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Tuesday, 21 June 2022

## Important Changes to the School Uniform Policy for September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you that you are well and that your children are looking forward to their Transition Day in a few weeks time. I would like to update you on an important update to our uniform policy, since our last correspondence, for the 2022-23 academic year and beyond.

Our aim is to be a school that belongs to its community and where all students achieve more than they thought possible. Our uniform expectations reflect this aim; we have incredibly ambitious standards. The uniform is designed to be a visual representation of our school culture and it effectively supports a safe and purposeful climate for learning. Our expectation is that all students will adhere to our high standards of uniform at all times.

We are committed to keeping the cost of school uniform down for all families and fully understand the pressures families are under given the recent rises in living costs. Our school has a duty to ensure uniform is affordable, in line with the statutory guidance from the Department for Education on the cost of school uniform. Consequently, we have decided that **with the exception of the school blazer, school tie and some PE kit items, all other items of school uniform can be purchased without a school logo.** School trousers and skirts, for example, will no longer require a school logo from September 2022.

Our new Year 7 students commencing in September 2022 will be expected to be fully compliant with all uniform expectations listed below. **With the change in the Uniform Policy, we have made the decision to cancel the Uniform Fittings on 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> July.** However, you are advised to visit 'Academy School Uniforms' website for sizing guidance prior to purchasing any items (further details below).

## **Our School's Legal Duties Under the Equality Act 2010**

The Equality Act 2010 prohibits discrimination against an individual based on the protected characteristics, which include sex, race, religion or belief, and gender reassignment.

To avoid discrimination, our school will:

- To avoid where possible the listing of uniform items based on sex, to give all students the opportunity to wear the uniform they feel most comfortable in or that most reflects their self-identified gender
- Make sure that our uniform costs are the same for all students (please be aware that larger size garments are subject to VAT)
- Allows all students to have long hair though we reserve the right to ask for this to be tied back for health and safety reasons such as Science practical and PE lessons
- Allow all students to have their hair in the way that is appropriate for school yet makes them feel comfortable
- Allow students to wear headscarves and other religious or cultural symbols
- Allow for adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking students or their parents to get in touch with Mrs Jennifer Gray (JGray@toothillschool.co.uk), who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests.

## **Where to Purchase Our Uniform**

We will continue to recommend and sell the uniform available from our supplier "Academy School Uniforms" as this supplier provides high quality, long-lasting items at a very competitive price. They will continue to sell clothing such as trousers with the school logo.




Academy School Uniforms offer an extensive and well-established on-line purchasing facility with options to have garments delivered directly to the home. Please visit <https://www.just-schoolwear.co.uk> or download the [Academy School Uniforms information leaflet](#) for more information.



If you are purchasing school uniform items outside of our supplier, it is crucial that you are aware of our uniform requirements so that your child can attend school every day confident that they are compliant with our school rules. Consequently, this letter details the exact requirements of expectations regarding school dress code. We also provide you with recommended alternative high street retailers.




## **Uniform Requirements**

At Toot Hill School, we pride ourselves on high standards of dress in school that are a result of the full co-operation of students, parents/carers and the school. A high standard of dress impacts on the working ethos both within the school and within our local community. Failure to wear the correct uniform will result in sanctions but it should be emphasised that we do everything we can to support families experiencing difficulties when providing a uniform for their child/children.

We will be liaising closely with families where a student is not meeting our high expectations so support is in place to ensure full compliance.

Item	Image	School Expectations	Other recommended suppliers
Blazer		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Toot Hill School compulsory green blazer with official school badge, purchased only through Academy School Uniforms.</li> <li>• Sleeves are not permitted to be rolled up.</li> <li>• Blazers must be worn at all times.</li> </ul>	<a href="http://just-schoolwear.com">just-schoolwear</a>
Tie		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Official Year Group Tie</li> <li>• Toot Hill School clip-on tie purchased only through Academy School Uniforms.</li> <li>• The colour is year group specific.</li> </ul>	<a href="http://just-schoolwear.com">just-schoolwear</a>
Shirt  Shirt Cont.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formal style, plain white and long-sleeved with a stiffened collar.</li> <li>• They should always be tucked into the waistband. Shirts must be long enough to allow them to always be tucked in.</li> <li>• Fitted blouses are strictly not allowed.</li> <li>• Coloured T-shirts should not be worn beneath the shirt.</li> <li>• Shirts should be smart and clean.</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.asda.com">Asda long sleeve shirt</a>  <a href="http://www.marksandspencers.com">Marks and Spencers long sleeve shirts</a>
Trousers		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trousers must be of a formal cut, black and plain.</li> <li>• Trousers should be full-length and touch the top of the shoe.</li> <li>• Excessively flared or narrow/tight-fitting trousers are not allowed.</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.marksandspencers.com">Marks and Spencer trousers</a>  <a href="http://www.asda.com">Asda girls fit trouser</a>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trousers must not be low-rise, cropped or tapered in style.</li> <li>• Trousers must not be black denim/jean or chino trousers.</li> <li>• Trousers should be worn at the waist and with appropriate regard to a formal appearance.</li> <li>• 'Fashion' belts are not allowed. Belts should be black, plain and narrow with a discreet buckle, and only to be worn with trousers that have belt loops.</li> </ul>	
Skirt		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skirts must be black, of a formal cut and wide pleated.</li> <li>• Pencil style/tight fitting/stretch material skirts are not permitted</li> <li>• Skirts should be worn at the waist and with appropriate regard to a formal appearance.</li> <li>• Hems should be no more than 5cm above the knee</li> <li>• Fashion belts are not allowed.</li> </ul>	<p><a href="#">Marks and Spencer pleated skirt</a></p> <p><a href="#">Asda pleated school skirt</a></p>
Jumper or cardigan  Jumper or cardigan cont.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jumpers and cardigans are optional additional wear. They are not to be worn instead of the school blazer.</li> <li>• Jumpers and cardigans should be bottle green in colour.</li> <li>• School jumpers and cardigans should be V-necked.</li> <li>• Jumpers and cardigans should be made from a knitted material.</li> <li>• These items do not have to include the school logo.</li> <li>• Sweatshirt material garments and hoodies are not permitted, and jumpers and cardigans are not an</li> </ul>	<p><a href="#">Next school uniform Jumper</a></p> <p><a href="#">Asda school uniform jumper</a></p> <p><a href="#">Next school uniform cardigan</a></p>

		<p>alternative to a blazer, but can be worn underneath the blazer, for additional warmth.</p>	<p><a href="#">Asda school uniform cardigan</a></p>
<p>Shoes</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><span style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">✗</span></p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><span style="color: green; font-weight: bold;">✓</span></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plain black leather/faux leather lace-up or slip-on shoes in a formal style.</li> <li>• Boots, fabric/pump style shoes or trainers are not permitted.</li> <li>• Shoes with buckles, studs and logos are not permitted.</li> <li>• Stiletto/high heels are not allowed.</li> <li>• Footwear other than shoes is not allowed around the school. Alternative footwear for medical reasons must be discussed with the tutor who, if in agreement, will provide a note to that effect.</li> <li>• If non-regulation shoes are worn to school, a suitable pair of footwear will be issued on loan.</li> </ul>	




Socks/tights		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plain black ankle socks or tights.</li> </ul>	
<b>Other Uniform Items</b>			
Coat		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plain dark raincoat, duffel or anorak (non-compulsory).</li> <li>• Reflective strips are permissible.</li> <li>• A discrete logo is permissible.</li> <li>• Coats must be removed when entering a classroom or before entering the concert hall for assemblies.</li> <li>• Denim and leather jackets are not permitted.</li> </ul>	
Hat		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plain black hats may be worn outdoors, for warmth.</li> <li>• Suitable hats for protection from the sun may be worn in the summer months. These may be agreed with the pupil's Head of Year.</li> <li>• No hats or hoods are permitted to be worn within school buildings.</li> <li>• Baseball caps are not permitted.</li> </ul>	





## PE Kit

All pupils are expected to bring an appropriate kit to all PE/Games lessons. They should pay careful attention to which activities they will be participating in. Students who fail to bring an appropriate PE kit for their lesson will be provided with clean garments to ensure full participation in the lesson.


The official Toot Hill School PE kit with school logos is available for purchase through Academy School Uniforms and is required for students involved in local and national school competitions. It should also be noted that students can continue to wear any legacy items of PE kit with school logos.

Unisex Sports Kit requirements for all boys and girls:

Item	Image	School Expectations	Other recommended suppliers
T-shirt		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plain black round neck training top/t-shirt with the school logo</li> </ul>	<a href="#">just-schoolwear</a>
Training Top:		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green/black quarter zip training top with school logo</li> </ul>	<a href="#">just-schoolwear</a>
Shorts		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plain black football or rugby shorts.</li> <li>• Cycling shorts are not permitted.</li> <li>• Discrete brand logos are allowed.</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Marks and Spencer PE shorts</a>  <a href="#">Sports Direct black short</a>

Tracksuit bottoms		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plain black</li> <li>• Discrete brand logo permitted</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Sports Direct tracksuit bottoms</a>
Sports Leggings		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plain black</li> <li>• Full length</li> <li>• Discrete brand logo permissible</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Decathlon Leggings</a> <a href="#">Sports Direct Leggings</a> <a href="#">More Sports Direct Leggings</a>
Footwear		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trainers (non-marking soles) / football boots</li> </ul>	
Socks		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Black football socks/ black ankle socks</li> </ul>	<a href="#">just-schoolwear</a>
Jumper (optional)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plain black crew neck jumper with school logo.</li> <li>• Hoodies are not acceptable for Health &amp; Safety reasons.</li> </ul>	<a href="#">just-schoolwear</a>



Other Recommended Items		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shin pads / grey/black 'skin' top / mouth guard</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Sports Direct PE base layer</a>

\*Optional but recommended item

All students will also require a carrying bag for their Sports kit. A plastic bag is recommended for carrying dirty football boots.

All students with long hair will require a hair bobble to tie their hair up for PE/Games lessons.

Except in the case of serious injury, all students are expected to come to PE/Games lessons prepared to take part in some physical activity. If students have minor ailments, they should bring a note from home explaining this and still bring their kit and take part appropriately.

### **Hair/Make up**

Hair should be styled appropriately to a formal environment except for religious, cultural or medical reasons. In such cases, this must be agreed on an individual basis between the parents and school. Parents should consult, in advance, with the Head of Year if they are unsure as to the suitability of a change of style. The school shall be the arbiter of the term 'extreme'. Failure to comply with this will result in a sanction.

Make-up should be minimal and natural; staff have the right to challenge inappropriate or overtly obvious make-up applications. Make-up includes nails (colour and length), eyelashes, eyebrows and foundation (this list is not exhaustive).

- Any hair colouring must be within a natural colour range.
- No shaved wording or patterns on the scalp.
- In all cases, the school has the right to exercise its discretion about the appropriateness of hairstyles and colouring.
- No fake nails.
- No false eye lashes.
- Tattoos are not allowed.
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### **Jewellery**

- Students may wear a watch, but no other jewellery, including piercings, is permitted due to health and safety issues and liability in case of loss.

- If students wish to have any part of their body pierced, they must arrange this at the beginning of the summer holidays so that the wound has sufficient time to heal.
- Plasters may not be worn to cover body jewellery. Failure to comply with this will result in a sanction.

### **Further Information**

#### **Summer Uniform**

It is expected that full school uniform will be worn every day to school, despite the weather. At times of extreme heat, when air conditioning is not provided, students will be informed by the Head of School when ties and/or blazers may be removed

#### **Financial Support**

In cases of financial hardship parents can appeal to the Headteacher/Governors for financial support. Such cases will be treated with due sensitivity and in confidence.

#### **Special Consideration**

Parents can apply in writing to the School governing body if they wish their child(ren) to wear different items for religious, cultural or health reasons.

Please do not hesitate to contact Miss Marshall for more information or with any issues. We will be in touch with you shortly regarding the Transition Day information for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> July.

Yours sincerely,



**Dr C Eardley**  
**Head Teacher**