

6th March 2023

Dear parents/carers and students,

Parental Letter – Uniform Changes from September 2023

I write to you to confirm the uniform changes that will come into place at Whitcliffe Mount School from September 2023, following the consultation process that started back in autumn 2022. We have gathered feedback from all stakeholders including parents/carers, the student leadership team, the wider student body, staff, governors and uniform suppliers. We have reviewed what uniform looks like in other schools, and taken into account those aspects of a school uniform that you have told us are most important to you – durability, practicality and cost. The student leadership team also shared with us that they want a smart uniform that makes them proud to be a member of Whitcliffe Mount School (WMS). We have used all this information and feedback to inform our final decisions, and have taken care to consider the needs of families within our school community.

I hope that this letter will remove any concerns that you or your child(ren) may have that we are going to enforce huge, unnecessary uniform policy changes at great expense; or ignore the request of many of our students and parents to improve uniform standards at WMS. The main uniform changes are to the school blazer with a school tie, and to the PE kit; with most of them being phased in over the next 12 or 24 months to keep costs down and uniform waste to a minimum.

When I arrived at Whitcliffe Mount School on 31st October 2022, it was evident that although many students follow the uniform policy really well, many do not; and this usually focuses around skirts (un-tailored, short stretchy tube skirts) and footwear (trainers). Due to the fact that I took over a Headteacher at October half term, I did not wish to request that large numbers of parents purchase new items of clothing unnecessarily mid-year, and I have therefore left enforcing the current uniform policy in full until September 2023. I also understand that untailored skirts for example have been 'allowed' for a number of years, even though this goes against our current policy. From September 2023 the Whitcliffe Uniform policy will be need to be adhered to by all students and sanctions will be given for uniform infringements, as per our behaviour policy. I therefore share this information almost 6 months in advance of any change.

Our current uniform policy can be found here: [Whitcliffe Mount, A SHARE Academy - Uniform & Equipment](#)



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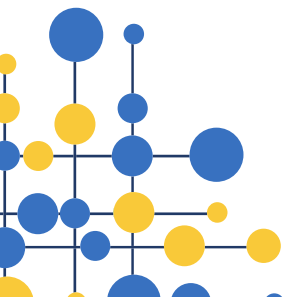
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The tables below list our current uniform items and future uniform items with any associated differences, approximate cost implications and supply details:

WMS uniform policy and changes – September 2023 and beyond

Item of clothing	2022/23 and earlier uniform policy	2023/24 and beyond policy	Approx. cost implication	Supplier
Black blazer	WMS logo blazer	<u>WMS ‘new logo’ blazer – phased in until Sept 2024.</u> Year 7 from sept 23 and optional for year 8-11 until sept 24.	New blazer without the blue trim is approximately £6 cheaper	Uniform supplier
White school shirt	Either plain white school shirt / WMS logo	Plain white school shirt	Same / cheaper without logo	Any
School tie	N/A	<u>WMS school tie (colour linked to year group) From September 2023.</u>	Approx. £5	Uniform supplier
Black school skirt	Tailored black school skirt (straight/pleated)	Tailored black school skirt (straight only)	Same	Any
Black school trousers	Tailored black school trousers	Tailored black school trousers	Same	Any
Black school tights or socks	Black school tights or socks	Black school tights or socks	Same	Any
Black school shoes	Black school shoes	Black school shoes	Same	Any
Black V-neck school jumper (optional)	Black V-neck school jumper with WMS logo	<u>Black V-neck school jumper without coloured trim and new WMS logo phased in until sept 2024.</u> Year 7 from Sept 23, optional for year 8-11 until Sept 24.	Same	Uniform supplier

The PE department have been taking feedback from students and parents for some time about the WMS PE kit, and the need for this kit to be updated and more practical by being smarter, gender neutral and warmer. PE staff have reviewed school sports kits from other schools, and asked our students including those in teams across a range of sports what they need and want from the Whitcliffe Mount PE kit. To help minimise uniform waste and cost, we are phasing in the PE kit until September 2025. The new school logo PE kit will be available from our uniform supplier ready for September 2023 for those who wish to purchase it.

WMS PE Kit – September 2023 and beyond (all phased in by September 2025)

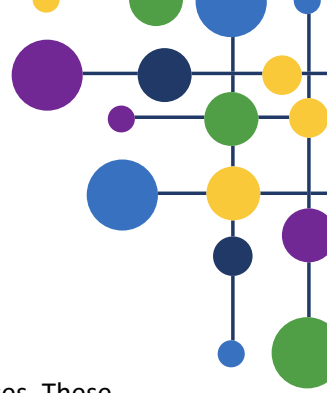
Item of clothing	2022/23 and earlier uniform policy	2023/24 and beyond policy	Approx. cost implication	Supplier
WMS PE top	Pink/navy collared top with WMS logo	Navy round neck sports top (short sleeved) with new WMS logo.	Same	Uniform supplier
WMS PE ½ zip training top (optional)	Rugby top with WMS logo	½ zip training top (long sleeved) with new WMS logo	Cheaper	Uniform supplier
WMS PE sports rain jacket (optional)	N/A	Navy sports rain jacket with new WMS logo	Optional	Uniform supplier
Tracksuit bottoms	Navy tracksuit bottoms	Navy slim leg tracksuit bottoms	Same	Uniform supplier
Leggings	Plain navy leggings	Plain navy leggings <u>(No logo)</u>	Same	Uniform supplier
Shorts	Plain navy shorts	Plain navy shorts <u>(No logo)</u>	Same	Uniform supplier
Sports socks	N/A	Navy sports socks	Approx £4	Any / Uniform supplier
Sports trainers	Sports trainers	Sports trainers	Same	Any

Uniform Voucher

We understand the heavy cost of school uniform and PE kit for all families, and due to the changes in our uniform for September 2023 we are offering a uniform voucher to all our current students (years 7-10) of £5pp to use against any WMS uniform item(s) purchased from our uniform suppliers until the end of September 2023. Details to follow.

Information evening

We will be holding a uniform information evening in the summer term (April – July) to offer parents, carers and students the opportunity to view the new uniform and PE kit, to speak to our suppliers, purchase or order uniform and to ask WMS staff any questions that you might have about the new uniform policy. We are waiting to hear back from our uniform suppliers regarding a date that new logo uniform will be available to view or purchase, and we will be in touch as soon as possible to confirm details of this informative event. If any parent/carers require any additional financial support, please contact your child(ren)'s student support lead (SSL) to discuss.



Uniform supplier details

Our uniform suppliers will be offering a number of new WMS uniform deals for multiple purchases. These vary dependent upon what parents/carers wish/need to purchase. School have negotiated with local uniform suppliers for a blazer, tie and PE top package deal which will cost: sizes 28" - 36" = £37.00, for sizes 38" - 48" = £44.00. The school uniform will cost between £45 (blazer, tie, shirt and bottoms) and £80 (all items including optional). This does not include the package deal or £5 voucher.

Our uniform suppliers are:

- **Rawcliffes:** 18A Crackenedge Lane, Dewsbury WF13 1PT
Tel: 01924 465510 www.smartschoolwearcentre.co.uk
- **Smart Uniforms:** 1-3 Cheapside, Batley WF17 5ND
Tel: 01924 442294 www.smartuniforms.co.uk

We will be in touch again in the weeks and months ahead with details of our uniform information evening and uniform voucher; and we will share images of the new WMS logo items and WMS uniform policy with you and with your child(ren) as soon as items are available from our supplier. I would like to thank you for your continued support in helping us to raise standards and celebrate our wonderful school community.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs R Hesmondhalgh
Headteacher