ORCHARD MEAD ACADEMY

Orchard Mead Academy
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Head of School: Ms K Lowe
Executive Principal: Mr T Hague

Dear Families,

At Orchard Mead, our uniform is an important part of our school identity. It helps our pupils feel that they belong to our school community and shows the high standards we expect of everyone. Our school lanyard is especially important. It is a security measure that helps us identify our pupils and keep everyone safe. It is also used to access school lunches. We understand that some families may find it difficult to provide all items of uniform at times. We want every pupil to feel that they belong and are ready to learn. We are therefore taking the following steps to support families while making sure our expectations are clear.

1. Our uniform expectations

- All pupils are expected to wear the correct uniform, which includes:
- School blazer or school jumper.
- White collared shirt.
- School tie.
- School lanyard.
- School skirt or grey/black trousers (not leggings).
- All-black shoes.

2. A week of support: 9–13 November

During the week of 9–13 November, staff will check uniform and speak to pupils who are missing items. Our aim during this week is to understand what support may be needed and help pupils get the correct uniform.

If your child needs an item of uniform, please contact the school. We will do our best to help.

3. Full uniform from Monday 16 November

From Monday 16 November, all pupils must arrive in full uniform and wear it throughout the school day. To help us check this, pupils must line up outside the school gates each morning:

KS3: Science side of the school

KS4: Building side of the school.

Gate staff will check that pupils are wearing the correct uniform. Pupils who are not in full uniform will be stopped, and we may contact home to help resolve the issue.

If the problem cannot be sorted that day, the pupil will be given a one-day uniform exemption card. This allows them to attend school while the issue is put right. We will expect the correct uniform to be worn the following day.

If this is not possible, please contact us so that we can discuss how to help.

4. Uniform exemption cards and Oath Points

- We want to be clear about what happens when pupils do not meet our uniform expectations:
- Pupils who arrive in incorrect uniform will lose one Oath Point.
- Pupils given an exemption card must keep it with them throughout the day and show it to staff when asked.
- If a pupil cannot show their exemption card, they will lose a further one Oath Point for each lesson.

5. Lanyards and lunch

- Pupils must wear their school lanyard and have it with them every day.
- The lanyard is both a security measure and a way of accessing the school lunch service. Pupils who arrive without their lanyard or exemption card will only be able to access a limited lunch menu. This reflects the importance of having the correct identification and systems in place.
- Repeated failure to follow uniform expectations will lead to a more serious sanction. We will contact parents and carers about this through our usual communication channels.

Working together - We want every pupil to feel proud to wear their Orchard Mead uniform and to be part of our school community. We also understand that families can sometimes face difficulties, and we are keen to work with you to resolve these.

Please contact the school if you need help with any item of uniform. We would much rather know about a problem so that we can support you than have a pupil arrive without the correct uniform.

Thank you for your support in helping us maintain the high standards that make Orchard Mead a safe, welcoming and purposeful place to learn.

Kind regards,
Ms K Lowe
Head of School