

31st April 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

As we move towards the final term of this academic year, I would like to remind you of our expectations on uniform, attendance and behaviour in preparation for the Summer term.

UNIFORM:

At Lacon Childe School we believe that school uniform promotes a strong attitude to learning, enhances a sense of identity and community ethos. Uniform also helps members of the wider community form a positive impression of our school and the students who attend. Over the term, I have been very impressed with the vast majority of students who wear their uniform correctly, with pride and look very smart. Thank you to all the parents and carers who have worked with the school by ensuring that their child leaves home correctly dressed or by providing us with a note if there are any problems with uniform.

With the need to teach in classrooms with doors and windows open, it was agreed that pupils could wear either a maroon V-neck jumper under their blazer or the black Lacon Childe School PE hoody. A plain black hoody is also acceptable due to stock issues at the School Shop. No other hoody or sweatshirt is permitted. Failure to wear one of the acceptable variations will result in pupils being told to remove the non-uniform item. Further failure to comply with this request will result the item being confiscated. Coats are recommended and can be worn anywhere outside the school buildings. Once inside, outdoor clothing should be removed immediately and carried around school along with their school bag.

The length and tightness of some girl's skirts is causing us concern. Tight fitting, short skirts are still being worn despite previous intervention from staff. This can cause embarrassment and loss of dignity for female students whilst using the stairs, sitting on the floor or when engaged in practical subjects. Whilst we appreciate that all students wish to develop their own identity and character, we are concerned that some girls' modesty, self-esteem and pride is being undermined by the choices they are making.

School skirts should be black, tailored and knee length. Lycra and other stretch fabrics are not permitted. We acknowledge that when skirts are worn with tights, they can often rise up and therefore this should be taken into consideration when selecting the skirt size. Mid-thigh and above skirts are not considered appropriate for school and could potentially lead to safeguarding issues outside of school. Therefore, can I please urge all parents and carers to ensure female students are wearing a black, tailored, knee length skirt. The skirt may be straight, pleated or skater style. I have included some photographs below of acceptable styles. These may be obtained from a range of retailers, including the School Shop at Kidderminster. Please also note that Amazon stock a range of David Luke and Banner school skirts in a variety of waist and length sizes. Black school trousers are also an acceptable alternative to a skirt as long as they are bootcut, straight or tapered. No skinny fit, combat style, jeans, leggings or cropped styles are accepted.

This term we have tolerated inappropriate skirts and other uniform items due to national lockdown requirements. With non-essential shops reopening on 12th April, we will expect all pupils to be in correct uniform from Monday 19th April.



White socks are an increasing issue amongst some students. I would like to remind all parents, carers and students that socks should be black or grey in colour when worn with our school uniform. White sports socks are only permitted for specific activities during PE lessons.

Footwear is also a challenge for parents as many high street stores are now marketing trainer styles as school shoes. The type of shoes that are acceptable are smart and will be comfortable and protective for students to wear all day in school. Footwear that meets our uniform policy should be considered acceptable in a 'business' work environment. Any parent/carer requiring further clarification on what is considered as acceptable footwear should contact myself or your child's Year Leader.

Shops very often sell items labelled as school uniform that do not meet our uniform expectations. If you are unsure about any aspect of our uniform policy, please contact your child's Year Leader who will be happy to discuss any queries you may have.

JEWELLERY & HAIRSTYLES:

I understand that there has been some confusion on what is deemed acceptable in terms of jewellery and hairstyles, and so I hope to make this much clearer for pupils and parents/carers.

Only one stud earring is permitted in each ear lobe. Additional earrings and piercings in other parts of the ear including the helix, tragus and conch are not acceptable. Students may wear a watch and one small ring. Pandora bracelets and other wrist accessories are not permitted. If students are seen with additional jewellery items, they will be asked to remove them and they will be confiscated.

With reference to hair, we do not permit any extreme styles such as tramlines, shaven hair **below grade 2** and fade or stepped hairstyles where there are noticeable differences in hair length. Any coloured hair should be of a natural tone, and dip dyed / ombre hair is not acceptable. I have included photographs below as a guide to hairstyles which do not meet our expectations.



It is important to note that students who do not meet our uniform standards in terms of jewellery and hairstyles will lose their social time (break and lunchtime) until the issue is rectified. There will be no allowances made for breaches to these rules. In order for your child to avoid these sanctions,

please contact me or your child's Year Leader to check if you are in any doubt about what is deemed acceptable.

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY:

I would like to thank all students who make every effort to be in school on time ready for tutor time. I strongly believe that being punctual to school prepares all students for the day ahead. It is an essential part of life and is good training for the world of work. Thank you to all the parents and carers who continue to support this. If your child is persistently late in the morning, you will be receiving a letter making you aware of this and the actions we would like you to take to ensure that your child is in school on time.

School begins at 8:50am and any pupil arriving after this time will be considered late.

Any student who arrives late will be required to make up the time during lunchtime. If late more than once a half term, an after-school detention will be issued.

It has been an interesting and challenging term for us yet again and I would like to thank parents and carers for the kindness and support you have given school and individual staff. I wish you all a wonderful Easter break.

Yours sincerely

Mrs K Guise

Assistant Headteacher...