

4 July 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Uniform Expectations

At Handsworth we are working tirelessly to promote high expectations across all areas of our school community and one of our key areas we are working on is our consistent approach to uniform.

Our uniform policy is available for all parents on our website, and we have a system in place for supporting parents who may need additional help with purchasing uniform, available on our website.

<https://hgsc.co.uk/parents/uniform>

Our uniform has remained largely the same, with the expectation of introducing tailored shorts, which has been well received by many of our students.

I have consistently high expectations for all our students with uniform and ensuring we all present ourselves in the best way, every day. This is a key part of entering adulthood and supporting our students to understand the value of first impressions. I have spent some time consulting with several high performing schools in Sheffield and reviewed what systems were previously in place at Handsworth over the years, and this was always part of the whole school sanction system. High expectations around uniform were part of what made the school truly special.

We meet and greet all our students every day and this is where the daily uniform checks take place, students are offered the chance to rectify their uniform if this is not in line with our policy.

There does, however, appear to be common themes emerging that we want to ensure is rectified upon our return in September, to ensure these high expectations are a key trend throughout school uniform. As we return in September, we will default back from our summer uniform and students will be expected to wear their blazer in school.



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These repeated themes are:

- School shirts not tucked in
- Repeatedly not having a school tie or ties not at an appropriate length
- Wearing large hoop earrings, or fashion earrings
- Leggings
- Skirts that would be deemed an inappropriate length

I am sure you can appreciate we want to continue to build a school community that is consistent, and uniform plays a key part to this. All our students have the same expectations everyday about uniform and we want to make sure we have the correct message to all our school community for September.

Sadly, we do have a small number of students who continue to not get these expectations right and as such I would like to consult with you all about bringing repeat issues with uniform into our sanction system, in the same way that happened at Handsworth in the past.

All students would have ample chance and opportunity to rectify any uniform issues and this would be supported daily by staff; we will continue to offer uniform to anyone who requires this each day. We already keep a record of repeated issues with uniform, and this includes students who have their shirt untucked throughout the day. The sanction for repeat breaches of our school uniform would be a same day 20-minute detention, issued through the same channels as our normal practices.

I would like to reassure you that this is not a measure to apply punitive approaches, students will always be given the chance to rectify any issues; this is a measure to build a culture of high expectations and a consistent approach to our daily presentation.

If you would like to share any thoughts, views, or opinions, please complete the short survey below. The deadline for any responses will be Friday 19th July at 5.00pm.

<https://forms.office.com/e/DqD6zqziNi>



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Again, I would like to reassure you, this is not a punitive measure to sanction our students, this is in line with further raising our high expectations and the standards we expect to see every day from our students. Once I have reviewed your thoughts and opinions, we will make the necessary steps for September to ensure our students are fully informed of any changes, and equally, understand the rationale.

Yours sincerely

Suzy Mattock
Headteacher



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