



17 July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you to confirm some of the key information for school in September.

We appreciate many families will have had a difficult few months. At Etonbury Academy we encourage early communication. If you foresee any issues with a full return in September please contact me on the following email address: [mcraddock@bestacademies.org.uk](mailto:mcraddock@bestacademies.org.uk), ideally before the summer break. We look forward to seeing all of our students pass through our doors on the 7 September.

As well as enjoying a break with your children, parents will no doubt be looking forward to the annual trip to the shops to source uniform and school shoes! Although the school uniform hasn't changed, I thought it would be useful to remind everyone of our expectations before key items are purchased over the summer holidays. The intention of this is to avoid discussions around uniform at the start of term with students. We will be following the latest government guidance which encourages "all schools to return to their usual uniform policies in the autumn term." As guidance states, we want to ensure students return to school in September dressed in accordance with school uniform policy. Please use this time before the summer holidays to get your uniform ordered.

The uniform is stated below and I have also provided you with some reminders about what is not allowed in school.

#### YEAR 5 AND YEAR 6

BOYS' UNIFORM	GIRLS' UNIFORM
Etonbury jumper (with badge) White button neck shirt (long or short sleeved) Etonbury tie Grey trousers/shorts Plain black or navy socks Black <b>leather</b> shoes	Etonbury jumper (with badge) White open neck blouse Grey trousers or skirt Navy knee high socks/tights (White ankle socks optional Summer term) Black <b>leather</b> shoes

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## YEAR 7 AND ABOVE

BOYS' UNIFORM	GIRLS' UNIFORM
Etonbury blazer Etonbury jumper (optional) White button neck shirt (long or short sleeved) Etonbury tie Grey trousers Plain black or navy socks Black <b>leather</b> shoes (no logo)	Etonbury blazer Etonbury jumper (optional) White open neck blouse Etonbury skirt or Grey trousers Navy knee high socks/tights (White ankle socks optional Summer term) Black <b>leather</b> shoes (no logo)

Jewellery of any description is not encouraged and is not practical for many reasons. **One ring** and **one pair** of small, plain stud or sleeper size **earrings** and a watch are the only items allowed. All Jewellery must be removed for PE activities and is brought into school entirely at the student's own risk.

Other guidance we would like you to follow on return to school is:

- Nose studs and all other types of piercing are not allowed
- Students will be required to remove any items of jewellery which contravenes this code; they may be confiscated until parents collect them from school
- Hair should be the students' **natural colour**, with no extremes in style such as shaved patterns in the hair. In addition, there should be no extreme highlighting, e.g. red, pink, blue, etc., or 'dip-dyed' hair
- Make-up should be **minimal and discrete** – foundation, concealer etc. No eyeliner or coloured lipstick. A small amount of mascara or lip gloss is allowed, but this must not be abused
- Shoes must conform to school standards – **no trainers, logos, Dr Marten style boots, excessive buckles, canvas shoes etc.**
- **No leggings** or denim are permitted this includes PE lessons
- **Skirts** must be regulation length **to the knee**
- No badges other than school approved badges are to be worn
- **Hoodies are not permitted** unless by express permission for specific sporting teams, trips or events.

I have added some frequently asked questions as an appendix to this letter which may also answer any queries you have.

Thank you all very much in advance of your anticipated support and understanding during this difficult time. Following the above will allow us to focus on the education of your child.

I wish you an enjoyable summer break.



**Michael Craddock**

Assistant Principal for Attendance, Behaviour and LAC students

## Frequently Asked Questions about uniform (FAQs)

### **What happens if I cannot send my child into school with correct uniform despite making every attempt to do so?**

If for any reason an item of uniform is damaged and cannot be worn, a note from a parent or carer must be provided and shown to the Form Tutor, Head of Year or member of staff at the gate. We will expect a date to be given for when the replacement will be purchased.

Students are also expected to wear loan items (blazers, ties) if requested. Any parent experiencing severe financial hardship should contact the Head of Year.

### **I would like my child to be able to express their religious identity.**

Etonbury Academy is not a single faith school. Single faith school alternatives exist within the locality for those who feel strongly about this. We do not allow significant alterations to uniform or hairstyles. The exception is headwear which is important to more than one religion, and is permitted.

### **My child has a medical condition that makes wearing uniform hard.**

Upon presentation of medical evidence and following discussion with the Head of Year, adjustments may be made to accommodate students with medical issues. Wherever possible, we would seek alternatives that allow for the student to feel as comfortable as possible whilst not standing out significantly from peers.

### **Why don't you allow certain hairstyles or fashion items in school?**

We would like to cultivate an atmosphere where individuality and depth of character are expressed through academic and social creativity rather than appearance. Although allowing children to follow trends might seem harmless, it can have negative consequences for those children who cannot afford the latest fashion items or whose parents maintain stricter control over appearance. Many parents do not wish to send their children into an environment where the latest superficial and costly trends are permitted. The associated pressure to copy these can be a source of unnecessary anxiety, conflict with peers and family and, sadly, bullying. We also believe strongly that the tradition of uniform cultivates a stronger feeling of community, togetherness and high standards. The presentation of the students also reflects the reputation and standing of the school in the wider community.

### **Appearance doesn't affect learning, why are you doing this?**

We disagree with this statement. Dressing formally is part of a learning process in readiness for adult life which is why we have a dress code for staff. Regardless of which career or pathway our children chose, they will benefit from understanding that formal environments require a different standard of dress than informal environments. School is a formal environment. Our collective experience of working in many different schools and over many years, has demonstrated that poor academic outcomes generally go hand in hand with a wider culture of low expectations and poor conduct. We do not think this is good enough for our children.

**What will happen if my child refuses to follow the school's expectations?**

We will contact you so that you can put in place the required support from home. In school, choosing not to follow our simple guidelines regarding uniform and hairstyle will initially result in the loss of social time for the student. Year Teams will decide upon further action if the matter cannot be rectified in the short term. You will be informed of the concern and of the action being taken.

Should there be continued refusal to meet our expectations, sanctions will be put in place.

**There are other students in the school with extreme hairstyles/uniform issues, what is happening to them?**

We try hard to be consistent in our approach but there will always be occasions when issues are not immediately brought to our attention. Simply because a student has not yet been challenged, does not mean an item of fashionwear or a particular hairstyle has become acceptable.

**What do I do if I don't agree with your policy on hair styles or fashionwear?**

We would hope that by choosing the Etonbury to educate your children, you will have already considered this prior to enrolment. However, if you feel the application of our policy in individual circumstances has been unfair or unreasonable (outside of the policy), then you can write to myself asking for a meeting. We have set out our expectations clearly. We feel they are reasonable and have communicated them clearly to all parents in this letter.