



Ballakermeen High School Information Sheet



Finding your way around school

This information sheet has been produced as a result of parent feedback at the Ballakermeen High School Association

It's a big school, I'll get lost!

Which ever school you choose to go to in September you will have to learn your way around a new building. Ballakermeen is big but it has a simple layout that most new students learn within their first week of being at the school. You will be given a map of the school before you start; look at this carefully and if you are not sure about anything ask your parents/carers to contact the school with any questions.

Will I be left to find my way around on my own?

No, we know that new students can find moving around the school to be a scary experience so we make sure that groups of people from each class are going to the same place. This means that there will be other people from your class going to the same place as you and you can help each other to find the way. There will also be teachers on the corridors to help you find your way as well as guides (students from other year groups) to take you from one class to another.

What about all the other students changing class at the same time, won't there be a squash in the corridors?

This is not as much a squash as you might imagine. During your inductions days in July and during your first week in September you will be allowed to leave class 5 minutes early to get to your next class while the corridors are empty. The golden rule for moving around the corridors is to always stay on the right hand side; this means that the corridors work a bit like a road with two queues of "traffic" going in opposite directions in different "lanes".

How is the school laid out?

Ballakermeen is made up of five main blocks (M, L, C, K and H) which are all joined together by one long corridor which we call the 'main corridor'. From the main corridor it is really easy to get to where you need to go. Classrooms are all grouped together by subject which means that all the Maths rooms are grouped together, all the Science rooms are grouped together, all the History are grouped together and so on. The advantage of this is that it means most of the people in your year group will be going to the same part of the school. If in doubt check for signs on the wall that will point you in the right direction.

How are the 5 blocks named?

The names of the five blocks are Maughold, Conister, Hillary, Patrick and Langness or M, C, H, P and L for short. You may realise by now that these are the same names as our five House Teams. It won't be long before you hear classrooms being called, for example, M3, L4, C9 etc. This means that room M3 is in Maughold block and is room number 3 (the name of each room is on the door).

Now, the important bit. There are rooms which are labelled D, R, Y and S. You can remember where these rooms are because the letter is the last letter of the block name in which it is located e.g. D rooms are in M block because D is the last letter of Maughold. S rooms are in L block because S is the last letter of Langness. See if you can figure out which blocks the following rooms are in:

K2 is in _____ block. R5 is in _____ block.

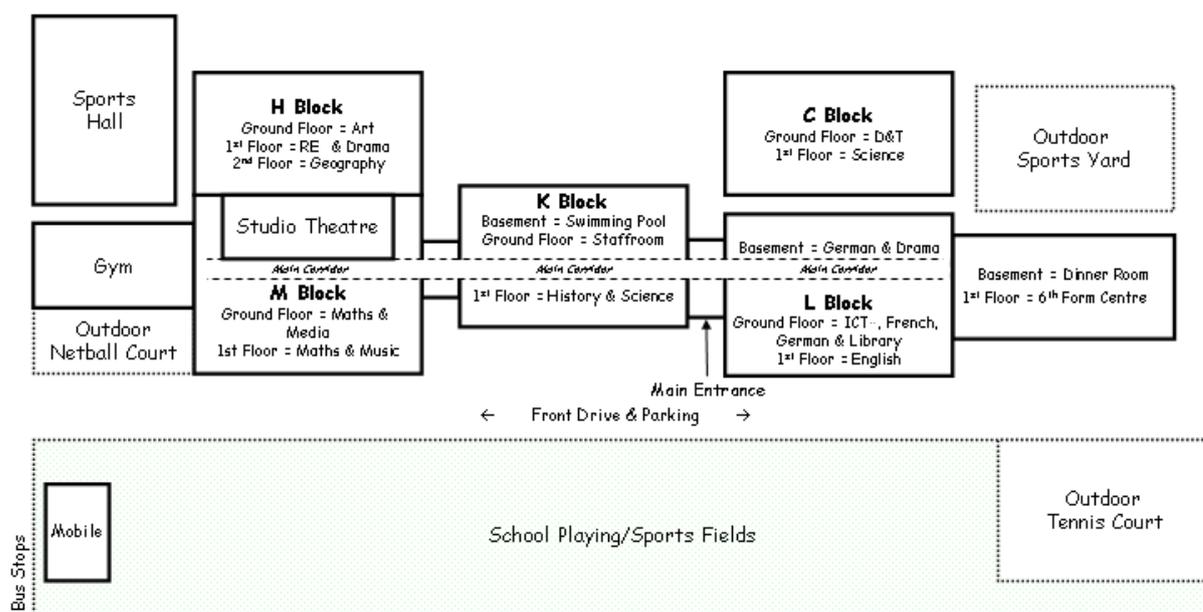
L1 is in _____ block. D2 is in _____ block.

Y6 is in _____ block. C9 is in _____ block.

Don't worry if you don't understand this now, you will be surprised at just how quickly will you learn where rooms are.

I'm worried about being told off if I'm late getting to class because I got lost!

You don't need to worry about this. In the first few weeks we understand that you are still getting used to finding your way around the school. Your teachers will not shout at you if you are a few minutes late but it always helps to apologise to your teacher and to explain that you got lost.



We are always happy to receive feedback/comments about any aspect of the school