



Whitburn Church of England Academy

An Academy with Specialist Status in Maths and Computing

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'Excellence for All'

28th April 2014

Consultation on possible changes to academy uniform

Dear Parent/Carer

We would like to undertake a consultation regarding some possible changes to the academy uniform from September 2014. This is in response to requests from a significant number of parent/carers and pupils, asking us to consider some changes to the academy uniform and the PE kit. In summary, the requests generally fell under one of the categories below:

1. Can we make some alterations to the PE kit, particularly in relation to girls' PE tops?
2. Can we consider a school blazer?
3. Can we have greater clarity on suitable school skirts and trousers and will we consider supplying approved school skirts and trousers through the online uniform school?

In light of these requests, we held initial discussions within school and through the Parent & Carers Forum. We also discussed a range of options with our suppliers and have looked at patterns of uniform purchase over recent years. Consequently, we now have a number of suggested amendments to the school uniform, on which we would welcome your views. I must stress that this is a consultation and **no firm decisions have been taken at this stage.**

The results of consultations involving parent/carers, pupils and staff will be presented to the Governing Body on **Tuesday 13th May**. The Governing Body will then consider the consultation evidence before making any decisions to amend the Uniform Policy with effect from September 2014. Any changes made will ensure that we maintain the key principles which underpin our approach to school uniform, namely that uniform is smart but affordable. The key changes we are proposing are as follows:

Proposed change	Reason for change	Timescale	Approximate Cost of item
The multi-sport long sleeved PE top is made available as optional for girls.	This addresses issues raised by pupils and parent/carers in relation to girls' outdoor PE kit, particularly during colder weather.	This change can be made immediately.	£14.40 - £16.45
New PE polo shirts available for both boys and girls.	Boys do not currently have the option of a polo shirt for indoor PE. The white colour of the current girls' polo shirt has been raised as issue.	We would need to phase out the current white polo shirts, so new polo shirts would be introduced during 2014-15.	£10.80 - £12.30

Document available in large font, alternative language or audio format on request



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Optional PE Micro-Fleece is available to boys as well as girls	Gives boys the same options as girls. May be popular with sports teams travelling to away fixtures.	This change can be made immediately.	£18.50 - £19.55
Introduce trousers and skirts supplied by the school.	Many parents and carers have expressed concerns over not knowing whether skirts and trousers supplied by retailers as 'school wear' were acceptable under our Uniform Policy. This will ensure compliance and avoid confusion.	From September 2014.	Trousers £12 - £16 Skirts £11.25 - £13.35
School skirts must be 'on the knee'.	This will eliminate confusion for pupils as to what "no more than 5cm above the knee" actually means and allow more consistent application of the Uniform Policy.	From September 2014.	
Introduce a school blazer.	This is being contemplated in response to a number of requests for parent/carers and pupils. The blazer being considered is a high quality one which has matching trousers and skirts to give the impression of a tailored business uniform. If this change is made then school jumpers and cardigans would become optional uniform items.	Most likely to be a phased introduction from September 2014 and compulsory for all pupils from September 2015.	£28.20 - £32.30

Some images of the proposed new uniform items are shown on the next page.

To participate in this consultation, please log on to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LXHDCJL> (please note that in order to allow time to analyse the results before the Governing Body meeting, **the consultation will close at noon on Sunday 12th May**).

Yours faithfully



A Hardie
Principal

Proposed uniform changes

Girls Polo Shirt



Boys Polo Shirt



Girls multi-sport long sleeved top



Boys Micro-Fleece



Girls Colchester Skirt (matches blazer)



Girls Pleated Skirt



Girls Blazer



Boys Blazer



