

The below has come about from parental enquiries and from 'common infringements' during lockdown and then upon our return to school. It has been produced to hopefully give clarity to pupils, parents and staff:

School uniform:

The last 18 months to two years has brought on a number of challenges but also both showcased and developed resilience in us all. Perhaps inevitably there are some 'legacy' impacts which are hard to spot but as a staff we have certainly identified that the standards of dress and uniform has been affected adversely. Closed hairdressers, home cuts, remote lessons and relaxed dress codes during lockdown are just some examples as to why the standards of dress may not be quite what it was. This is understandable but going into September we would like to return to our usual high standards consistently and in order to do this we will need to have in sharp focus what the expectations are and have systems in place to uphold these.

As a school we have always been proud to see our students looking neat and smart and taking pride in their appearance. This is perhaps even one of the traditional values on which you have based your decision to send your children to school here.

We do have a uniform code but we have updated to avoid any ambiguity as well as to keep up with changing times and styles!

Please read the following carefully and support us in sending your child into school meeting these standards. We would rather not spend the valuable time of staff and students addressing any of the below issues but if parents chose to send their children into school in breach of any of these then we will do so to uphold the integrity and standards within your school.

Hair:

Current: ***"Should not be coloured or cut to extreme fashion design, nor should it be overly styled with 'gel or 'mousse'. Hair should always be tied back if it is likely to fall over the face when working. Hair accessories should be maroon, grey, black or brown combs or slides. White ribbon/hair accessories in summer uniform is an option."***

Additional Clarity:

No part of the hair should be shorter than a grade 1.

Any fades to no less than grade 1. Skin fades/grade 0 is not acceptable.

No undercuts, steps, tramlines (in hair or eyebrows) or patterns cut into hair.

Hair should not cover the eyes at all. Long hair which falls over the eyes (when upright or working) should be tied back.

Fringes falling below the top of the eyebrows are too long.

Skirts:

Current: ***"Kilts/school skirts and summer dresses should be knee length"***

This remains unchanged and applies –knee length means reaches the top of the knees when walking/standing.

Jewellery:

Current: ***“Girls: matching plain pairs of ear studs or sleepers may be worn. One in each ear, lower lobe only. A crucifix, cross or St Christopher may be worn. All jewellery must be removed for PE and Games. Boys: are not allowed to wear earrings. Sensible watches may be worn (Time pieces not fashion statements!) but should be clearly initialled. All items are worn at the pupil’s own risk of loss.”***

Updated: A matching plain pair of ear studs or sleepers may be worn. One in each ear, lower lobe only.

Bangles, bracelets, rings and necklaces should **not** be worn. Religious jewellery will be considered so please contact the school if you are unsure.

Make-up:

Current: ***“Is not allowed, this includes nail polish.”***

Updated: This is often a point of contention particularly with Years 10 and 11. Light foundation which is not overtly visible will be accepted in cases where there are skin problems but again this should be discussed sensibly beforehand with tutor who will update staff. The school rule is ‘no make up’.

In addition, no fake tanning. Again, in cases where someone may be involved in a dance show or external activity that requires it, tutors should be informed well in advance and permission sought.

Other Uniform bits and pieces that have been raised as ‘issues’:

No mix and match uniform: Summer uniform *or* winter uniform at present – although under normal circumstances the pupils return in September in summer uniform until the weather changes.

Shirts and ties and to be worn smartly, top button done up, tie done up properly. Blazers should be worn neatly: no rolling up blazer sleeves. School hoodies should not be worn other than for PE and games.

Socks/tights colour: black or grey socks please and black or grey tights, winter and white ankle socks summer. Not slipper socks as this makes it appear that you are not wearing any socks and looks untidy.

Additionally, the length of PE skorts was a big issue last year – skorts should be an appropriate length and should not ‘ride up’ so as to be to be considered revealing/inappropriate.

This information is provided for staff and parents (and pupils) for clarity and to ensure it is ‘enforced’ consistently. Apologies if all of the above is known to you and has never been an issue!