

21st April 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

Forge Valley School Uniform

I am writing to you to reiterate our expectations around uniform. There are a number of interpretations of what is and is not acceptable uniform and we believe it is time again to further clarify our expectations for pupils and parents. For a copy of our uniform policy please visit the school website <https://www.forgevalley.school/policies-and-key-information>.

Uniform is an important part of a school's identity. It reinforces who we are as a community and helps allow pupils to feel pride in their school. It also ensures pupils are not put under any pressure to wear a type of clothing and that all are treated equally. It also helps prepare pupils for life after school where many will have to adhere to a dress code.

Jewellery

Some pupils come to school with piercings to the nose, tongue and to the soft tissue in and around the mouth. For health and safety reasons we do not allow any facial, tongue or mouth piercings. Pupils must remove these items of jewellery. No more than the following may be worn: one pair of studs or small rings, one in each ear lobe. One ring on each hand. One necklace worn inside the clothes. One bracelet. One watch. No facial, tongue or mouth piercings at all.

Make up, hair and nails

False acrylic style nails as well as false / extension eyelashes are not permitted and pupils will be required to remove them. I do realise that such items are costly to families and I urge you to speak to your child if they plan to have false nails or eyelashes put on as they can be costly to remove. The school does not permit children to have extreme haircuts or unnatural coloured hair. Make up must also be discreet.

Shoes

Pupils must wear formal smart dress shoes and not training shoes. Vivienne Westwood pumps are not allowed. Fashion trends have led to a proliferation of casual black shoes with leather uppers that appear at first glance to be acceptable as school footwear. Converse trainers are a particular case in point. Indeed, we are told that many retail outlets promote these shoes as being 'school shoes'. In our view, footwear of this type is not formal and is consequently not appropriate for our school. It is our expectation that pupils wear plain black formal smart shoes. Any adjustments to this will only be considered if the school is presented with formal medical documentation.

Skirts

Skirts must be plain black, tailored and of knee length. Too many pupils are wearing skirts which are not appropriate. They must be in suit type material and split, skater, tiered or stretchy skirts are not allowed. Skirts must not be tight fitting. We are conscious that a noticeable number of our female pupils are choosing to roll the waistband of their skirts. As a result, pupils are leaving home in skirts approaching knee length but arriving at school with significantly shorter skirts. We are constantly addressing this issue in school and would welcome your support in reinforcing these messages at home.

Trousers

We expect trousers to be black and tailored with a front pleat/crease. The style of these trousers should be formal and not unlike that used in a suit. We don't accept jeans, leggings, or any denim style material, even if they are black. Neither do we accept 'skinny jeans' or any other trousers that are deliberately designed to be tight fitting. The trousers must not have any fashion accessories, e.g. leg pockets, zips or decorative buttons.

We will be enforcing this guidance very strictly and pupils not in the correct uniform on Monday 24th April 2023 will be sent home to rectify this. I am sending this letter out now as I want to give parents notice of this reinforcement.

If you have any questions about the guidance, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to your support in ensuring all pupils are treated equally and trust this guidance, along with our uniform policy shown on our school website, makes things clear for everyone.

Yours faithfully,



Mark Barker
Assistant Headteacher