

**UNITY ACADEMY BLACKPOOL**

Warbreck Hill Road, Blackpool,
Lancashire. FY2 0TS
Tel: 01253 355493

Email: admin@unity.fcat.org.uk
www.unity.blackpool.org.uk

Headteacher: Mr S Cooke BSc, NPQH

28 March 2024

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Outcome of Uniform Consultation for September 2024

You may recall that we consulted extensively with parents/ carers, students and staff regarding some possible changes to the uniform for September 2024. I am now in a position to share the results of this with you and outline what changes to expect alongside when they will be implemented. We are sending this before the spring break as we promised to do as it allows plenty of planning for September. We have also shared this information with our uniform suppliers.

I would like to remind parents that the fundamental principle behind any change suggested was to reduce the cost of the uniform for parents/ carers and to remove some of the unnecessary barriers to learning.

We had over 300 responses from parents. Of these, 87% of parents wanted a change to the uniform. 83% of students wanted a change to the uniform. We have carefully considered the results of the individual uniform choices and have liaised extensively with uniform providers regarding the changes. This letter outlines the changes and how they will be implemented in order to reduce the financial burden on families.

From September 2024, the main school uniform for all children at Unity Academy will be:-

Compulsory Items

- Black V Neck school jumper with embroidered Unity Academy logo
- Plain White Shirt or blouse
- Plain black socks or tights
- House Badge (Provided by the academy initially, replacements can be purchased from the academy)
- All black footwear with no identifiable markings. If this footwear is a boot they must be no bigger than ankle length.

Choice Items (students must wear one of these)

- Plain black tailored skirt
- Plain black trousers (tailored type, not tracksuit bottoms/ jeans)
- Plain black tailored shorts
- Unity check summer dress (with plain white socks)



UNITY ACADEMY BLACKPOOL

Warbreck Hill Road, Blackpool,
Lancashire. FY2 0TS
Tel: 01253 355493

Email: admin@unity.fcat.org.uk
www.unity.blackpool.org.uk

Headteacher: Mr S Cooke BSc, NPQH

Optional Items

- Black Blazer with Unity logo

The new uniform will be introduced from September 2024 with one exception. We will allow children in all years to wear black tailored shorts in the summer term of this academic year should they wish to do so. This is already part of our summer uniform arrangements in primary but it does apply to secondary year groups for the Summer term. I hope you will agree that this is not a change or expense but simply an opportunity should we get any sun this year!

Footwear

Parents will note that we ask for all black footwear with no identifiable markings. We also state that boots should not be more than ankle length. The wording here is deliberate and a response to parents' concerns regarding costs. The policy no longer states shoes, it states footwear with no identifiable markings. We are aware of sports shops (such as JD) who sell trainers as school shoes and the pressure that parents are put under to buy these from children. If parents do choose this as an option, they must have no identifiable markings (e.g. they must be all black including any logos).

Ties

Ties have been removed from the uniform list for September for all students. Shirts/ Blouses will be worn with the top button (only) undone underneath the V neck jumper.

Transitional Arrangements

We are aware that many students will have uniforms, particularly Unity check skirts that will still fit on 1st September 24. Uniform shops also have these skirts in stock. We will allow students to wear the Unity checked skirt as an alternative to black skirts until they no longer fit or stocks have depleted in shops. The exception to this will be Year 7 and Reception in September 2024 who must wear black.

As the blazer remains an optional item, students can wear these if they wish.

Hair, Make-up and Jewellery

We also consulted on some changes to jewellery, hair and make up arrangements. The responses to these from students, parents and staff were overwhelmingly in support of the proposals, although a few minor tweaks have been made as a result of the feedback. As these changes are to be in place from September



UNITY ACADEMY BLACKPOOL

Warbreck Hill Road, Blackpool,
Lancashire. FY2 0TS
Tel: 01253 355493

Email: admin@unity.fcat.org.uk
www.unity.blackpool.org.uk

Headteacher: Mr S Cooke BSc, NPQH

2024, have no cost implications for parents and are generally more 'generous' than current arrangements, we will share updated rules for jewellery, hair and make-up at the end of the summer term as we normally do in preparation for September.

Standards

We believe that these changes will significantly reduce the cost of uniforms for parents and it is with this in mind that we ask all parents to support us in applying this policy consistently from September. Parents will notice that the description is for trousers, tailored skirts or tailored shorts. Tracksuit bottoms, black jeans and leggings are not part of the uniform.

I would like to thank you all for your responses. I do agree with the very many parents who also commented on how smart many of our students look at present and worry about this in terms of the changes. However, there are many families who really struggle with the costs of some of the aspects of our uniform and I truly hope that these changes will make things easier for families over the coming years.

We do not, however, intend to lower standards regarding uniform. In fact our intention is quite the opposite. Given the significant reduction in cost and the fairness of policies, it is an expectation that all children will be in the correct uniform, all of the time. Parents will be contacted and students will be expected to rectify issues (on the same day where possible).

These changes to uniform arrangements and approaches to other aspects of appearance are designed to reduce conflict and allow us to focus on learning, whilst also reducing the cost for parents. Children have (and always will) push the boundaries with school uniforms. These changes give school and home an opportunity to work together to establish clear expectations for all children and I look forward to working together to ensure that our students are the smartest on the Fylde Coast!

May I take this opportunity to wish you a restful break and remind you that school closes today and reopens for all children on Monday 15th April 2024.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. S. Cooke
Headteacher



Unity Academy Blackpool is a trading name of Fylde Coast Academy Trust.
Company Limited by Guarantee No. 8364709 - Registered in England & Wales.
Registered Office: Mereside Primary Academy, Langdale Road, Blackpool, Lancashire, FY4 4RR