



KING EDWARD VI SCHOOL

LICHFIELD

10 June 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians

UNIFORM UPDATE

As we begin the final half term it is a good time to bring to your attention some important information related to uniform. This is to ensure that parents and students are fully informed of our expectations before making purchases ahead of the new academic year.

Our website provides very clear guidance on what we expect from students in terms of their appearance. The code of conduct (RESPECT), devised by students, reflects this with our aim to be 'Smart and Presentable'. I would appreciate it greatly if you would refresh your knowledge of our uniform guidance by visiting the website at www.keslichfield.org.uk and clicking the [Uniform link](#) on the homepage.

There are two specific areas we would like to bring to your attention at this point in time.

School skirts

The school only allows skirts to be worn that are purchased from our 2 local suppliers. These display the school badge towards the bottom of the skirt. We are adopting a zero-tolerance approach to the wearing of skirts at an inappropriate length. The planner/website states that 'Skirts should always be worn at an appropriate length, no more than 5 cm above the knee'.

We are aware that parents do their best to support the school's policy on uniform and many students undoubtedly leave home perfectly dressed for school. We do have some students who then choose to roll up their skirt to an inappropriate length and have to be repeatedly challenged by staff. This then leads to loss of behaviour points and sometimes it can cause friction which is a negative experience for both staff and students. Up to now this has meant a loss of 1 point followed by a loss of 5 points if this is repeated. Rather than have repeated conversations with students we would like them to take more responsibility for meeting our expectations from the outset.

To simplify our approach for students and staff we have taken the decision to move towards the following:

- If a student is seen to be wearing their skirt at an inappropriate length (rolling it up at the waist) they can expect to lose 5 points (in line with our Conduct Points system) and this will incur a senior staff detention.
- If the skirt itself is not appropriate, a member of staff will speak to the student to see if this can be resolved. Where necessary, parents will be contacted to ensure that the student can either wear an alternative skirt or trousers from the following day. In certain cases this may be extended for a further day if necessary.
- If the student chooses to continue to wear an inappropriately short skirt after contact with parents (see above) then the student will be placed in isolation until the issue can be resolved. This could be through the student changing into a school-provided skirt/pair of trousers, or with the parent bringing more appropriate uniform into school.

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Our efforts in this area are motivated by our desire to see all students in appropriate uniform conducive to a professional working environment.

We would ask for your support in this area. Please ensure your child has the correct length skirt for school, and please remind them not to roll up the skirt at the top, or have it taken up from the lower seam.

School Shoes

The school recognises the difficulty of obtaining school shoes that are comfortable, in line with school expectations, and also acceptable to the students. We have clear statements in the website and in the school planner about what is and is not acceptable:

“Plain black shoes. (Not sports trainers or canvas shoes or shoes with obvious logos/emblems. Shoes with high heels, which can be especially dangerous on the school’s many staircases, should not be worn.)”.

We are asking parents to consider this advice before making a purchase, so that money is not spent on shoes that will not be allowed in school. Please do consider the information sheet we have published on the website providing numerous examples of what is and is not acceptable in terms of school shoes (see Uniform at www.keslichfield.org.uk).

Should you still be in doubt, please email the school and we will happily advise you on specific shoes.

Parents of students wearing inappropriate shoes this term will receive a letter advising them to ensure these are replaced for September.

We are proud of our tradition of school uniform at King Edward VI, as we believe the smart appearance of students sets the tone for the effort we expect from them on a daily basis. As such, we want to reduce some of the inconsistencies related to uniform, and improve further on the appearance of students.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Rutherford', written in a cursive style.

J Rutherford (Ms)
Headteacher