

May 2015

Dear Parents and Carers

### Wood Green School uniform

Uniform is an important part of a school's identity. It reinforces who we are as a community and helps allow students to feel pride in their school. It also ensures students are not put under any pressure because of the type of clothes they wear and all are treated equally. It also helps prepare students for life after school where many will have to dress smartly for work.

It would be fair to say that, in the last few years, our uniform at Wood Green has become less uniform. We have a number of interpretations of what is and is not acceptable uniform and we believe it is time to clarify our expectations for students and parents. We have worked with a small group of the parents of boys and girls at Wood Green School to provide greater clarity over what uniform is, and is not, acceptable.

We worked towards some basic principles. Firstly, we are not changing the uniform, just giving better guidance over the parts of uniform that you do not buy directly from school. Secondly, uniform should be practical and hard wearing and provide children with proper protection from the British weather throughout the year. Thirdly, parents should not be placed under pressure from their children to buy expensive designer brands of clothing because they say someone else in school is wearing them. Fourthly, we wanted to work with local suppliers to give direction as to where you could go to get acceptable uniform. Finally, we wanted to have the same guidance over shoes, trousers, skirts and jackets as Henry Box School so there was a consistent message across the town and students could not complain one school was different from the other.

Wood Green and Henry Box have agreed a common uniform policy for shoes, trousers and skirts and one major change both schools have agreed upon is ***that canvas shoes, plimsolls or trainers will no longer be allowed.***

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED SLIDE FOR EXAMPLES OF ACCEPTABLE UNIFORM ITEMS

In essence, we need to support you in buying affordable, good quality clothing for school which your children accept they have to wear because the rules are very clear. We want to make it easier for parents and help reduce any issues there may be over what is and isn't acceptable uniform. We believe that this guidance does that and also gives you lots of choice over possible suppliers. At the end of this letter is a list of suppliers in Witney who have agreed to give guidance about what is and is not acceptable uniform for the two schools. If you go to their stores, staff will advise you on this.

If you wanted to buy uniform from another store or online, that is acceptable, but it must match the uniform on the guidance exactly. Many of the stores listed below offer an online ordering and next day delivery service with free returns, making the process of getting the right uniform even easier.

We will be enforcing this new guidance very strictly when we return in September. On the first day back (Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September), we will check the uniform of all students on the gate. Any students not in the correct uniform will get an after school detention. This will continue each day of that first

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Wood Green School uniform (continued)

week, for those who turn up in incorrect uniform. We will contact you on each day when uniform is not correct. If students arrive in an incorrect piece of uniform the following Monday (7<sup>th</sup> September), we will contact you and send them home to get the correct uniform, as we know you will have ensured they have it following this guidance. Also, from September, hooded tops will be confiscated every time they are seen and you will be asked to come in and collect them from main reception.

We are sending this letter out now as we wanted to give parents four months' notice of the changes. If you have any questions about the guidance, please do not hesitate to contact me. If you are unsure whether a piece of uniform is acceptable, please consult the school before buying.

We look forward to your support in ensuring all students are treated equally and trust the guidance attached makes things much clearer for everyone.

Yours sincerely



Mr R Shadbolt  
Headteacher



Mr M Bonsell  
Director of Learning Communities

Suppliers of agreed items of uniform for Wood Green and Henry Box schools:-

*Sainsbury's* – Sell appropriate shoes, trousers, skirts and jackets for boys and girls.

*M & S* - Sell appropriate shoes, trousers, skirts and jackets for boys and girls.

*Next* - Sell appropriate shoes, trousers, skirts and jackets for boys and girls.

*Debenhams* - Sell appropriate trousers and jackets for boys and girls.

*New Look* - Sell appropriate shoes, trousers, skirts and jackets for girls.

*Dorothy Perkins* – Sell appropriate trousers for girls.

*Clarks* – Sell appropriate shoes for boys and girls.

*Shoe Zone* - Sell appropriate shoes for boys and girls.

*Clinkards* - Sell appropriate shoes for boys and girls.

*Jones* - Sell appropriate shoes for boys and girls.