



CAMDEN SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Frances Mary Buss Foundation
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LETTER ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE PROTESTS

Dear Parents

We are aware that protests over the issue of climate change are currently planned in several towns and cities, including London and that students are being encouraged to take part during the school day.

While I recognise the strength of feeling over this issue, I have a duty of care to ensure the safety of all students and cannot consent to students missing out on important learning time.

If a student attends the protest their absence will be noted as unauthorised and parents will be responsible for their child's safety and welfare during this time. A record will be kept of parental permission. Any student who tries to leave the site without parental consent will be truanting and sanctioned in line with the school behaviour policy. Information about teaching and learning in relation to climate change is on the school's website under 'curriculum'.

Camden Local Authority has provided the following advice:

Protests encouraging children to leave school unsupervised may put young people at risk. Camden Local Authority would also urge the organisers to ensure that future protests are organised at weekends or during school holidays so that more people can join in and to ensure that appropriate safety measures are in place.

These climate change protests are unsupervised walk-outs from school – and there are risks for young people taking part and being in central London. It is anticipated that there will be limited, if any, marshalling, as well as potential overcrowding on public transport to and from the event. The protests assemble in Millbank at 11am and then they are likely to proceed to Parliament Square, which can quickly become overcrowded.

We would strongly encourage parents to have discussions with their children of the risks involved with unregulated protests, especially if they are at key locations around Parliament and government buildings. Tensions can quickly escalate and initially peaceful protests can end up resulting in police action to restore law and order.

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We would urge students against walking out of school on these days. It is extremely disruptive for a school to have to deal with unauthorised absences and students will be missing out on important learning time.

Elizabeth Kitcatt
Headteacher

Janet Pope
Chair of Governors CSG