

Dear Parents

As you may already be aware, the Department for Education has published new statutory guidance for schools which seeks to make school uniform more affordable for families. The guidance includes measures on second-hand uniforms, schools' arrangements with suppliers and ensuring parents have access to clear information about uniform policy.

Following the publication of this guidance, all schools have been asked to review their school uniform policies. After a period of consultation with all stakeholders, parents, staff, students and governors, we will be making some changes to our school uniform requirements **from September 2023**.

We have reduced the number of compulsory branded items so that items such as trousers, skirts and PE leggings can now be easily purchased from supermarkets to minimise cost. There will also be a greater choice of footwear. **Please carefully read the enclosed information booklet for further details. The key changes are summarised below:**

Trousers

Trousers must be black. They may now be purchased from another supplier but must be in the same style as those sold by Emblematic. The branded ones from Emblematic can still be worn. **Leggings, jeggings, jeans, joggers, or tracksuit bottoms are not allowed.**

Skirts

Skirts must be black, knee length and pleated. They may now be purchased from another supplier but must be in the same style as those sold by Emblematic. The branded black skirt or the blue check skirt from Emblematic can still be worn. **Pencil skirts or tight-fitting skirts made of stretchy material are not allowed.**

PE Leggings

PE leggings must be plain black. Girls' PE leggings no longer need to be the branded ones from Emblematic, although these can still be worn. **PE leggings are only to be worn for PE lessons.**

Footwear

Students can now wear black shoes, boots, or trainers. All footwear must be completely black. Shoes and boots must be flat and made of polishable material. Boots must be ankle length only. Trainers must be completely black. This means black uppers, soles, laces, and eyelets with no coloured logos. There are images in the enclosed booklet to illustrate what is acceptable footwear and what is not. **Please note that the school reserves the right to determine what is acceptable footwear for school. If you are in any doubt at all about the suitability of your child's chosen footwear, please contact the school for clarification before purchasing.**

We are also in the process of organising a competitive tendering process for our uniform supplier which will help with costs in the future. In the meantime, parents must continue to purchase the remaining branded items from Emblematic only.

We are acutely conscious that the COVID-19 Pandemic and rises in fuel costs are placing a significant financial burden on many families and have completed extensive work with the Children Northeast Poverty Proofing Project in order to develop support packages for our families who are most in need as referenced in our attached flyer. If you are experiencing financial difficulty impacting on your ability to purchase uniform, please do contact us on the school enquiries email and we will do all we can to help.

We continue to be delighted with both parents' and students' support of our school. 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. We would like to issue the following reminders to maintain our high standards:

- We do not allow "extreme" hairstyle or extreme hair colouring.
- Students can wear one small ring only on either hand (not large sovereign rings) , a maximum of two earrings, one in each earlobe (simple studs or sleepers) and a watch. Any other

rings/studs/bars used in face, mouth, ear or body piercing are not allowed in school for health and safety reasons.

- Ear expanders must not be worn.
- Acrylic or gel nails or nail varnish of any sort must not be worn.
- We do not allow tattoos or body art.
- We do not allow excessive make up (no false or semi-permanent lashes, no fake tan, no drawn-on eyebrows)
- Hats or hoods are not to be worn in school.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours sincerely

Mrs. L Dunn
Deputy Headteacher