

Alderbrook School

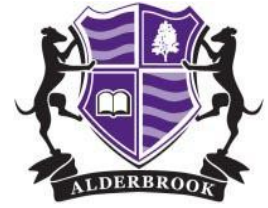
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THA/MAC

8 April 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

Following a review of our current uniform, I would like share with you some key changes that we will be making to ensure your child has the correct uniform ready for September 2022. The Department for Education believes uniform “can play a valuable role in contributing to the ethos of a school and setting an appropriate tone” as well as providing a sense of belonging and community.

By creating a common identity amongst all pupils, regardless of background, a school uniform can act as a social leveller. It can reduce bullying and peer pressure to wear the latest fashions or other expensive clothes.

We are acutely aware that school uniform can be expensive to purchase and, in line with DfE guidance, we are committed to ensuring that school uniform is affordable for all. Therefore, some of the changes we are making to our uniform policy are designed to support families with this.

Following our review, which included student voice, it became apparent that students found some aspects of the uniform gender specific and would like more freedom in the choices they can make, especially with the PE kit. We were asked to consider the expectations around the school PE kit, to avoid any gender bias.

School uniform

The school uniform guidance will no longer have girls or boys uniform, or PE kit. Instead, it will now be classified as “*School Uniform*”.

Blouse or Shirt

Students can choose to wear either a white shirt with a tie or a white blouse. This can be purchased from any retailer.

School pleated skirts – Purple embroidered “A”

Currently students in Year 7, 8 and 9 are expected to wear a grey skirt and students in Year 10 and 11 wear a black skirt. Following student voice, it is evident that students prefer to wear black school skirts. Therefore, we will be phasing out the grey skirt from September 2022. Please be aware that grey skirts can continue to be worn and there is no need to buy a new black skirt if your child has a grey skirt that



Alderbrook School
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fits. However, when a new skirt is bought, it will need to be black. Please see the list below which summaries this for each year group:

- Year 7 – Black box pleat skirt with a purple embroidered “A”
- Year 8 – Grey box pleat skirt with a purple embroidered “A”. If a new skirt needs to be bought, this should be a black box pleat skirt.
- Year 9 – Grey box pleat skirt with a purple embroidered “A”. If a new skirt needs to be bought, this should be a black box pleat skirt.
- Year 10 – If your child does not require their grey skirt to be replaced continue to wear Grey skirt. If a new skirt needs to be bought, this should be a black box pleat skirt.
- Year 11 – Black box pleat skirt with a purple embroidered “A”

All skirts must be the black or grey box pleat skirt available from one of the uniform suppliers. Black pencil skirts are not permitted.

Trousers – All school trousers should be black.

Trousers should be black and a tailored, straight leg design. The following styles are not permitted:

- Tapered or flared trousers
- Cropped trousers or cargo pants
- Nylon/lycra trousers or leggings
- Jogging bottoms
- Denim jeans
- Skinny-fit trousers

Trousers no longer have to be purchased from one of our uniform suppliers and can be purchased from any retailer. However, they must be in line with the guidance above.

Socks

From September 2022, knee high socks and over-the-knee socks will not be permitted. Students can choose to wear either black tights or white or black ankle socks.

PE kit

We will no longer have “boys’ PE kit” and “girls’ PE kit”. Students will be expected to have one item from each section. Please see uniform guidance attached.

Hoodies and PE

Currently, students can wear a black hooded top for PE. Following conversations with students, we have changed this to either a new design black and purple hooded sweatshirt or a 1/4 zip top with the Alderbrook logo. These items are available from the uniform supplier shops only. This item is optional for all students.

We have also worked closely with the uniform providers to ensure that all prices are competitive and the uniform/PE kit is of high quality, to avoid the need to replace.

Lost PE kit

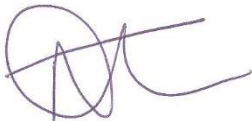
On a weekly basis, we have large amount of PE kits handed in to lost property including football boots and trainers. Unfortunately, a majority of the kit is not labelled, and therefore not returned to students. Please can you ensure that you label all of your child's clothing so we can ensure that it is returned, as we appreciate there is a large cost associated.

Good quality second hand uniform and PE kit is available from the school, at no cost. If you require any items please email office@alderbrook.solihull.sch.uk. If you have any good quality uniform that you would like to donate please hand it in to the school office, or alternatively send it into school with your child.

All branded items are available from our uniform suppliers Midland Schoolwear, Concept Schoolwear or Monkhouse Schoolwear.

We thank you for your continued support. If you require any further information, please do contact me via the School office email.

Yours faithfully



Miss A Thandi
Assistant Headteacher

