



Kirkburton Middle School

Turnshaws Avenue
Kirkburton
Huddersfield
HD8 0TJ

Headteacher: Mr C Taylor

Telephone: 01484 222737

Email: kirkburtonoffice@themast.co.uk

Web: www.kirkburtonmiddleschool.co.uk

Enjoying, Achieving, Succeeding Together

15th June 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

We recently shared a uniform review document which was written in response to the latest government guidance on the cost of school uniforms. As part of our review, the matter was discussed by governors and the parent forum. Pupils were given the opportunity to give their views on school uniform through tutor group discussions. We also gave all parents the opportunity to give their views on the review document via a parental questionnaire. This letter provides a summary of the feedback we received to the uniform review and our plans for uniform from September and beyond.

Key Headlines

- Our uniform expectations from September 2022 will be as laid out in the review document – please see the attached document for full details
- Following comments received in the parent survey, further discussions will take place between school leaders and governors in the autumn term with regards to uniform expectations from September 2023
- The school is committed to making pre-worn uniform readily available to those who wish to access it

Parental questionnaire

A total of 49 parents completed the questionnaire and we are very grateful for this feedback. The full results of the survey are attached however the key themes were as follows.

Uniform in general – the vast majority of parents who responded support the principle of uniforms in schools and recognise why school uniform is important.

Uniform at KMS – most respondents feel our current uniform looks smart and is practical. They also feel the school enforces the uniform policy effectively. There was a mixed response around the cost of uniform with over one third of parents raising concerns about the cost of the uniform.

The school response to the new government guidance – the majority of respondents (65%) feel the proposed uniform changes strike the right balance between branded and non-branded items. A further 8% gave a neutral response. 27% of parents do not feel the right balance has been struck. 92% of parents said they would be happy to donate good quality pre-worn uniform to the school. A number of parents also said they would be interested in accessing pre-worn uniform.



School uniform from September 2022 – those who responded feel the expectations for uniform from September 2022 are clear. There was a strong consensus that the school is right to make branded skirts optional. Parents also feel it is important for pupils to have the option to wear shorts – please note this applies to all pupils.

Comments

Common themes in the comments section included –

- Support for the removal of branded skirts
- Positive response to the availability and ‘normalising’ of pre-worn school uniform
- Questions around the need for pupils to wear their jumpers to school every day
- Questions around the need for branded polo-shirts
- Questions around whether pupils can wear plain black trainers

Parent forum feedback

The feedback received from the parent forum was very much in line with the feedback received from the parent survey.

Pupil feedback

Pupils were very mixed in terms of their views towards uniform. At one end of the scale we had pupils who wanted to see school uniform abolished; we also had a surprising number of pupils who said they’d like a more formal uniform such as ties and blazers. Pupils all agreed that it was unfair that skirts had to be logood but not trousers. A number of girls asked if they could wear school shorts to which the answer has always been yes. A number of pupils said they were aware that branded items of uniform are more expensive than non-branded. In general, pupils understood why we have a uniform and most pupils were happy with current expectations.

Our response to the feedback received

- Our uniform expectations from September 2022 will remain as they were in the review document.
- The only exception is that pupils will not be required to wear a jumper to school every day. Given the climate of our country however, we would expect pupils to wear their jumpers for much of the year. Pupils must not wear hoodies or other sweatshirts instead of their school jumper either in school, or on the way to or from school.
- Parents who wish to donate good quality pre-worn uniform to school can do so at any time. We ask that uniform is washed before it is donated.
- Should families wish to access pre-worn uniform, they should contact their child’s head of year to arrange this. We will also look to set up a school ‘shop’ where parents can access pre-worn uniform.
- We will hold further discussions in September about any future changes to the uniform e.g. branded polo-shirts for school and PE lessons.

- As a middle school we aim to bridge the gap between first schools and the high school in all that we do – this includes school uniform expectations. Our approach to uniform places slightly greater expectations on pupils than the first schools however it is less formal than a high school. We believe the wearing of shoes fits with this approach and therefore the school will not allow the wearing of plain black trainers. For those pupils who wish to play football etc. at lunchtime, they have the option to change into trainers which they can keep in their lockers.

Can we once again thank everybody who contributed to this uniform review. We recognise uniform is one of those topics which can divide opinion and can sometimes lead to quite polarised views. Now that we have our agreed expectations moving forward we ask for full parental support in ensuring pupils attend school in correct uniform every day. Where parents have concerns or questions about uniform, we ask you contact school immediately in order that we can provide information and support as required.

Yours sincerely,



Mr C Taylor
Headteacher