



St Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High School

Prepare the way of the Lord

Rookery Avenue,
Ashton-in-Makerfield,
Wigan, WN4 9PF
Telephone: 01942 728651
Email: office@arrowsmith.wigan.sch.uk
Web: <http://www.arrowsmith.wigan.sch.uk>
Headteacher: Mr. M. J. Dumican
B.A. (Hons), PGCE, NPQH, MSc, MEd

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Dear Parent/Carer

I wanted to take this opportunity to share some of my concerns surrounding the wearing of our school uniform. We take great pride in the personal presentation of our young people and it is our intention to uphold these high standards as much as possible. The standard of self-presentation is a great life skill to give to our young people and something we would like our young people to comply with, rather than be forced to adhere to.

It is with regret that I feel the need to send this communication to all parents, when the majority of our young people comply fully with our uniform standards and represent the school superbly in the community. Many thanks to you for ensuring this is the case, **we hugely appreciate your support.**

However, since returning to 'normal procedures' following the pandemic of the last couple of years, it is noticeable that we have more of our young people willing to challenge the uniform standards than ever before and we are seeking the support of the whole parent body to uphold the standards that have served us so well over many years. Therefore, I would like to draw your attention to the following rules:-

Personal Presentation:

- Hair styles must be neat and tidy and of natural colour. (Haircuts shorter than a No 3 blade are **not** allowed). Long hair for both boys and girls **must** be tied back at all times with a bobble that is school colour.
- Fashionable extremes will not be permitted. This includes hair extensions, shaved heads, skin fading, pattern shaving, "mullet" cuts, unnatural or two-toned colours.
- Hair of different lengths must be blended.
- Mousse/gel/hairspray should not be used.
- Facial hair must not be visible. Pupils should be clean shaven.
- The use of make-up* is **NOT** acceptable – students wearing makeup which is visible will be expected to remove it. This include fake tan.
- Nail varnish and the wearing of false nails is **NOT** allowed.
- Piercings* are not allowed and 'recent piercing' will NOT be accepted as a reason for keeping jewellery in during the school day and MUST not be covered with plasters.

With regards to jewellery and personal items, students are allowed to wear a watch, but this must **not** be a SMART WATCH). No other items of jewellery, piercings or personal items are permitted, this includes ear pods.

As stated, we would much prefer our young people to comply with the rules, as they will not be changed. If our young people choose to break these rules, they will be appropriately sanctioned. It is important to point out that in the first instance we will always give them the chance to rectify the issue and ask them not to repeat it. However, **persistent offenders will be dealt with in a more serious manner** and incidents will be logged on their school record. We sincerely hope that this does not happen, but if our young people consistently refuse to comply to our uniform standards, we may take the decision not to issue invitations to our formal gatherings (school prom etc) or represent the school.

I would like to thank you for your understanding and continuing support with this matter.

Yours faithfully

M J DUMICAN
Headteacher