



Acting Headteacher: **George Anstee-Parry, M.Ed, NPQH**

Acting Deputy Headteacher: **Sarah Watson**

22nd August 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Uniform Policy

I am writing to provide additional clarity regarding the uniform policy, specifically concerning footwear.

We have received several inquiries from parents/carers about whether the shoes they have purchased for their children meet the Academy's requirements. Some of these concerns seem to stem from a misunderstanding of the guidelines that were clearly communicated during the Summer term in preparation for the new academic year. However, to address the remaining questions and ensure there is no further confusion, I would like to reiterate the specific footwear requirements:

1. They must be entirely black.
2. Shoes must be made of polishable leather or a leather-like material.
3. They must not feature any logos, branding, or decorative elements (e.g. Nike swoosh, Adidas stripes, Skechers 'S'). This is not exhaustive.

It has also come to my attention that an email from Mr. Sansom was shared in a Facebook group. This is a breach of both courtesy and privacy, as the email was intended for a specific audience and not for public distribution. Despite this, it is still clear that the criteria above is true. We do appreciate the challenges and we have resisted the temptation to just signpost to a specific retailer as even this can make your job more difficult.

Given the volume of emails we have received on this matter, I am unable to respond to each one individually. Therefore, I am offering the following general advice:

- Use the above criteria as a checklist when purchasing footwear to ensure compliance with the uniform policy.
- Avoid purchasing shoes from well-known sports brands, as these are often not in line with the academy's uniform standards.

If any issues arise regarding these guidelines due to religious beliefs, we are happy to discuss them and reach a mutually acceptable solution. Similarly, if reasonable adjustments to uniform are required as a result of a special educational need or disability we are also keen to support.

The Academy reserves the right to determine what constitutes appropriate uniform and may address "fashion" items as deemed necessary. The final decision on what is appropriate uniform rests entirely with the Academy and will be considered final. You are most welcome to draw comparisons with other schools on this position and see that we are similar in our stance.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and your ongoing support in upholding our uniform policy.

Yours sincerely,

George Anstee-Parry
Acting Headteacher

Claire Elliott
Headteacher (from September 2024)

