



Date: 31 August 2021

Orchard Mead Academy
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Dear Parent/Carer

Executive Principal: Mr M Oldman

I'm writing to you to provide clarity over the next steps of enforcing our changes to the school uniform policy. Since taking over as Principal this term, I am aware of 3 separate communications issued to parents/carers regarding school shoes, and whilst I wholeheartedly agree with the change to school shoes, I have decided to make some flexible changes.

Previously you were told that for pupils not in uniform as of 31st August, they would be removed into isolation until they arrived to school in the correct uniform. Having listened to a group of parents and pupils I have decided that this will not be the case. Instead we will issue a 1hr detention after school for those not in the correct uniform. These pupils will receive a letter home asking them to state the date that they are able to purchase school shoes; this will be kept on file and year heads will check in on pupils on this date. Failure to arrive on this day in the correct uniform will trigger a parent meeting with me.

If there any issues of hardship or worries over financial implications, please contact the school on the below email address. This will be treated with confidentiality and sensitivity – we want to support you.

uniform@orchardmead.uk

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

In essence, we want to support you in buying affordable, good quality clothing for school which your children accept they have to wear because the rules are very clear. We want to make it easier for parents and help reduce any issues there may be over what is and isn't acceptable uniform.

Lastly, in order for pupils at our school to achieve their potential, we all need to be working together. I am a fair person and want to engage with our community to drive standards up and make Orchard Mead the best school it can possible be. In order to do that I need your full support in striving to achieve the best for your children.

Yours sincerely

Mark Oldman
Executive Principal



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