

1 February 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

CHANGES TO SCHOOL UNIFORM

Governors have decided to make two changes to school uniform that will be introduced from September 2018. We wanted to give you plenty of advance notice of the changes so you can take this into account if you are thinking of buying new school uniform before next school year.

When we introduced our uniform in September 2012 students told us they wanted a uniform that “made them look smart”. We are very pleased with how smart our students’ blazers, shirts and ties are. However, this is not true of trousers, skirts and footwear; there are too many ‘jeans style’ or ‘skinny fit’ trousers, skirts that do not fit our policy, and trainers or other inappropriate footwear. It has become apparent that our uniform expectations are not clear enough and are too open to interpretation.

There are two changes from September 2018 to provide this clarity and which will ensure smarter appearance for our students and a stronger pride in our school identity.

The first change we are making is to standardise our school trousers and skirts as part of our school uniform, as many other schools in York have done. These will be sold by Keal Teamwear, who also stock our other items of school uniform.

The trousers and skirts will come in a range of sizes and lengths to suit the varying needs of our students. Trousers and skirts each come in two styles. We will choose a school style from the two offered by the supplier in consultation with the students, although the second style of trouser will be available to order. Trousers and skirts will have a Millthorpe crest embroidered on them. The skirts and trousers will retail at between £15.50 and £18 (depending on size).

The second change is to specify more clearly what we consider to be appropriate footwear. From September 2018, only black or brown school shoes will be allowed to avoid confusion. We will supply examples of these shoes to parents next half term.

We hope the advance notice of this new requirement will enable you to plan your uniform purchases for the new academic year. From conversations with parents, we know many of you will welcome greater clarity on what constitutes correct uniform, removing the pressure students sometimes feel to purchase particular styles or brands.

Thank you in advance for your co-operation in this matter and for your support for the standards we wish to uphold as a school.

Yours faithfully



Gemma Greenhalgh
Head of School



Questions and Answers

Why have you chosen Keal to supply the skirts and trousers?

To make it easier for parents to visit one sole supplier, as Keal already supply the blazer and other items of the uniform. We selected them as our uniform supplier because they were able to provide clothing that was good quality and good value for money, alongside being ethically sourced and environmentally friendly.

Why do the trousers and skirts cost more than in some supermarkets?

The clothing supplied by Keal is of a high quality and therefore you can expect it to last much longer and be more durable than other cheaper alternatives. Also, as specialist school uniform providers they make allowances for growing children with items such as adjustable waistbands. Therefore in the long term, we feel their clothing represents good value for money.

When will we be able to buy new items for September 2018?

We anticipate that uniform will be available in the second half of the summer term but we will inform parents as soon as it is available. New items of uniform can, of course, be worn before September if the need arises.

Do I have to buy all my uniform from Keal?

No. Keal are the standard supplier for blazers, ties, optional school jumpers, PE fleeces/reversible tops and now trousers and skirts. They also supply other items of uniform, or you can choose to source these elsewhere.

Why will there be a Millthorpe crest on the trousers and skirts?

The Millthorpe symbol will complement the current crest that is displayed on the blazer. It will also ensure that it is easy to identify that students are wearing the standard skirts/trousers.

How will you consult the students about the styles?

We will ask every student to vote on their preferred style of skirt and/or trouser. We will then select the most popular choice as our standard supply. There will be options to purchase the alternative trouser if the student is not comfortable with the style.

What if the style of the trousers doesn't fit my child?

There will be two styles of trousers available to purchase. The second style will be available to order for individual students.

Why are you no longer allowing plimsolls?

Currently there are very few students wearing plimsolls in the traditional sense. There are several alternatives that may be branded as plimsolls that students are wearing that are more like a training shoe and do not meet the requirements of the school uniform. There is also an increasing level of pressure for students to feel the need to purchase expensive brands of this type of footwear. Plimsolls and other fabric shoes are also not appropriate for winter weather conditions.

How do I know what are appropriate shoes?

Footwear must appear to be shoe like rather than trainer like. In general shoes made by sportswear manufacturers are likely to be deemed trainers. Shoes should be plain black or brown, in a leather or leather-look material. Images of appropriate shoes and shoes not deemed appropriate will be shared with parents next half term.

My child is on free school meals – will I get any help with buying uniform?

Each year we provide vouchers towards the cost of uniform for students eligible for Free School Meals, in line with the City of York Council allowances. If this applies to you, we will contact you individually.

New Trousers and Skirts

Box Pleated Skirt



Full Pleated Skirt



Girls' slim fit trousers



Girls' wide leg trousers



Boys' slim fit trousers



Boys' regular fit trousers

