

10 June 2022

01924 232820

enquiries@ossett.accordmat.org

ossett.accordmat.org

Dear Parent/Carer

Principal: Mrs Samantha Broome

Uniform Updates

At Ossett Academy we support the Government and Department for Education's view that schools should have a school uniform and that school uniform plays a valuable role in contributing to the ethos of a school.

At Ossett Academy we believe in having the highest expectations in all that we do, and that having high standards of uniform is the starting point in setting the standards and tone for all other areas of academy life.

However, we do also appreciate that the cost of uniforms can be a heavy expense and burden on parents/carers not least with the additional pressures faced by the general rise in the cost of living.

The Department for Education (DfE) has recently released updated guidance on school uniform including the cost consideration of school uniform. This guidance can be found at the following link <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-uniform/school-uniforms>.

Based on the government guidance, although we are not planning any major changes to our uniform policy for the academic year of 2022/2023 (other than in relation to ties – please see below), we are keen to gather parent and carer views, as we continually review and potentially refine our policy to better support our parent/carers in terms of affordability. We will be in touch again in the near future to consult with you in this respect. It will also be our intention to undertake consultation with our pupils over the coming months.

Uniform Policy

For information, our current uniform policy can be found here: <https://ossett.accordmat.org/parents-carers/uniform/>

As a result of the government guidance we have taken the decision to rationalise our uniform suppliers based on cost comparisons and can confirm our preferred supplier to be The Box in Ossett. The Box stock academy approved blazers, PE tops and skirts. All other items of uniform can either be purchased from The Box or alternative high street retailers.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of a few key principles of our current uniform policy and expectations and also confirm a change to academy policy in relation to ties for September 2022 onwards.

Core Uniform

- From September 2022 the core items of uniform will be reduced to a blazer, a tie and a PE top.
- By core items this refers to items that will require an academy logo or branding.
- These items can be purchased from our preferred supplier (The Box).

Ties

- For the academic year of 2022/2023; the academy will be providing all pupils with their tie.
- Year 10 pupils have already received their tie for 2022/2023 prior to the half term break as part of their graduation into Year 11.
- The purple Ossett Academy tie will become obsolete and a new year group tie will be issued in advance of the start of the new academic year for pupils in years 7 to 10.
- All ties will be funded and provided for by the academy.
- Pupils losing or damaging their tie will be required to purchase a new one from the academy.
- All future Year 7 cohorts will also have their ties provided for by the academy to ensure ongoing fairness and support in this respect.

Skirts

- Skirts remain an optional choice (trousers being the alternative).
- Pupils wearing skirts must wear a logo'd Pinders or Banner skirt available from our preferred supplier The Box.
- Parents requiring a new skirt for their child are directed to the only approved supplier of skirts (The Box).
- Pupils wearing skirts must adhere to the academy's expectations in relation to length, logo and material.
- Skirts must be of a Banner or Pinders make, A-line, of modest length, no more than 5 cm above the knee and not rolled over at the top or tied at the back.
- Pupils arriving at the academy wearing incorrect skirts will be provided with a correct skirt or trousers by the academy to wear.

Other uniform reminders

- Logo'd jumpers are and will remain optional.
- Shoes must be smart, black and have no ornamental decoration.
- Jewellery (with the exception of one watch) is not permitted.
- All non-core uniform items can be purchased from any retailer including supermarkets to enable parents/carers to seek best value.

The academy will begin work with identified pupils wearing incorrect uniform during the remainder of the summer term including individual meetings and letters home where this

additional step is felt necessary. Where there are any repeated concerns around the length or style of skirts there will be consequences issued up to and including detention.

Second Hand Uniform

The DfE guidance also requires schools to offer second-hand uniform, where possible, and make it available to families that require it. Any spare or second-hand uniform can be donated back to the academy. Please consider over the summer term and summer holidays what second-hand uniform you could donate to the Academy. This second-hand uniform can be handed in at the academy reception at any time as it will be open over the summer break period. We will release details of how second-hand uniform can be acquired from the academy in due course and in advance ready for September 2022.

Next Steps

Ossett Academy and the wider Accord Multi Academy Trust are committed to continually reviewing the support we are able to offer our parents/carers in response to the rise in the cost of living. Whilst our preferred suppliers for core uniform remain as detailed on the academy website for the forthcoming academic year; please be advised that in line with the DfE guidance, we will be running a competitive tender process over the next twelve months for our uniform supplier for September 2023. Once this is completed, we will provide details of this in the Spring term of 2023.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S Broome". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Samantha Broome
Principal