

19 October 2011

Dear Parent/Guardian

Re School Uniform

As you are aware we have a very simple school uniform and we expect all of our pupils to wear it correctly. When they do, as exemplified by the majority, they look very smart.

Unfortunately, the wearing of fashion items, specifically very short skirts, by some of the girls, has become persistent. Often these issues are easily resolved by simply asking the pupil to wear the skirt in the way it should be worn; not raised above the waist or rolled over at the top! However, while we try to provide clear and consistent guidance to parents and pupils regarding skirt length and other items of acceptable clothing, pupils are continuing to wear skirts that are neither modest, nor of an appropriately robust design for daily school wear. Furthermore we are concerned about the cost to parents of these fashion items which bear manufacturers' logos and external fastenings, ribbing etc.

Consequently we are resetting our expectations through assemblies this week and advising pupils that we will be monitoring uniform much more closely with effect from Monday 31 October, and those who persistently challenge our expectations regarding uniform beyond an initial reminder by a member of staff can be expected to find themselves asked to do one or more of the following by our Pastoral team:

- remove the item of non-uniform e.g. cardigan or hoodie, and hand it in for 'safekeeping' until the end of the day
- wear an alternative 'correct' item of school uniform (either a skirt of appropriate length or school trousers) provided for the day by the school
- phone home and arrange for an appropriate item of clothing to be brought up to the school at the earliest opportunity
- go home and return wearing our school uniform correctly

We recognise the school's uniform has been the same for over twenty years and therefore we are currently reviewing our school uniform thoroughly to ensure it is fit for purpose in the second decade of the 21st century. Miss Skerten, Assistant Head, is leading this. She has already recruited a group of pupils to help us look at our uniform and similarly, she will be inviting parents to contribute to this review. We are liaising with school uniform providers and plan to host a fashion show to gauge parents, pupils and staff responses before making any final decisions for September 2012. It is likely however that we will recommend 4 or 5 prescribed skirt designs from a school uniform specialist.

I have printed our current guidance on the reverse of this letter and trust you will refer to it before making new purchases. Please do not hesitate to contact Miss Skerten if you would like to contribute to our review.

Thank you for your co-operation and support.

Yours sincerely
Chiquita Henson
Headteacher