Diocese of Chelmsford
Vine Schools Trust

School Water Policy

St Andrew's Primary School.

Autumn 2024

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Water Bottle Policy

1. Purpose:

To ensure all children stay adequately hydrated throughout the school day while maintaining an organised and focused learning environment. Regularly drinking water is essential for children's overall health, helping to maintain energy levels, support brain function, improve concentration, and regulate body temperature, especially during physical activities or warm weather.

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2. Guidelines for Bringing Water Bottles to School:

- Each child is encouraged to bring a reusable, clearly labelled water bottle to school every day.
- Water bottles should be filled with plain water only; juices, sodas, or other flavoured drinks are not permitted.
- Bottles should be made of durable, non-breakable material to ensure safety and cleanliness.

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3. Designated Drinking Times:

- Children are encouraged to drink from their water bottles at specific, designated times during the school day so that learning isn't interrupted too frequently:
    - **When children arrive at school**
    - **Morning break**
    - **Lunchtime**
    - **During the afternoon**
    - **When children are preparing to go home**
- Additional water breaks may be scheduled at the discretion of the teacher, particularly during warmer weather or after physical activities.

Please note, should a child need water on their desk for medical reasons, they can ask the teacher or LSA for permission.

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4. Classroom Rules and Expectations:

- Water bottles must be kept in a designated area within the classroom or with the child, as determined by the teacher.
- Children should ask permission when accessing their water bottles at times other than the teacher input.
- For KS2 children, there is an expectation that children should be responsible for ensuring they have a drink during break and lunch times. However, if they need a drink during lesson times they should do so discreetly and in a timely manner so as not to disrupt learning.
- Teachers will remind students of drinking times and ensure water breaks are efficiently managed.

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5. Hygiene and Maintenance:

- Children are responsible for taking their bottles home at the end of each day to be thoroughly cleaned and refilled.
- Parents/guardians should ensure bottles are in good condition and replaced if damaged or worn out.
- Children should be reminded not to share water bottles to prevent the spread of germs.

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6. Special Considerations:

- Parents/guardians must inform the school of any medical conditions that require children to drink more frequently, and appropriate accommodations will be made.
- During special school events or trips, teachers will make arrangements to ensure children have sufficient access to water.

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7. Monitoring and Enforcement:

- Teachers will oversee water bottle use to ensure adherence to the policy and minimise classroom disruptions.
- Children will be positively encouraged to stay hydrated and use their water bottles responsibly.