



### Bishop Rawstone Parent Forum 2022/23

7<sup>th</sup> February 2023 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Forum of the year (2 of 3)

#### Focus – School Uniform Consultation.

<p><i>Staff in attendance:</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Chair</b> – Mr Duckworth – Assistant Headteacher – Pastoral Care, Attendance, Worship, Pupil Premium</li><li>• <b>Lead Speaker</b> – Mr Rawlinson – Deputy Headteacher</li><li>• Mr Williams - PE and Wellbeing</li><li>• Mr Tye – Science and Student Voice / Student Council</li><li>• Mrs Anglim – English and Head of Year 9</li><li>• Mrs Walton – History and Head of Year 7</li><li>• Julie Hughes - Governor</li></ul>
<p>Meeting started at 5:30pm</p> <p>Mr Duckworth thanked the parents for attending and outlined the format of the meeting. Each meeting will have a focus for at least half an hour on an issue school needs to gather feedback from the parent community about. The final one of the year will be tracking reports and homework.</p> <p>Following this, introductions were made and the floor handed to Mr Rawlinson to discuss uniform.</p>	
<p>Mr Rawlinson led a brief presentation with supporting documentation (available in the Parents Forum section of the website) to show how and why school at this stage is consulting parents about their views on Uniform. The PowerPoint that was shared basically clarified the following:</p> <p><i>As a school, we are always looking at ways to improve and as part of this, we wish to review our current school uniform as well as the purchasing and supply process. In order to make a full and informed decision as a school community we will be consulting with parents, students, staff and governors. The decision about whether to retain the existing uniform or move to a new one will be informed by this process.</i></p> <p>There then followed a 40-minute discussion answering the below points. Feedback from the Q and A is in red:</p> <p>A. Whether the uniform is comfortable and appropriate. <b>Overall students appear to be generally happy with the uniform that they are provided with, and discussions seemed to suggest most parents and students feel comparatively to other schools, and their uniforms Bishop Rawstone students appear smart.</b></p> <p>B. If there are aspects of the uniform policy they struggle to follow, and if so, why. <b>Overall no major issues – but it would be very handy to make it clear what is optional and what is not. And the shop could do this too. This also relates to different types of PE kit.</b></p> <p>C. The cost, available supply sources and year-round availability of the current uniform <b>For a uniform that is worn day in day out the cost seems very reasonable – and to that extent the quality is good too, especially when compared to the high street shops (though John Lewis was mentioned as being more reasonable). It is a large outlay at the start of Year 7 – but after this, like with any school uniform, it can be topped up and the financial element can be managed fairly well. Trousers hems for boys were flagged up, and also would there be a possibility of having a slim fit trouser – some taller boys feel that the length vs waist can make them</b></p>	

Highfield Road, Croston, Leyland, Lancashire PR26 9HH

Tel 01772 600349 or 01772 600972

Email: [office@bishopr.co.uk](mailto:office@bishopr.co.uk) website: [www.bishopr.co.uk](http://www.bishopr.co.uk)

Company Number: 767281 VAT Registration Number: 120 1290 77

Headteacher: Mr P Cowley

look quite silly. Availability of skirts in different lengths and sizes was flagged up by many. This then led to a further discussion in one group about overall availability and issues with the shop and its opening hours, stock and general staff flexibility. Several parents explained that they felt that perhaps the purchasing of trousers and skirts WITHOUT logos from Impressions would keep the cost down, and that this would be a good half way house with uniform price, but also keeping the standards as school wishes to keep them. A final point on this was – are badges needed at all on skirts and trousers, although it was accepted as being the main way to ensure all students are wearing the same brand and style as each other.

**D. Whether all forms of uniform are practical, comfortable and appropriate to the activities students will be expected to conduct while wearing them.**

Most viewed the uniform as comfortable and also discussed that some items are now much more resilient than in the past. The jumpers this year appear to be of a better quality and are washing better than they have done before. There was a discussion about PE kit – that I will put in an additional section at the bottom.

Summer uniform was also discussed – blazer rules on hot days clarified by Mr Duckworth to some parents, and also a discussion about shorts as a summer uniform. The parents present seemed fairly split on this idea (more edging towards a no) but it has been emailed to school as a separate point prior to the meeting. Common sense does need to be employed when the weather is one extreme or the other.

Coats were also discussed. Dark coats questioned from a safety POV on dark winter evenings, and Mr Duckworth also clarified the coat rule and the reason for them having to take them off in school. Mr Duckworth also clarified that there are now lockers available for all Y7 – 9 students, and they have been offered.

**E. Whether any changes to uniform should involve a phased introduction**

All agreed that if ANY uniform changes are to happen they need to be phased in over a period of time to make them affordable and manageable for all families. This then led to a discussion about 2nd hand uniform, again further detail on this below.

**F. Thoughts on creating a gender-inclusive school uniform.**

Several parents mentioned that the easiest way to do this would be to remove the separate male and female lists for uniform, this then removed the discussion about boy / girl uniform.

**G. Second Hand Uniform**

A lot of parents have strong views on how we could collect and offer second hand uniform. Mr Duckworth clarified that there is a lot of second-hand uniform in school and agreed that there needs to be a better system to distribute in a dignified manner. This to be discussed with Mrs Duckworth, who will look at communicating with the interested parents and drawing up a plan of action. This needs to be handled carefully though, as school does not have the ability to manage a “second hand uniform shop”. It’s worth noting that several parents individually and as a group explained that they felt uniform now needed to be sustainable, about financial and ethical planning.

**H. PE Kit / Uniform**

A lot of points made about PE kit. Some parents noted that there appeared to be a change in quality of the tops, and that the girls shorts and PE top also appear to be quite unflattering. The quality of the PE Socks (red and inconsistent in thickness) was flagged up also. The cost of shoes for the astro turf was also touched upon, as being an additional outlay that several families could do without. Some clarity on GCSE PE kit would be appreciated also. Some parents felt that they had 3 different types of PE Kit being asked of them. Overall several parents did ask for

greater clarity on PE requirements and could school discuss with the supplier (Impressions) the expectations that school has.

This group discussions finished at around 6:10 and Mr Duckworth then gathered feedback from all tables to gather a overall consensus about the discussed points.

Following this at 6:25 Mr Duckworth opened the floor to any comments, about anything not just uniform.

- A discussion about the coats rule in school took place, and also lockers and availability post Covid. Several parents explained they didn't understand the rule, and asked why students could not wear them at the start of the day to tutor. Mr Duckworth clarified the rationale behind the rule, and then went on to explain that we had now grown locker capacity to larger than pre covid levels, but that school did not have the space for a locker per child.
- Ear studs – why is our policy the way it is. Other schools allow one small stud – why can't we? Mr Duckworth explained that the rule was there to remove inconsistency and students attempting to “bend” the rule.
- Lunch procedure was discussed. Wet lunchtimes procedures were clarified so all were aware no one was expected to be eating outside in the rain
- The shorter summer holiday period was discussed. Mr Rawlinson explained that this was due to research about holiday times and student knowledge retention and that there was no plan to change this.
- The planned building development in the village was mentioned – and Mr Rawlinson again stated that we were aware, but that no consultation had taken place with school over capacity – or was expected. We would cope.
- An issue with Black Bull bus was brought up – Parent to email Mr Duckworth greater detail.

Meeting drew to a close at 6:45 – and then followed 15 minutes of 121 discussion.

Thanks all for attendance.