

14th March 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

As part of our commitment to maintaining high standards and promoting inclusivity, I am considering a transition from skirts to trousers as a gender neutral uniform for all students. However, I will not change the uniform without the support of parents. I will also still focus on ways as a school we can ensure the right skirt length is worn on site.

Why Are We Considering This Change?

Over recent years, the school has received a significant number of complaints from both parents and members of the community regarding the way some skirts are being worn. Despite repeated efforts to enforce the uniform policy, we continue to face challenges that are affecting the school's reputation and student experiences.

Key concerns include:

- A growing number of students are wearing skirts that do not meet the school's uniform requirements. This has resulted in frequent reminders from staff, taking time away from learning and creating unnecessary conflict.
- We have received complaints from parents, local residents, and businesses about inappropriate skirt lengths particularly when students are outside school grounds. This reflects on the school and by extension on all students.
- Some students have come forward to express concerns about feeling pressured to wear their skirts shorter than the school policy allows. This pressure can contribute to discomfort, anxiety, and self-consciousness particularly among those who do not wish to conform to these expectations but feel unable to challenge them.

By transitioning to trousers for all students, we create a more consistent and inclusive dress code, reducing the potential for certain students to be singled out or disciplined disproportionately. Trousers provide warmth in colder months and greater flexibility during movement-intensive activities throughout the school day, making them a more practical and comfortable choice.

We recognise that any change to school uniform is significant, which is why we are seeking your input before any decisions are made.



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Registered Office: Ashdown House, Johnson Road, Sittingbourne, ME10 2JS

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Have Your Say

We value your opinion and invite you to complete a short consultation form to share your thoughts on a range of possible alternatives.

Please access the form via the link below:

<https://forms.gle/C3oR3kUspgqfashbA>

The consultation will remain open until 28/03/25, after which we will carefully review all responses and communicate the outcome.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Thank you for your ongoing support in helping us maintain high standards and a positive learning environment for all students.

Yours sincerely



**Alex Holmes
Headteacher**



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