



# FORMBY HIGH SCHOOL

Determined to Achieve

KBL/AHR

27 March 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

## Re: Uniform Expectations

Maintaining high standards of school uniform plays a significant part in shaping and sustaining a respectful, orderly and inclusive culture in school. I ask students to wear their Formby High uniform with pride not only because it demonstrates their respect for their school and each other, but also because it instils a sense of connection and belonging to our school community. This contributes to students' wellbeing, removing additional pressures of deciding what to wear or worrying about how they look. We are also conscious that we want uniform to be affordable for families; having a clear policy and sticking to it also makes life fairer for everyone. The support of parents goes a long way to reducing negative conversations with students about their uniform and appearance, which in turn allows us to focus on other important elements of school life and prioritise learning.

We are approaching the time of year when you may be starting to think about replacing some school uniform items, either to see out this year or in preparation for September. To help you when purchasing these items, I thought a timely reminder and clarification of uniform expectations from September 2024 may be useful as, though the majority of students dress very smartly each day, we do have a few areas where we have issues and inconsistency.

### School Shoes

It can be difficult when shopping with teenagers to identify an appropriate school shoe. For general guidance, school shoes should be footwear that would be worn in a formal work environment: they need to be smart, comfortable, protective and long-lasting enough to allow the students to wear them all day and in all weather conditions.

Our uniform policy clearly states the types of footwear that is and is not permitted, but I am aware that this may not have been rigorously enforced in the last few years. From September, we will address this inconsistency and insist on higher standards, with your support. I hope that by giving plenty of notice about this we can help you avoid the expense of purchasing non-permitted footwear.

A sizeable proportion of male students are currently wearing training shoes made by athletic brands (such as Nike, Adidas, Reebok etc) which are not only unsuitable as formal school wear but are also extremely expensive and can lead to pressure on students and parents to 'keep up with the crowd'. Similarly, many female students wear 'ballet' style shoes with oversized buckles or bows made by brands such as Vivienne Westwood. This footwear will not be allowed from September. The guidance on our website has been updated to help you identify the types of footwear that are not allowed in school: <https://www.formbyhighschool.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Shoes-NOT-compliant-with-FHS.pdf>

### School Skirts

School skirts should be knee-length. Inevitably, students grow over the course of the year so please check the length of your child's skirt so that it continues to meet the uniform requirements. Over the coming

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years, we will be exploring opportunities to gradually introduce a new style of skirt, beginning with our new Year 7 cohort in September 2024.

### **Earrings and Piercings**

Although many other schools prohibit their students from doing so, students at Formby High are allowed to wear earrings. Our policy states that only plain metal studs should be worn. For clarity, this means hoops, larger designs/shapes or diamanté-style studs are not allowed. I am happy to continue to allow students to wear earrings as long as they abide by our expectations, but I will keep this under review and may revoke this privilege if necessary.

No other jewellery (including nose studs) is allowed in school. If your child intends to have a new piercing, please ensure it is done at the very start of the summer holidays so that it can have time to heal so jewellery can be removed in advance of returning to school in September.

### **Make-Up, False Nails and False Eyelashes**

Obvious make-up should not be worn, including eyeliner or lip gloss. False nails, nail varnish and false eyelashes are not permitted, and students will be asked to remove them if they wear them to school. Please support us by not booking appointments in school term time and carefully considering time frames for nails and eyelashes to be removed before allowing your child to have them.

### **Pre-Loved Uniform**

This year we have continued with our preloved uniform provision and have had many good quality uniform items handed in for re-use. We are always short of ties, so if you do have any spares they are always welcomed. All items we have are available free of charge and Mrs Brooks will always assist with any preloved uniform queries. If you have uniform to donate, please send it into school via reception.

Thank you for your understanding and support. Should you have any questions, please contact the school.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Wood'.

**Mr A Wood**  
**Headteacher**