



18th March 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

We regularly review our school uniform to ensure pupils present themselves smartly and maintain the high standard of dress that is associated with the school.

For a number of years we have been concerned about the length of skirts that an increasing number of girls are wearing. I have talked about this issue previously and asked for support in making sure that skirts are of an appropriate length. We have challenged girls and contacted parents and have been grateful for your support. Some girls choose to roll up their skirts once they have left home whilst others buy skirts designed to fit on the hips but in a much smaller size that fits on the waist.

The result of this is that on a daily basis we have girls wearing completely inappropriate skirts for school. It places the girls in a vulnerable position when walking around the site. In conversation with pupils many girls feel pressurised to wear their skirts as short as possible to fit in with a prevailing culture that has no place in a school.

As a school we strive to provide an inclusive, happy and safe environment where pupils can focus on their studies. As teachers we want to focus on pupil achievement not policing the length of skirts. As a community we don't want to reinforce a set of values that judges a young woman's worth by the length of her skirt.

With this in mind and following discussion with a pupil focus group and governors we will be introducing a new school skirt to our uniform from September 2016. This skirt will replace the black pleated skirt. The new skirt will be a tartan pleat made specifically for Rushcliffe School. If girls do not want to wear the new skirt they can choose to wear black boot cut school trousers. The new school skirt has been designed to complement the rest of our uniform. The pupil focus group choose the fabric and final design.

The skirt will be manufactured by one company (Academy School Uniforms) who will come into school during the summer term to measure all girls who would like a skirt for September. During this process the girls will be able to purchase their skirt. The cost of the skirt is detailed below:

- **Waist 22": £18.95**
- **Waist 24", 26", 28": £20.95**
- **Waist 30", 32", 34", 36", 38", 40", 42": £24.95**

(These prices are fixed until November 2017).

I am aware that the cost of this skirt is greater than that of many black pleated skirts. The reason we have a sole manufacturer is to quality assure the fit and the length of the skirt. The manufacturer was chosen after a tender process that was assured by the governors. I reiterate that there is no compulsion for girls to wear the skirt. Black boot cut trousers continue to be an alternative.

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We will give you further details about the skirt and how to purchase it in the summer term. However I wanted to let you know about the change as soon as possible before you purchased uniform for September.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'S Lewis', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

STEVE LEWIS
Headteacher