

Our ref: SGA/AKE

Thursday 26th January 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Important Reminders - Uniform

At Outwood Academy Portland we believe that a smart uniform prepares our students for the future, improves discipline, self-esteem and self-respect. Uniform focuses attention upon learning and away from distractions. So that all pupils have a sense of pride in their appearance, we therefore ask that the uniform is worn appropriately and in its entirety.

In light of the cost of living crisis and to support families, there has been a change to the uniform policy which was updated on our website before the Christmas holidays regarding school skirts and trousers. In reviewing the policy, the trust made the decision to remove the requirement for students to wear logoed trousers and skirts, however since we have returned to school, we have seen an increase in students wearing 'tight fitted tube skirts' which are **not** allowed within the OGAT Uniform Policy.

Students will still be required to wear appropriate school trousers and skirts, as described below.

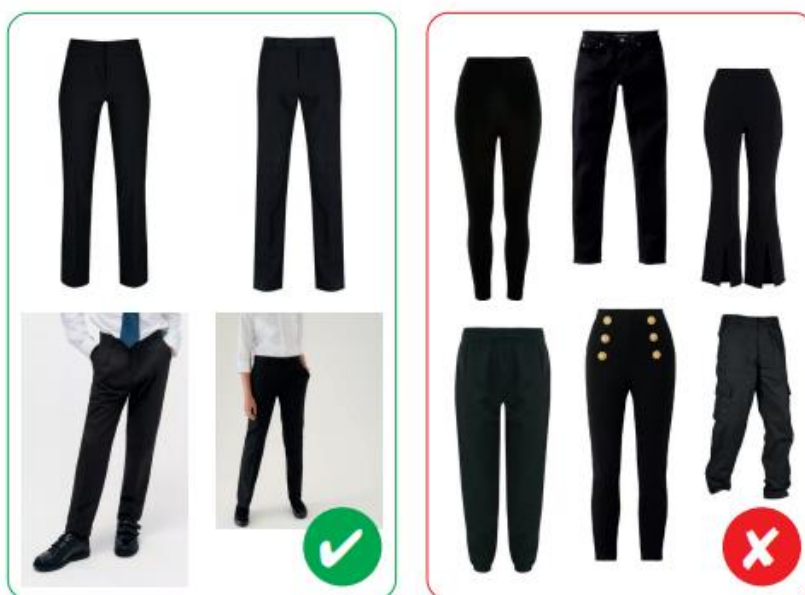
Skirts:

- must be plain black and in a tailored formal style. Skirts may be A-line, pencil or pleated (twin, knife or box pleat);
- tight-fitting, tube skirts are **not** acceptable;
- must sit on or just above the knee;
- must **not** be made of jersey, stretch or patterned fabric;
- must be worn with a minimum of plain black 40 denier tights.



Trousers:

- must be plain black and in a tailored formal style;
- must **not** be cropped, tight/skinny fit, made of stretch or patterned fabric.
- must **not** have decorative buttons, buckles or fashion belts;
- jeans, flares, cargo or bootlegged trousers, tracksuit bottoms, jeggings or leggings are **not** acceptable.



Students wearing items that do not match these descriptions will be asked to change and support will be given to parents/carers to source acceptable garments. We have attached a guide which includes images of what is and is not acceptable that students, parents and carers may find useful when purchasing non-logoed school trousers and skirts. If there are no appropriate replacement sizes for students to borrow, and parents are unable to bring an alternative into school, students may be placed in our Personalised Learning Centre for the duration of the school day or isolated with a member of SLT.

School Shoes

Only plain black shoes are allowed to be worn with the uniform. The shoes should be free from embellishments and decorations. No trainer-like shoes, boots, pumps or canvas shoes (including 'Vans') will be allowed. Heels should be no higher than 2.5cm/1 inch.

If students are not wearing the correct footwear they will be expected to borrow a pair of shoes from Student Reception - the shoes will be treated with a hygienic spray before each use.



Jewellery/eyelashes/nails

No jewellery is allowed except a wrist watch and a Medic Alert necklace or bracelet. Smart watches are not allowed in the school.

If any student is thinking about having their ears pierced, or any other piercing, this should be done at the start of the summer holiday, as no student will be allowed to wear earrings or any other jewellery at any time. All jewellery must be removed before the student crosses the purple line in the morning. If a student is asked by a member of staff to remove their jewellery, it will be handed in at student reception and a C4b will be issued.

Noticeable make-up is not allowed, any make-up must be discreet. The decision as to what qualifies as discreet rests with the Principal and Executive Principal of the individual school.

False eyelashes are not to be worn and henna is not allowed. False nails and nail varnish are also not allowed. Please ensure that your child does not attend school wearing any of the above.

School Bags

Students are required to bring a school bag every day, big enough to fit in their PE kit, A4 workbooks and their school planner. If students arrive without a school bag, they will be given a replacement bag which they must use for the school day.

Families experiencing difficulties in paying for uniform and school shoes may wish to make an application to the school's discretionary Hardship Fund, available to all registered full-time school students. Please speak to your child's Learning Manager.

Should you have any queries regarding uniform, please contact your child's Learning Manager. If you are unsure about a garment's suitability, we advise you not to remove any tags/labels and retain your receipt until the item has been checked by a colleague in school. The Principal will retain the final decision.

We welcome your support in ensuring that your child continues to wear the correct uniform as specified above and to thank you in advance.

Yours faithfully



Mrs D Sheehan
Principal