

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Dear Parents and Carers

UNIFORM AND APPEARANCE

As another academic year draws to a close and we all start to look forward to some time away from school, I thought it was a good time to clarify parts of our Uniform and Appearance Policy before anyone buys any new items or sanctions particular hair-cuts or piercings. A number of parents have requested this detail and our uniform checks have highlighted certain common issues.

The school Policy is also attached for your information

- Shoes** Anything that looks like a trainer or a 'hybrid style' trainer-shoe is not permitted. There is a photo guide to help parents and carers select an appropriate style. Retailers will often brand these hybrid shoes as 'school shoes' or put them in their 'Back to School' range. However, they are not considered appropriate footwear in many schools, including ours. Our shoes are best described as 'traditional leather shoes'. Socks should be plain black with no visible logos.
Please note, that rather than putting parents to the expense of buying new shoes half way through the year, we did permit a small number of students to continue to wear some hybrid shoes. This was on the clear agreement that that they would be replaced for September.
- Hair** Must not be dyed, shaved short, contain lines/patterns/decoration. Mullets, severe fades, overly long hair, or any hairstyle considered extreme is not permitted. Please ensure any non-compliant 'holiday cuts or styles' are grown-out in time for the start of term. For Health and Safety reasons all long hair must be tied back. Boys must remain clean shaven.
- Piercings** Only a single small stud or sleeper in the lobe of each ear is permitted. Any other piercing must be removed for school. Nose/lip/tongue/eyebrow or any other piercing that has a stud/bar/ring in it is not permitted. The use of plasters or clear plastic studs to hide these piercings will not be accepted. Whilst on the subject of decoration, we also do not permit nail varnish, false nails or fake tan!
- Skirts** To guarantee the uniformity of the pleat, length and style, all skirts must be purchased through our supplier, Kitz. If a skirt is purchased elsewhere, it must be identical to the ones sold by Kitz. The skirt is expected to reach the knee. The current trend for some students is to buy an under-sized skirt, or to roll it up so it appears much shorter. We appreciate that different body types will affect the length of skirts, but to be fair to everyone, could we please ask that skirts are altered over the summer to ensure they meet the required length. Students who fail to wear their skirt at the correct length will not be permitted to wear one and they will be issued with trousers to wear. Please note, shorts are only permitted in the summer term.

I hope this guidance has helped those who have sought clarification, but also that it is useful for all parents and carers who will need to purchase new items of uniform or arrange haircuts/piercings over the summer holidays. We do have a small number of pre-loved school coats available for purchase or exchange, should you wish to view them.

If we maintain our high standards by getting the simple things right, like uniform, we can then put all our energy into focussing on each child's learning and progress. Nobody wants to start their school day with anything other than a smile and warm greeting, so please help us to do this by ensuring your son/daughter is appropriately dressed and is clear about our expectations. We can then all spend our time together productively and positively.

I wish you all a lovely, relaxing summer holiday.

Kind regards

Mr Withers
Deputy Head