



May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

**Uniform and dress code requirements from September 2020 and advice on purchase during the COVID-19 period**

We continue to be delighted with both parents' and students' support of our new school uniform that was introduced in September 2018. Members of the public, visitors and parents regularly comment on the smartness of our young people and we are pleased that they wear our uniform with such pride.

In order to maintain our high standards, we would like to take this opportunity to remind parents of the dress code and ask for your support with in advance of the summer holidays when many of you will be organising new uniform for your child.

As with last year, we are not proposing any changes to our School Uniform for 2020-2021 and parents must purchase trousers and skirts from Emblematic only. They are bespoke for our school and branded with the school badge. This will apply to all year groups. This means that the school sweater and tie, trousers, skirts and PE polo shirt and sweatshirt must be purchased from our uniform supplier, Emblematic.

We have been in contact with Emblematic and are able to update you on the service they are providing within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Their embroidery facility is currently open, with a reduced staff following all Government Guidance, therefore they are able to complete all current online orders. They are also taking school orders via email as normal to [orders@emblematic.co.uk](mailto:orders@emblematic.co.uk). Following the government update on 10 May 2020, they will be offering the following options to parents this summer.

- Free delivery on all orders placed until the 1st July.
- After that, parents will either pay for delivery to home or use Emblematic's "Click and Collect" option (starting date to be decided). Parents will not be able to order with "Delivery to School" as an option.
- They have put measuring videos on their website, which parents can use to purchase the correct size, using measurements they have taken at home.
- They currently offer a free returns system, where parents use their website to return items, parents must then make a new order for the correct size (i.e. this is not an exchange service, as garments must be safely stored (Covid-19) before going back into stock).
- They are also offering a "Click and collect" option in the future from our Benton shop only (date and times to be decided), but plan to stop this mid-August, so we don't have the final rush of the summer with long queues which would be deemed unsafe.

Southgate, Killingworth, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE12 6SA

T: 0191 216 1115

E: [enquiries@gshs.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@gshs.org.uk)

W: [www.gshs.org.uk](http://www.gshs.org.uk)

**Headteacher:**

**Deputy Headteacher:**

**Deputy Headteacher:**

Ian D Wilkinson BA (Hons) MEd

Peter Douthwaite BSc (Hons)

Kathryn Williams BA (Hons)

Emblematic will continue to follow the guidance and decide if/when their shops can re-open and what other changes can be safely made. They have also confirmed that all their plans are working to time and that their manufacturers have not missed any delivery dates as yet, so they will have a full stock available all summer and don't foresee any shortfalls in supply for going back to School in September. That said, Emblematic have asked us to express to parents the need to order early (especially this year i.e. before 1 August 2020) so they can deliver all the correct uniform, with plenty of time available for exchanges.

The price list (which remains the same) is now available on the school website and through the Emblematic website. The Emblematic website has a printable order form. You can either order uniform either by visiting the shop in Benton or placing orders online which will be delivered to your home address.

Emblematic will work with parents where their son/daughter may need different length or waist sizes. Emblematic is also a supplier of workwear for businesses, meaning they have access to a number of suppliers from school ages to adults. If this is applicable to you, please contact the shop soon and start discussions on your requirements that that purchases can be sourced sooner rather than later.

Whilst the vast majority of students continue to dress smartly and wear correct uniform and there have been very few instances where we have needed to contact parents regarding uniform issues this year, **please remind your child that:**

- the school skirt must be of an 'appropriate' length – that is, just above, on or just below the knee. Students should not be encouraged to roll up or fold over their skirts so that they appear shorter.
- they should wear a plain dark outdoor jacket or coat and not non-school sweaters, cardigans, tracksuit or sports tops, hooded sweatshirts and denim jackets for outdoor wear.

### **Please find below further guidance as to acceptable school footwear for 2020-21**

#### **Expected school footwear:**

Sensible plain black school shoes/low heel

#### **We do NOT allow:**

- Brown or any other colour of shoes.
- Trainers, trainer-type boots, boots, ankle boots, cross trainer shoes, ANY sports branded shoes (e.g. Nike, Adidas, Puma, Umbro, La Coste, Converse, Vans, Stan Smiths etc.), canvas shoes of any kind, plimsolls or sandshoes – no coloured laces, logos or labels.
- Designer shoes of any description e.g. Vivienne Westwood.

Parents are advised not to purchase trainer/casual style shoes which are marketed as school shoes by various retailers.

Please refer to the GSHS Wynsors 2020-21 brochure, "coming soon" to our website for advice and guidance on the types of shoes which are acceptable. In addition, Emblematic have a link on their website (on our school page) to an e-supplier for acceptable footwear. However, it is

not essential for you to purchase shoes from Wynsors or the e-supplier proceed by Emblematic.

As has been the case for several years, in addition to daily checks on uniform, there will regular whole school uniform inspections carried out throughout the year. Should your child not be wearing the correct uniform at any time, you will be contacted and asked to ensure that they are in correct uniform by the following day. Unless there are exceptional circumstances which make this impossible, your child may be asked to work in isolation until the situation is rectified; if there are exceptional circumstances, please discuss this with your child's Guidance Manager at your earliest convenience. The school and the Governing Body reserve the right to determine what is acceptable with regards to uniform and footwear.

Finally, we do have a very small stock of uniform in school which will be distributed to those families who we know are most in need.

If you have any questions about uniform then please contact your child's Guidance Manager.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ian D. Wilkinson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a clear, legible font.

Ian Wilkinson  
Headteacher