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**Headteacher:** Mr J Parr BA Hons

July 2023

Dear Parents/Carer,

As we reach the end of term, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your support this year in sending your child/ren to school in the correct uniform, dress code and appearance. This really makes a difference as it ensures we can focus our conversations on learning rather than spending time on challenging incorrect uniform.

We have a school uniform at our school for three important reasons:

1. It creates a sense of identity – it helps the students feel that they belong to Church Stretton School. It helps create a feeling of *“I am proud to be part of this school”*
2. It helps create a school where everyone is treated equally. Students are judged on their character, not on whether they have the latest expensive fashion items.
3. Overall it is very cost effective. School uniform gets worn a lot – typically over 1,500 hours per year. That’s a lot of usage and value from items of clothing!

Over the last couple of weeks, we have been gathering student voice and speaking to our Governors about our uniform. Following these discussions, we have made some small amendments to our current policy which we hope will make purchasing uniform easier.

Firstly, with price increase for school shoes we are asking that any shoes purchased meet the following criteria (examples can be seen later in the letter):

- Plain black
- Polishable leather or leather look material (not canvas)
- Must have laces, Velcro or buckle (no slip-ons)
- No logo or sports branding (e.g., Nike, Adidas)
- Low heel (maximum 1”)
- No boots

Secondly, to help with comfort and functionality, we are adding a second type of school skirt. Skirts can now be:

- a plain black straight skirt, worn no more than 2” above the knee  
or
- a black box pleat skirt worn no more than 2” above the knee

**Fully pleated skirts, or skirts made from elasticated or stretchy material are not permitted** in school. These amendments were shared with students during assemblies last week.

With the summer holidays fast approaching and the 'back to school' promotions already in the shops, it seems an ideal time to remind you of our uniform expectations to avoid any awkward conversations at the start of the new academic year. Students are required to wear a school polo shirt and jumper and have the option of additionally wearing a school fleece. All required branded uniform, school polo shirt, jumper, fleece and PE tops can be purchased from:

School shop direct

5 Henley Way  
Shrewsbury  
SY1 4NP

Or online at [www.schoolshopdirect.co.uk](http://www.schoolshopdirect.co.uk)

All other uniform can be purchased from any high street or online retailer but must conform to our uniform policy. To avoid doubt and support you in deciding whether items of clothing are suitable or not, we have provided the attached examples sheet, showing acceptable uniform. **Please use this for reference when purchasing uniform items for your child.**

Please do note that we will be strictly enforcing the uniform policy when we return after the summer, with zero tolerance of infringements. In taking this approach, we are seeking your support, not looking to create barriers or conflict. Where pupils arrive in incorrect uniform or appearance, you will be informed so that you can support us in rectifying any issues if they arise.

If you are unsure whether a piece of uniform is acceptable or if there are any extenuating circumstances, which mean you are unable to meet the uniform requirements, please consult your child's Head of year before sending your child to school:

Year 7	Mrs Dixon	<a href="mailto:lousie.dixon@cssschool.co.uk">lousie.dixon@cssschool.co.uk</a>
Years 8 & 10	Ms Gajny	<a href="mailto:yvonne.gajny@cssschool.co.uk">yvonne.gajny@cssschool.co.uk</a>
Years 9 & 11	Mr Elkins	<a href="mailto:alistair.elkins@cssschool.co.uk">alistair.elkins@cssschool.co.uk</a>

As a reminder, students should be returning to school with no extreme haircuts or hair colours (natural colours only) and false nails, false eye lashes and nail polish are not permitted. Students are allowed a single pair of stud earrings and any nose piercings must have a clear retainer. No other jewellery apart for a watch (non-smart) is allowed. Hoodies and sweatshirts are not part of our school uniform and should not be worn in school.

Thank you for your support in ensuring your child is dressed correctly for school and we trust that the enclosed guidance makes things much clearer for everyone.

Yours sincerely,

Mr M Longhurst  
Assistant Headteacher

Mrs L Dixon  
Ho Y7

Ms Y Gajny  
Ho Y8/10

Mr A Elkins  
Ho Y9/11