have been to Jodrell Bank - looking at all things space and science, explored Salford University and had a fantastic sports day and colour run.

September will bring new opportunities as the students step up to become Year 8s and take on greater independence, maintaining high standards of attendance, punctuality, and behaviour will be essential to their success. We ask for your continued support in ensuring they arrive on time each day, stay on top of their homework, and are organised. They will no longer be the youngest in the school, and with that comes the chance to be role models for the upcoming Year 7s.

I wish you all a wonderful, safe, and relaxing summer break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September, refreshed and ready for the adventures of Year 8.

Year 8

To parents and carers,

As we approach the end of another successful academic year, we want to take a moment to congratulate everything our year 8 students have achieved this year.

Year 8 is often a year of significant transition. Students are no longer the "newest" in the school; they have truly found their feet, grown in confidence, and started creating their own unique paths. We have been incredibly proud to watch them navigate this year with increasing maturity and resilience.

When we return in September, students will enter Year 9—a crucial year where they will begin making decisions about their future GCSE options. We have no doubt they are ready for this next exciting step.

None of this year's success would be possible without your continued partnership and support. Thank you for every early morning routine, every homework check, and for working alongside us to support your child and their education.

We wish you and your family a restful, safe, and wonderful summer break.

Year 9

The Year 9 Team would like to congratulate our Year 9s on a very successful year. It has been a year of immense growth, hard work, and brilliant achievements, both inside and outside the classroom.

From tackling new academic challenges and making important option choices to participating in sports, subject trips, creative arts, and involvement in a variety of school events. Our students have consistently stepped up and we are proud of how well they represent our school and year group.

As we transition into Year 10, we will expect even higher standards of attendance and punctuality, this becomes more critical than ever. Every single day in the classroom counts ensuring we continue our strong habits as we head into another important year. Also, a reminder that P6 lessons are now part of the normal school day for Years 10 on Mondays. Every day attended will ensure to minimise gaps in their learning and assist students to feel secure, capable, and confident in their lessons, which is ultimately essential for a happy and successful Year 10 Journey.

We want to extend a massive thank you to all of our parents and carers. We hope to continue working together to maintain this momentum. Our successful year group is built on the strong partnership between school and home. Your endless support, reminders about uniform, help with homework, and words of encouragement have been the foundation of our students' success this year. We are incredibly grateful for your continued collaboration.

We wish all of our Year 9 students and their families a safe, restful and enjoyable summer break.

Year 10

First, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to all of the year 10 students for their focused and mature attitude during the recent mock exam period. This was their first real taste of formal exam conditions, and their preparation truly paid off.

This term, year 10 have had the chance to attend college taster days to give them an insight into college life. History students were lucky enough to go on a trip to York which they thoroughly enjoyed and some students have taken part in the Duke of Edinburgh programme.

As we head into Year 11, attendance is incredibly important. The GCSE curriculum moves at a very fast pace. We know that illness and emergencies happen, but we ask for your continued support in September to keep absences to an absolute minimum. Please try to schedule routine medical and dental appointments outside of school hours. Also, a reminder that P6 lessons are part of the normal school day for Years 10 and 11. From September, year 11 will have P6 on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and finish at 4pm.

As we end the year, I wanted to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude for your continued support. I am so proud of everything our year 10 students have achieved this year.

Have a brilliant, safe, and relaxing summer break! See you in September.

Online Safety News

JULY 2026

Under-16s Social Media Restrictions — What You Need to Know



The UK government has announced a ban on social media for under-16s, expected to come into force in Spring 2027. Platforms like TikTok, Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook, and X will be legally required to verify a user's age before allowing access.

AI 'companion' chatbots designed for romantic or sexual roleplay will be banned for under-18s, and all AI chatbots will be restricted from offering sexually explicit features to children.

WhatsApp and Signal are not included in the restrictions.

- ✓ Parents will not be penalised if children find workarounds — enforcement sits with the platforms
- ✓ Livestreaming and strangers contacting children will also be restricted, including in some gaming spaces
- ✓ Educational tools and messaging services are excluded

Your child may already have accounts, friendships, communities and a whole social world built online. There may well be a variety of emotions and reactions both at home and amongst their peers.

What can you do now?

Talk with your child about this – how do they feel?

Open conversations about the incoming changes will help them feel more involved and encourage them to share their feelings, from worry, sadness, anger, relief they are all normal.

Making online safety a regular, normal topic at home, without judgment, is the most powerful thing parents and carers can do, whatever happens with the law.

If children and teens feel they can come to you without getting into trouble, they're far more likely to ask for help when something goes wrong.

GOV.UK Fact Sheet — [Full details](#)

What happens next?



- July 2026** — Government publishes full consultation response, including detail on overnight curfews and breaks in infinite scrolling for under-18s
- October 2026** — Ofcom sets out what "effective age checking" for 16-year-olds must look like
- End of 2026** — Regulations go before Parliament
- Spring 2027** — Protections come into force across Snapchat, TikTok, YouTube, Instagram, Facebook and X

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into www.screen-safe.co.uk

Could Your Child Sign Up to a Gambling Site Right Now?

Most of us assume there are proper barriers between our children and online gambling – age checks, ID verification, payment controls. And for regulated, licensed sites, those barriers do exist.

But a growing number of sites operate with none of that. No ID. No age check. No questions asked.

Research shows that black-market sites make gambling accessible to children – and that this doubles the chance of problem gambling later in life. That's worth sitting with for a moment.

Find out more: www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk

What Parents Need to Know

- Unregulated overseas gambling websites are allowing children to sign up with no identity checks whatsoever – these are known as “no KYC” platforms (KYC = Know Your Client)
- These sites can look completely professional – polished branding, live odds, easy sign-up – with no obvious red flag to a young person
- Many actively advertise the fact that they don't require ID
- Cryptocurrency is accepted, there are no deposit limits, no self-exclusion tools, and no real legal protection if something goes wrong

It Often Starts Earlier Than You Think

This isn't just a teenage issue. Many of the games children play today contain mechanics that mirror gambling almost exactly – FIFA packs, Roblox purchases, loot boxes where you pay real or in-game money for a randomised reward you can't see in advance.

- The excitement of not knowing what you'll get
- The thrill when it lands well

- The urge to try again when it wasn't what you hoped for

The worry is about the relationship with chance, reward, and risk that is being shaped during those formative years. This isn't about banning games – it's about knowing what's inside them.



AI Chatbots – What Teenagers Are Actually Using Them For

AI chatbots have quietly become part of everyday life for many young people.

Two thirds of children aged 9–17 have already used an AI chatbot, many of them daily. Nearly half use them for schoolwork, but a significant number are using them for advice and companionship.

For teenagers navigating friendships, identity, relationships and mental health, they can easily become a ‘safe place’. These tools are designed to be warm, agreeable and endlessly available. They remember details. They check in. For some young people, that starts to feel like genuine connection.

Research with young people highlights two key concerns:

- Turning to AI for emotional support instead of trusted adults

- Trusting AI answers without questioning them – two in five young people have no concerns at all about following AI advice, rising to 50% among vulnerable young people [InternetMatters](#)

- ✓ Ask your teenager which AI tools they use – without judgment. You might be surprised
- ✓ Talk about what's okay to share with AI – personal feelings, relationship issues and mental health struggles are not things an AI can safely hold
- ✓ Remind them that AI isn't a friend – it doesn't know them, worry about them, or have their best interests at heart. Use “it” not “they” – language matters
- ✓ Talk about fact-checking – AI gets things wrong, and teenagers need to know how to verify information from reliable sources

For more information about AI Chatbots:
[Internet Matters – Me, Myself and AI Report](#)

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into www.screen-safe.co.uk



Academies Trust

Stay safe around water this summer

Summer is a time for making memories with family and friends. If you're spending time near rivers, lakes, canals, reservoirs or the coast, please help keep children safe around open water.

Stay safe around water this summer

A few simple reminders can make a big difference:

- Look out for safety signs wherever you visit and follow the advice
- Stay together and keep children within sight
- Never encourage children to swim in rivers, lakes or reservoirs
- Water can be much colder and deeper than it looks
- Strong currents and hidden hazards can be difficult to spot
- If someone gets into difficulty, call 999 and ask for the Fire and Rescue Service if inland, or the Coastguard if at the coast

We hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable summer.



**For more information about staying safe,
check out the Royal Life Saving Society UK's advice.**

Co-op Academy Failsworth Parking Map

KEY

- 1. Co-op Academy Failsworth
- 2. Sports Campus
- P1. Sports Campus Carpark
- P2. Visitors Carpark
- P3. Staff Carpark

