

Update on Uniform Changes from September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Earlier this term, we wrote to make you aware that our uniform policy would be changing from September 2024.

In hindsight, this letter could have explained this more clearly and, understandably, it raised queries and feedback from parents. I promised I would provide more clarity before the end of term, so I hope this letter helps to explain this in more detail.

Why are the changes taking place?

All schools in our trust (Anglian Learning) took part in a process with the main aim of helping to reduce uniform costs for families while maintaining high standards of uniform in each school. This was in-line with recently published guidance from the government.

We used this as a good time to review our current uniform – aiming to make it simpler and easier for pupils to wear our uniform to our high standards and with pride, and make uniform more affordable for our families. Our focus groups and surveys were incredibly helpful and were instrumental in guiding our changes.

What changes are being made?

The majority of people wanted to keep wearing a fitted jacket (a slightly more modern fit than our current blazer).

The kilt was also considered to be outdated in terms of fit and style. For some time, and due to this, it had become something that students had chosen to adapt, customise or wear in ways that did not meet our uniform policy expectations. This gave the wrong impression to our community, too much ambiguity for students, and meant staff were spending too much time upholding the uniform policy.

Therefore, we chose to introduce a new, modern navy skirt, that mirrors the smart, suited look that we expect – and in a more uniform style. By ensuring the yellow band and logo (top and bottom of the skirt) is shown, it also makes it easier for students to understand the uniform expectations.

The uniform will also include a modernised school jumper and PE kit. For example, it is clear that students like to wear our current PE jumper outside of PE lessons for comfort and warmth – even though it doesn't meet our uniform expectations. Therefore, we have adapted the new PE jumper to a V-neck so that they can do this smartly, where the tie can be seen, and comply with our uniform policy.

Ultimately, the main aims remain at the heart of these changes – make it easier for our students, families and teachers to wear the correct uniform, retain our high standards and expectations, while introducing more flexibility and affordability.

All out uniform remains non-gender specific and trousers are an option for all pupils. Some pictures of the new uniform items are at the bottom of this letter.

Cost reduction for families

Not only does the new uniform provide our students with smarter and more modern uniform, but it will also cost significantly less than our current uniform.

An average uniform, including PE kit, for boys will cost £140 (a saving of £47 compared to our current supplier), and an average uniform for girls, including a PE kit, will cost £128 (a saving of £84 compared to our previous supplier).

A good example of these savings is when comparing kilts with the new skirts. Our current kilts cost £52 each, whereas the more modern skirt will cost just £18 (before discount). The new skirts will also be reduced by £2 for the first term to help families buying new items.

Transition to new uniform

We also understand that uniform can be a significant cost for families, and some people may have already bought or still be able to use their existing uniform items. Therefore, all items (with the exception of the new skirt) will have a transition period over the next academic year (September 2024 – July 2025). This means that current PE kit and blazers can still be worn next year, but that new uniform items are purchased when you are ready to buy new items and in place by September 2025.

All items of the new uniform can be worn from September 2024, and the new skirts will be compulsory from September 2024.

Uniform Recycling

We are committed to doing everything we can to reduce the amount of waste from our uniforms – this is why we already encourage donations to pre-loved uniform initiatives run by the Newport Parent Association.

However, with these changes, we are aware that parents have asked about the recycling options available for the kilt. From September 2024, there will be a recycling box in our Main Reception for you or our students to deposit old kilts into. Our new uniform supplier will then collect this at regular points throughout the year and make sure old kilts are recycled into other materials, such as car upholstery, and significantly reduce the amount of items making their way into disposable waste.

Next Steps

Over the final half-term we will update the uniform policy on our website to make sure these details and expectations are clear.

We will also complete assemblies with all year groups to make sure they know the changes that are being made, why we are making the changes, and the expectations that will be in place from the start of the new school year.

You will be able to pre-order new uniform items from our suppliers Price & Buckland by visiting [Joyce Frankland Academy \(pbuniform-online.co.uk\)](https://www.pbuniform-online.co.uk)

Thank you for your comments, feedback and support as we considered these changes. We hope that the changes make sense, and will continue to ensure our students look smart and wear their uniform with pride in the future.

Kind regards,

Duncan Roberts,

Principal

