

9 September 2011

Dear Parents

I wish to address issues of inappropriate uniform. Our uniform policy has not changed this year. What has changed is that we are not prepared to accept a continued and blatant defiance of the policy.

Girls' skirts

I appreciate that parents may be finding it difficult to source appropriate knee-length skirts, as many shops are selling so-called 'school' skirts that are far too short. Frasers in Petersfield does stock a knee-length skirt (£15) that fits most girls; M&S also have in stock several knee-length skirts for all ages, including for taller girls adult sizes that may be suitable (under £20). If you would like further guidance please email me.

However, we are finding that even where parents have found appropriate length skirts, girls are choosing to roll them up shorter. I know this is an age-old problem, but it does need to be tackled. In school we check uniform on the gate and at the start and end of every lesson. We will not tolerate any further that girls are unrolling their skirts when we tell them to and rolling them up when they've walked away. We view this as defiance and appropriate sanctions will be imposed.

As of Monday 12 September, ANY girls wearing a skirt we consider to be worn too short will be put in detention, and may be sent home to change, put in isolation or on report. Please stress to your daughters the need for their clothing to protect their dignity. Skirts worn mid-thigh become inappropriately revealing when students sit down or walk down stairs, and ride up at the back when carrying bags. If finding a suitable skirt presents insurmountable problems, girls may, of course, wear black trousers instead.

Boys' trousers

Whereas the girls roll their skirts up, the boys try to let their trousers fall down! Boys need to ensure that their trousers are worn around their waist and fully cover their underwear at all times! Please reinforce that we don't want to see their pants on display, and although they are often perfectly polite when we address this in school, the problem persists with a minority. **As with the girls, from Monday morning ANY boys wearing their trousers too low will be put in detention, and may be sent home to change, put in isolation or on report.**

A few more uniform issues are detailed below:

- Blazers – these should be worn *at all times* around school and the arms should not be rolled up
- Hair colour should be natural (a colour that you can be born with)
- Piercings & Jewellery – ‘The rule of One’, one bracelet, one ring and one pair of plain silver or gold studs to be worn in the ear lobe
- Graffiti – all uniform should be clean and graffiti free
- Headphones are not part of our uniform and should not be worn around school
- Mobile phones should not be used during school times

Thank you in advance for your support with improving the dress of students. We have high expectations of our students in every aspect of TPS, and by maintaining a smart and appropriate uniform, we can be sure that your child is ready to take advantage of the Outstanding education that TPS offers all students.

Yours sincerely

Catherine Old
Vice Principal