

Oakbank School



20th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We at Oakbank pride ourselves in our school uniform. We value the self-esteem it can build and it is a core part of our identity within the school. It is important to us that the children are able to take pride in their school and this identity too. It is part of the pillars that hold together the Oakbank community. Uniforms are also essential parts of many working environments and it important for children to learn that if there is a dress code that it must be adhered to. Now the children have settled back into normal school routines after lockdown we are going to be changing our focus onto maintaining the high standards the children have so far set themselves.

On behalf of the pastoral team, we would like to remind all parents what we expect in terms of uniform: I would like to emphasise that we have not changed any of our uniform policy, but we are changing the way in which we hold the children accountable for their uniform.

What do we expect from our school uniform: <https://www.oakbank.education/617/uniform>

- Jumper: Oakbank charcoal grey jumper with logo (purchased from Stevenson's)
- Tie: Oakbank tie
- Trousers: black, tailored style, full length, straight leg.
- Shirt: white, button up to the neck, with collar, cotton type, short or long sleeved.
- Shoes: black, low heeled, practical for school, no trainers
- Socks: black
- Coat: plain
- Skirt: A-line or pleated, knee length (or just below).
- Socks: black or white ankle or knee length
- Tights: black

The wearing of plain, light coloured under layers, particularly in winter, are permissible.

Jewellery:

- Students are allowed to wear a plain watch
- Students are allowed a single piercing in the lobe only.
- Students may wear plain silver or gold studs in the ear lobe.
- Piercings will be removed for PE lessons for safety.

Not acceptable as school uniform:

- No leggings or denim
- No canvas shoes, plimsolls, trainers, shoes with logos or contrasting colours.
- No hoodies, or any jumpers, cardigans, or otherwise, with the exception of a school jumper.
- No additional piercings other than those mentioned above.
- Make up is not permitted
- Extreme haircuts are not permitted i.e. no shaved heads less than grade 2, exaggerated stepped haircuts, or unusual colours.
- Long, polished, or decorated finger nails, including synthetic false nails.

If a pupil arrives at school in incorrect uniform

As we take pride in our uniform, we feel it is important you and your child understand how we will deal with pupils who are not wearing the incorrect uniform. We also understand at the time of writing we are in the midst of a national lockdown and replacing broken uniform can take additional time

We are asking that if your child has a valid reason not to be in school uniform, you contact your child's form tutor in the first instance.

For example if a pair of shoes is broken, or buttons have come off shirts, we expect you to tell us as soon as you reasonably can. This can be through a phone call, email, or a note in your child's planner. Your child will not be sanctioned if you have made us aware. Please do let us know when you are going to be able to replace the uniform.

If your child has no valid reason for being in uniform, the following will occur:

- Your child will receive a negative point in Classcharts. This will be issued by the form tutor or teacher of the first period lesson if the uniform cannot or refuses to be corrected.
- Your child will be expected in the hall for a 15 minute after school on the same day. You will be notified by Classcharts.
- If your child receives three negative points for incorrect uniform in a fortnight, you will receive a letter informing you of this and the reasons why. Any subsequent uniform detentions will now become 30 minutes on each occasion that they occur if there is no
- If your child continues to wear incorrect school uniform, you will be asked to attend a meeting with the Head of Year to discuss why your child is not wearing correct school uniform.

Some clarifications

As clothing markets evolve, so do our responses. Over time, we are aware that the demands of children change and here are some important clarifications we would like to make you and your child aware of.

- Nike Air Force 1s are not appropriate for school: these shoes have clear branding on them and so do not abide by our uniform policy. We understand that some companies are incorrectly selling these as school shoes and we would like to remind you these are not. If this is your child's only pair of school shoes please contact your child's tutor immediately to let them know when they will be replaced.
- Wearing school jumpers in school: we expect pupils to wear their school jumpers to and from school. We are now enforcing pupils to wear their school jumper to and around the school site. They are expected to wear their school jumper in tutor time, assemblies, and when entering and leaving lessons. Pupils may remove their school jumper during lessons and at break times and lunch times if they so wish.
- Piercings: we understand that some pupils wish to get additional piercings. Please understand that if a pupil arrives at school with a piercing anywhere other than the ear lobe they will be asked to remove it. Any additional piercings should be done once your child has left Year 11 so there is no risk to money being wasted and the piercings closing up.

If you are unsure, please ask - If there is anything you are unsure about with our uniform policy please do get in touch with your child's form tutor as soon as possible. They will be more than happy to answer any questions you might have. We would rather you ask before you buy. We are more than aware the financial impact incorrect uniform may have: please ask so we can help you make the right choice.

On behalf of the Head of Year team, many thanks to you for continuing to support Oakbank and ensuring that our school is a place that your child is able to thrive.

Robin Bertrand – Head Teacher