

24 October 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Secondary Uniform Update

At the start of the academic year, we committed to raising our standards across the school in areas such as uniform, litter, mobile phones, and attendance. This letter serves as an update on our uniform standards and a reminder of the role we all play in ensuring that our students experience the best our school has to offer.

Caroline Chisholm School students are expected to be hard-working, empathetic, and to demonstrate excellent standards in their appearance, behaviour, and attitudes towards learning, as well as respecting the rights of others to learn. Most of our students already embody this vision, and we thank all parents who support their child and the school.

Parents and students have the right to expect that our school will communicate and enforce high standards. Students are our representatives; the way they present themselves communicates their ambition to be high performing in all aspects of life. Furthermore, our school's reputation is important, not just locally but beyond, and students should be able to feel a sense of pride in their school now and in later life. Consequently, students must look smart in their uniform on the journey to and from school, as well as in school.

While standards have improved compared to the end of the last academic year, some students continue to struggle with basic expectations. We have identified several recurring uniform issues with several of our students, including:

- Not bringing or wearing a blazer
- Wearing the wrong jumper (e.g., round neck collar or with logos). *Note: blazers are compulsory, jumpers are optional*
- Wearing trainers or converse instead of school shoes
- Purposely ripping holes in tights
- Wearing non-black or logoed socks
- Skirts that are too short or made from tight-fitting jersey material
- Rolling up skirts to make them shorter than the correct length
- Untucked shirts
- Trousers worn very low, exposing underwear
- Excessive jewellery and/or non-compliant piercings
- Wearing leggings instead of trousers and correct skirt types

Secondary: 01604 344744 **Primary:** 01604 272572 **Website:** www.ccs.northants.sch.uk

Principal: David James **Vice Principals:** Andrew Fisher Elizabeth Husband Gary Wakefield

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This is usually older students. The impact of this is that younger students can feel compelled to conform to lower standards being displayed by the minority of students. This is not acceptable. **Our uniform policy has not changed, and we are not introducing any new rules. However, we will be enforcing existing rules with the following process:**

Temporary Uniform Issues

If there is a genuine, short-term issue (e.g., wet shoes, ripped blazer), parents should inform the form tutor who can issue a temporary 'Uniform Card' with a review date. This will be logged as, 'Temporary Uniform Card' on Edulink, carrying no consequences. Issues should be resolved as quickly as possible.

Level 0: First Incident

If a student fails to meet uniform expectations, staff will log the issue, discuss with the student and give instructions to correct it within a given time frame. This will be logged on Edulink.

Level 1: Second Incident: 'repeat Level 0.'

If the issue persists, the staff member will log a negative point on Edulink and send a quick email to the parent/carer titled "UNIFORM INFRINGEMENT." The student will be reminded to correct the uniform issue.

Level 2: Third Incident: 'disobeying a member of staff.'

Continued failure to comply will result in a 30-minute detention, which will be logged with a comment visible to parents. The tutor will contact the parent/carer.

Level 3: Persistent infringements: 'failure to improve behaviour'.

Member of staff to discuss with student and repeat the instruction to correct the infringement within a given time frame. Log 1 hour detention - include comment. Tutor to phone/email home.

Level 4: Severe Refusal to follow instructions.

Continued refusal to follow instructions will result in a Level 4 log on Edulink and contact home from the Performance Leader. A sanction of Internal Exclusion could be applied, and the student will be put on 'Uniform Report.*'

** A student can be put on uniform report earlier than Level 4 if it is deemed necessary to help the student improve uniform compliance.*

We implore parents **not to try to back-date requests for a Temporary Uniform Card** as these **will not be accepted**. This would mean the system could easily be abused as students may try to get parents to 'get them out of sanctions' after being challenged/identified as not meeting expectations. Please do not be swayed by attempts made by some students to lower standards by reporting, "Everyone wears it!" or "No one has ever said anything about [enter whatever issue]"

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before." and the argument that, "Uniform doesn't matter anyway." Or the recent statement, "I'm not a nun!"

In a very limited number of cases, students might have uniform adjustments made for them due to SEND or medical reasons. All requests for longer term arrangements must go through our inclusion department and decisions will be made by Lisa West. A medical card can be given if justifiable.

Responsibilities:

Parents are responsible for providing the correct uniform. Students are responsible for wearing the correct uniform in the correct way. All staff members are responsible for checking and reminding students about uniform expectations, but tutors, in the main, will monitor and log incidents. We ask all parents to support tutors who have been directly instructed to maintain high standards of uniform for their tutor group.

It is important to note that there is no need for students to reach the higher levels of the sanction process, and the vast majority will not. We will ensure that all students are clear about the expectations, and we ask for your support in ensuring that they have the correct uniform from the start.

Thank you for your cooperation. With a consistent approach, we will ensure that our students' school life is highly purposeful and enjoyable for all; where students and teachers can focus on learning in a professional working environment.

Here is a link to our Uniform Policy should you wish to review it:

[Uniform policy \(ccs.northants.sch.uk\)](https://www.ccs.northants.sch.uk)

Kind regards,



David James
Principal