



29 June 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: School Uniform and PE Kit

Further to my letter regarding our school uniform, I have had several emails from parents and carers with concerns they have, which I wish to address below. On reflection I should have explained further the rationale for making the decision which I trust parents/carers will understand and support:

1. A few parents/carers have asked why they were not consulted on the decision.

- A. The wearing of PE Kit as a school uniform has significantly impacted the content of the PE curriculum in the following ways:

On days when it has been adverse weather, pupils have not been able to go outside to do PE as this would result in them being sat in wet clothes whilst being expected to engage in learning in their other lessons

Pupils have not been able to participate in football or rugby on grass, due to the potential for PE Kit/Uniform becoming grass-stained and/or dirty, even muddy. Again, this could impact on the expectation to engage in learning in other lessons

We want our children to engage in a wide range of sport and activity and we have always been proud of the achievements of pupils in individual and team events

- B. In response to the wider opening of school during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 we made the decision to allow pupils to come into school wearing their PE kit on the days they had PE and days they had extra-curricular sport events. This was because there were still restrictions in place, and we had a responsibility to reduce the spread of infection. I completed a consultation at this time as I was aware the proposal to wear PE kit as school uniform, was an exception to our long-established system which meant we would not be in line with all other schools. In addition, it had impact on arrangements/organisation within families regarding uniform and PE kit. This arrangement was extended without further consultation for this last academic year as it was a continuation in agreement with members of the PE Faculty and Pastoral Leaders. However, we removed the arrangement of wearing PE kit on days of extra-curricular activity – there has been no noticeable reduction in participation and we are delighted that this year our football and rugby teams are achieving highly.

The decision to revert to arrangements pre-pandemic is because we no longer must have systems in place due to the potential risk of COVID-19 infection and we wish to reinstate arrangements that were successfully in place pre-pandemic. As always, this will be kept under review. The Department for Education states in its guidance:

We strongly encourage schools to have a uniform as it can play a key role in:

1. promoting the ethos of a school
2. providing a sense of belonging and identity
3. setting an appropriate tone for education

2. A few parents/carers have raised concern about the quality of the TSS leggings

From September we are asking that pupils wear the TSS branded plain black leggings for when they do PE as these will be worn twice a week for their one-hour PE lesson. As some pupils are deliberately challenging school expectations by wearing very expensive branded leggings for PE, some with mesh panels we are enforcing the expectation that no other branded leggings will be

allowed as TSS PE kit, this includes any leggings with meshed panels, logos, stripes, or other branded designs. Leggings must be Lycra and not cotton.

Plain black leggings are not allowed as part of school uniform – they have never been included in our school uniform. Pupils who wear leggings as part of school uniform will be sanctioned which may include being removed temporarily from the school community until they dress in the correct uniform. As always, we will support families with the purchase of uniform where this is needed.

3. A few parents/carers have raised concern about the use of changing rooms and access to showers.

Changing rooms will have a member of the PE staff present during the period of pupils getting changed – they will take a register and deal with any points pupils raise with them during that time. From September, the PE staff will focus on the process of getting changed being as quick as possible.

Members of PE staff have always worked with pupils who may have worries about being in changing rooms and they will continue to support pupils

In addition, inside each changing room there are shower cubicles which are controlled inside the cubicle by a push button system. There are six in both external changing rooms and five in both internal changing rooms. These cubicles can be used to support pupils who wish to change in an individual space as well as for those pupils who may choose to shower after their PE lesson

4. A few parents/carers have raised concern about carrying PE kit in either their school bag or a second bag in addition to their school bag.

Each year we ask that pupils have a suitable bag for school which is usually a rucksack style; this allows for schoolbooks, a pencil case, and PE kit to be brought into school. For pupils who participate in two or more extra-curricular events they are provided with a school locker – this system is overseen by the PE Faculty. Also, we ask that all uniform and PE kit is labelled with the child's name so if any uniform or PE kit is handed into lost property, we can return it to the named child. It has been the case for all the years I have done lunch duty with the last two years being no exception, that as pupils leave the dining area, coats, sweatshirts, and bags are left behind.

As school leader, I have always taken my responsibilities seriously – it has always and will always matter to me. Whatever the influences on the decision-making process the arrangements are being made in the belief that it establishes TSS as a school with high values, standards, and expectations of all members of its community. I appreciate that this is a change to what has been in place over the last three years and school leaders have been inundated with change from the DfE over many years – it is true that the one constant is change. I apologise for any inconvenience this change back to previous arrangements may cause and I wish to thank you for your continued support and challenge because I know, you too, care.

Yours sincerely



Ian Morrel
Headteacher