



February 6th, 2017

Dear Parents,

Uniform and Appearance Policy - Update February, 2017

We are continually focussing on developing all our students' key life skills and in this respect our school uniform is very important to us. We believe that it is an essential part of the ethos and discipline structure that all students manage the way in which they present themselves and comply with the school uniform and appearance policy, as it promotes strong, cohesive school identity supporting high standards and expectations in all areas of school life.

At Tarleton Academy, we believe that a school uniform is important, because it:

- Looks smart
- Is cost effective compared to buying fashion items for daily wear
- Contributes to a sense of belonging
- Fosters a feeling of pride
- Reduces 'fashion competition' between students

We have noticed that a small minority of students are not fully complying with our expectations in terms of their appearance and it would be greatly appreciated if you would support us by ensuring your child adheres to the school's uniform and appearance policy.

A small number of the school uniform requirements which are causing the most frequent concerns are provided below for your reference:

- **Footwear** must be plain, black, smart, sturdy shoes. (*Boots, trainers, pumps, logos, fabric or high heels are not acceptable.*) Acceptable footwear is at the discretion of the Headteacher.
- **Outdoor clothing** should be a plain dark coloured coat. Casual outer garments such as non-school jumpers, hoodies, sports tops, fleeces, cardigans, leather or denim jackets are not acceptable. Any other coloured or patterned outdoor coats must be removed on entry into school and should not be worn onsite during the school day. We have become aware that a number of students are choosing to wear very expensive branded outdoor coats for every day school use. Please note that the academy will take no responsibility for the loss or damage to these items of clothing and strongly advise that they are not worn for school use.
- **Shirts** should always be tucked in to trousers/skirt
- **School jumpers** should not be tucked in to trousers/skirts
- **Skirts** should be knee length.
- **Fashion items** such as jewellery needs to be kept to a minimum. There must be no more than one piercing per ear, (ear lobes only) with one plain gold or silver stud, which should be

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removed for P.E. Any other piercings will be removed in school. No other jewellery except a watch is allowed. If a student needs to wear a piece of jewellery for medical or religious reasons, it should be removed or covered up during physical activity or during practical learning. Jewellery worn for medical or religious reasons will only be allowed once approval has been sought and agreed in writing in advance.

- **Hair** should not obscure a student's vision. Extreme hairstyles or colourings are not allowed. Hair accessories should be small, plain and black. No flowers or bows should be worn. Shaved patterns in hair or eyebrows will not be permitted.
- **Make up** worn in school should be discreet.
- **Nail varnish or false nails** are not allowed.

Please note that the lists above are not exhaustive, and the final decision on whether the appearance of students is suitable lies with the Headteacher.

As well as the standard school uniform it is vital that students are fully equipped with the correct PE kit. Students and parents also need to understand the policies and practices within the PE department. The PE staff record attendance and participation on a lesson by lesson basis. If a student fails to bring their full regulation PE kit it is recorded as a 'No kit' and logged by staff. If students attend with an acceptable excuse note from parents it is recorded as 'Excused'. Please note that students will be issued with an afterschool detention on the second occasion, and subsequent occasions, that they fail to be organised with the correct kit for lessons.

Students that are excused from a PE lesson must ensure that they have a complete change of clothing, for example, trainers or football boots, tracksuit bottoms, T-shirt and a sweatshirt. Students will be involved in the lesson in other ways to ensure that they are supervised at all times. Bringing a change of clothes ensures that your son/daughter still has a clean/dry uniform for school use and that they are suitably dressed to undertake a variety of roles such as sports leaders, officials and organisers. This ruling applies to all indoor (including swimming) and outdoor lessons.

If you require further clarification regarding the contents of this letter please in the first instance refer to the 'Appearance and Uniform Policy' under policies on Tarleton Academy's website. If then you have any additional questions or queries please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

M Cunniffe

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Head of School

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