



Headteacher: NJ Willis

Email: head.4140@wallingfordschool.com

St George's Road, Wallingford, Oxfordshire, OX10 8HH

Telephone: 01491 837 115 Fax: 01491 825 278

Email: office.4140@wallingfordschool.com

Web: www.wallingfordschool.com

FL/NC/10th July 2015

Dear Parent/Guardian

School Uniform 2015-2016

School uniform should, by definition, not be subject to variation but from time to time a fashion creeps in and undermines the aims, which are to create an environment that sets the right tone for study and does not make any youngster feel self-conscious or unable to fit in because of money or appearance. It is always problematic. What one camp sees as comfortable and informal another group thinks is sloppy and not sufficiently decent for a school. Similarly one group will argue for a level of formality that another would regard as too traditional or uncomfortable. A school invariably finds itself caught between both camps. We have been very fortunate at Wallingford. Our students look great almost all of the time. We have been able to avoid the silly confrontations that have appeared in the national press when schools have had to ban skirts altogether, or send large numbers of students home in the same week. From time to time the issue becomes contentious even here and decent people can fall out with each other.

You will be aware that this time last year we wrote to you requesting that you purchase appropriate school uniform for the new academic year. Thank you for all your support with this. The smartness of our students is regularly commented on by visitors and we are grateful for any battles to maintain this throughout the year. You will understand, because we have always made it clear, that uniform sets the tone for the day. We will continue to enforce our uniform policy strongly next year and ask you once again to ensure that items bought over the summer holidays are in line with this.

Boys are to wear trousers and not black jeans. The difference is obvious to most but as a rule, with exceptions, the latter have back pockets on the outside. They are to be worn around the waist, not hips, or lower.

Girls' skirts are to be knee length and just as importantly remain knee length throughout the school day. Trousers should also be neat and functional and in no way tight. Both items are not to be of an elastic material but tailored. I am afraid the problem for parents is that the current fashion is for young women to wear clothes that are rather more revealing than we think appropriate for school. On this, I am certain, most families agree with us. You can insist on your daughter wearing a longer skirt in the knowledge that the friends she claims to have bought short skirts will be sent home the first week back. For the sake of clarity, knee length is not a term defined by a shop assistant or teenage girl it is a skirt that reaches the knee; literally. Members of staff will be enforcing this rule. If there is any doubt we would suggest that the skirt is, or will soon become, too short.

Sending every young person into the world able and qualified

Wallingford Schools Academy Trust is an exempt charity and a company limited by guarantee Registered in England & Wales. Company No. 7727786
Registered Office: Wallingford School, St George's Road, Wallingford, Oxon, OX10 8HH, UK VAT Registration 130 8553 29

There will be consequences for students who are unable to comply. In some instances we will be sending students home to change. Where students have purchased a skirt of the correct length, but insist on wearing it shorter, lunchtime and, in some cases, after school detentions will be set. It would be unfair on a lot of people for families to buy the wrong items and refuse to replace them because they are new. We think we are being very clear what the right items should look like. This will also apply to footwear. Shoes need to be of a leather material. Trainers, plimsolls or shoes of a canvas material are not acceptable.

Students are more than aware of the expectations in school and senior staff have been having these conversations with some students throughout the academic year. We know the vast majority of parents are very happy to support this stance and a few are unhappy with the appearance of some of our students. We appreciate most the support of those who are not entirely in agreement but are still prepared to make their child conform.

Skirts and trousers can be bought direct from our Uniform Shop, the link of which is found on the school website. Should you wish to purchase for a different retailer, examples of the correct style of skirt or trousers (Colchester skirt and trousers) can be found at www.swi.co.uk.

Should you have any difficulty in locating appropriate uniform please contact Mrs Lewis at lewisf@wallingfordschool.com. She will be able to advise where such items can be sourced.

If you are in need of financial like assistance, please write to Mr Leeds, Deputy Headteacher explaining your situation.

Yours sincerely



NJ Willis
Headteacher