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Headteacher: Mr Iain Horner

6<sup>th</sup> July 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We would like to take this opportunity to write to you about Chesterton School's agreed dress code to aid with the purchasing of new uniform over the summer holidays. Although we are generally very happy with the appearance of our pupils, there have been a few questions raised by parents throughout the year regarding the specifics of our uniform policy. Therefore, we felt that it would be helpful for parents, pupils and teachers if we clarified some areas.

**Chesterton School uniform consists of:**

- ✓ A pair of sensible outdoor shoes. These should be of a dark colour and suitable for school activities such as running and playing.
- ✓ A white polo shirt / white blouse / button-up shirt.
- ✓ A navy blue sweatshirt (logo optional) or cardigan.
- ✓ Black or dark grey 'school-type' trousers, skirt or tailored shorts (smart culottes are also acceptable).
- ✓ Plain tights (black, grey or navy).
- ✓ A 'gingham' blue/white summer dress or grey pinafore dress.
- ✓ A coat or waterproof jacket.

Polo shirts, sweatshirts and cardigans, which are manufactured with the school logo embroidered on the front, can be purchased via the link on the school website. A selection of sizes are available in the school office to try on.

**Please be aware** – It is not compulsory for school uniform to carry the school logo. However, uniform containing the school logo does increase a sense of pupil identity within the school and can make it easier for parents to decide what is/is not appropriate for school uniform.

We would ask that the following items of clothing are not part of the school uniform:

- Jeans or skinny jean like trousers
- Chinos or corduroy trousers
- Patterned tights
- Leggings (either instead of trousers or instead of tights)
- Tracksuit bottoms
- Hooded tops (either worn instead of school jumpers or as coats)
- Shoes with high heels or wedges

## **Wellington boots**

A change of footwear for use on the field is essential in order to keep our school clean and tidy, and these need to be kept at school throughout the term. We would therefore ask that a pair of wellies are kept in school at all times to enable us to make use of the field for outdoor learning and playtimes in all weathers. These should be stored neatly on the welly racks or in the boxes outside the classrooms.

## **PE Kit**

A house-coloured Chesterton PE T-shirt (now available to order from the PMG website)

Navy blue shorts / a 'skort' is acceptable for girls

Training shoes for outdoor games (hi-top trainers are not suitable)

Tracksuit trousers and warm top for outdoor games/cold weather.

\*NB: Shorts should be worn for all PE lessons, with tracksuit bottoms worn on top when necessary. There are PE activities where the wearing of long trousers presents a safety hazard (eg. large gymnastics equipment).

These items should preferably be kept in a drawstring bag, or smaller shoulder bag that does not take up too much cloakroom space and should be in school **all week**. We sometimes have issues with pupils saying that their kit is at home because they 'didn't think PE was on that day.' Children should not wear any of the same clothes for PE that they have worn for the rest of the day.

## **Swimming**

Children in Years 3 to 6 also require a swimming kit which should include:

A one-piece swimming costume for girls

Swimming trunks or shorts for boys (These should be above the knee as long shorts make it more difficult for children who are learning to swim)

A towel

A swimming hat

**Please be aware that**, should swimming goggles be needed, a letter from parents/carers is required. This will be explained in the start of year swimming letter.

**We also ask that all items of clothing or footwear are clearly marked with the child's name.**

## **Jewellery**

The only jewellery that is permitted at school is one pair of simple stud earrings and/or a wrist watch. Children wearing necklaces, wrist bands, bracelets etc. will be asked to remove them.

A local authority regulation also forbids the wearing of jewellery in schools for physical activities, including PE and games lessons and also swimming. If your child has recently had their ears pierced, then please provide 'micropore' tape for them to cover their earrings whilst participating in PE lessons. Any earrings that are removed for PE are the responsibility of the child.

### **Make Up**

Make-up of any kind (including nail varnish) is not permitted.

### **Hair accessories**

We would ask you to keep hair accessories simple and avoid items like large bands, bows, flowers and bandanas.

\* Please note that long hair should be tied back, so that it is not a distraction in the classroom or a safety hazard during PE sessions. This will also help with avoiding the spread of headlice.

Although this may seem like a list of 'do not's', we felt that, as parents, you would appreciate clear guidelines when discussing school uniform or shopping for new items with your children. We also feel that, for the vast majority of pupils and parents who adhere to the guidelines, it is fair that these are enforced properly across the school and that incorrect uniform is addressed.

However, I would like to reassure you that we appreciate that many children will possess perfectly usable items of uniform that conformed to the previous guidelines (ie. navy blue PE T-shirts, blue skirts) and we certainly **do not expect** this to be instantly discarded for September. We are more than happy for children to continue wearing these items until they reach the end of their 'life' and they will not be reprimanded for doing so. What we would ask is that next time you are making a uniform purchase, you do so within the revised guidelines.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact us.

We thank you for your continued backing with our school uniform and your help in maintaining the high standards that we hope are associated with all aspects of the school.

May we also take this opportunity to thank all parents for their support across all areas this year. We wish you a happy and healthy summer and look forward to seeing you and your children at the start of the new academic year in September.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. I. Horner (Headteacher)      Ms S Bailey & Mrs K Salter (Assistant Headteachers)