# Stricter Rules at Brakenhale School in Berkshire Spark Parent Complaints



### Stricter Rules at Brakenhale School in Berkshire Prompt Parent Complaints

Brakenhale School in Berkshire has been the subject of several complaints from parents and former staff since new headteacher Camilla Douglas took over in February 2023. Parents have likened the school's environment to a "military camp" or "prison," citing stringent new rules.

Key concerns include:
- **Ban on Speaking**: Students are not allowed to talk in the corridors between lessons.
- **Immediate Attention**: Pupils must stop and look at a teacher within three seconds when addressed.
- **Isolation Punishments**: Students are being sent to isolation for perceived "fake coughs," short haircuts, or wearing false eyelashes.

Parents Keith and Kelly Ellis, whose children Frankie (14) and Teddy (15) are students, expressed their frustration, mentioning 30 suspensions in the first week of the new headteacher's tenure. Kelly described an incident where their son Frankie was isolated for having a haircut deemed "too short," and Keith recounted an episode where their younger son was punched by another student, and then placed in isolation for pushing back.

Another parent, Nicole Alder, highlighted that students can go without speaking for up to three hours due to the corridor ban, describing the situation as "very military."

Paul Wells, a former English teacher at Brakenhale, has also criticized the "authoritarian" management style, describing the school environment as akin to an "army barracks."

The headteacher and Bracknell Forest Council have urged parents to follow the school's official complaints process for any grievances.