

12 December 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope this letter finds you and your family well.

Thank you for the positive response we have recently had as we re-establish our expectations, under Mrs Hesmondhalgh's Headship since joining Share Multi-Academy Trust. We are working hard to raise standards and are now on the way to making Whitcliffe Mount School the great school your child(ren) deserve. We are very grateful for your support on this journey. With this in mind, I would like to share some thoughts about uniform and how we might visibly raise expectations for our students.

We strive for every student to be proud to belong to Whitcliffe Mount School. The focus on improvement of standards in school has led to discussions amongst the student body about their desire to change the school uniform. We are also conscious that now we are a part of the Trust, we have a new logo and therefore this needs a phased implementation on our uniform from September 2023. We have revisited the reasons for our school uniform and would like to share our philosophy.

We believe a suitably developed and appropriately implemented school uniform can:

- provide a sense of identity and cohesion within the school and instil pride in its achievements;
- help reduce inequalities between students and remove potential triggers for bullying;
- support and promote the ethos of the school;
- support positive behaviour;
- remove peer pressure to dress in 'designer' fashions;
- enable pupils of all backgrounds to share in a common identity, in one community.

We also believe:

- Everyone should be able to afford school uniform;
- Everyone should be able to find school uniform easily;
- School uniform should be fair for all students.

I want to reassure you that financial support will be offered, where necessary, to make changes affordable for families. Furthermore, any changes will not be introduced until September 2023.

We are now seeking views from parents/carers, staff and students and your opinion would be very much welcomed. We have created a Microsoft Form for families to complete, to allow us to collate your responses: <https://forms.office.com/e/1v6gVVx7b0>.

After gathering initial thoughts, we will reflect on the feedback before sharing the next steps and proposals for how the uniform may look.

Once again, thank you for your continued support as we rapidly progress along our school improvement journey.

Yours faithfully



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