

Friday 1 March 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

As you are aware we have been looking at improving our school uniform. This letter is to communicate a key change we propose to make to our uniform policy.

We propose that this change will come into effect from the start of the next academic year - Wednesday 4 September 2019. The information below will provide key details about this change.

What aspect of the uniform policy is changing?

We propose to replace the current skirt with a checked grey 'kilt' style skirt as shown here. This particular style and colour was selected after meeting with a number of students from each year group and discussing how we could ensure that an appropriate skirt is worn by students.

The kilt will be available in a full range of sizes and be embroidered with the school initials on the waistband. Skirts up to and including 28" waist will retail at £21.95, sizes 30" and above will be £28.50 at the school uniform shop, 'Initially Yours'.



Which students will be affected?

Initially, students in Years 7 – 9 will be expected to wear the new 'kilt' style skirt from September 2019. Students in Year 10 and 11 from September can continue to wear a grey, non-stretchy skirt as described in our current uniform policy. The reason for this is that we recognise the need to phase this change in so that we can reduce cost for parents/carers of older students who may not be planning to replace your child's skirt. As the other year groups move up the school, the grey skirt will be phased out so that in September 2020 Year 7-10 will wear the new skirt and by 2021 all will wear the checked skirt.

Why are we making this change?

We are continuing to heighten our expectations of all students at SBL Academy and believe that uniform makes a significant difference and is a major contributor to the culture of the school. We believe these changes will help us achieve consistency across the whole school and be clear with our students regarding our expectations and the importance of wearing the correct uniform appropriately. It will also eradicate any issues with students purchasing the wrong skirt for school and reduce significantly the number of complaints we receive concerning the length of skirt. The new skirt will be worn with the embroidered school initials visible.

Where can these items be purchased from and what funding/support is available?

The new 'kilt' style skirt can be purchased from our school uniform provider – 'Initially Yours'. If your child is eligible for Pupil Premium we will provide a uniform voucher for the full cost - This will be done by request only.

If your child is not eligible for Pupil Premium but you would like to request financial support for this item of uniform please complete the 'Funding for school uniform' form on our website. This will be processed on a case by case basis and may require a meeting/conversation with your child's Head of House.

I would like to invite you to share your views and comments by using the following link <http://bit.ly/SBLUniform>.

We will compile all feedback so it can be considered by the Academy's Intervention Board before a final decision is made. The deadline for responses is **Friday 8 March 2019**. Apologies as to the short turn around, but we are constrained by deadlines for ordering etc.

Yours faithfully



Mr D Anderson
Principal