



STOUR VALLEY
— COMMUNITY SCHOOL —

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Headteacher Mrs Rachel Kelly BA (Hons)

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Dear Parents and Carers

Uniform Expectations

I am writing to thank you and ask for your continued support in helping us uphold our high expectations of appearance and behaviour. I know that you appreciate how hard the staff as Stour Valley work in order to uphold the high standards for which the school has always been recognised. For the most part, our students make that quite straightforward; which is a credit to you and to them. It is fantastic to see the vast majority of them returning to school this term immaculately turned out and ready to learn.

There are currently some inconsistencies in following our uniform policy. We are noticing a decline in standards in certain aspects of school uniform.

Firstly, skirts:

There are a number of girls who have chosen to wear a skirt to school this year. The policy states that these must be formal and 'worn to the knee or below'. There does seem to be a significant proportion of the girls wearing skirts which do not meet this requirement; either because they have simply chosen to wear a skirt which is too short or have deliberately pulled/rolled it up. Many also are wearing a style of skirt which rides up as they move around the school. Clearly, if the skirt does not remain at the appropriate length all day and requires frequent adjustment in order to remain acceptable, it is not being 'worn to the knee or below.'

In the interests of fairness, this rule is applicable to everybody - ranging from those girls whose skirts are slightly too short, to those who are clearly and deliberately flouting the rules, the expectation remains: on the knee or below. We ask for your support in ensuring that students' skirts are long enough to remain at knee length all day. From Monday, students who remain in skirts which do not conform will spend time in isolation until a suitable item of uniform can be supplied.

Trousers:

Generally speaking, with the increase in the numbers of skirts we are seeing, the issues we were experiencing with trousers towards the end of last term are very much diminished. I thank you for the manner in which you have supported the school in this matter. I would still like to issue a reminder that school trousers should be formal, without decorative zips, and that jeans; leggings; jogging bottoms and overly tight or short trousers are not acceptable.



Piercings:

The rule for all students regarding piercings remains that one small stud is allowed in each earlobe, and that is all. Any additional visible piercings will be confiscated and held at reception for an adult to collect. It is not acceptable for students to wear clear plastic spacers in place of a piercing, or tape/plasters over them. Any student who refuses to remove a piercing when asked will become subject to sanctions under the Behaviour Policy. Having only recently had a piercing procedure carried out is not an excuse for wearing it to school. I would advise that if you are considering allowing your son/daughter to have any additional piercings, these are done at the very beginning of a summer holiday in order that they can fully heal before students return to school and therefore be removed during the school day.

If you have any concerns or require further clarification, please do contact your son or daughter's tutor or Year Leader.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Kelly', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Rachel Kelly, Headteacher

