



**The Priory School**

Headteacher: A Pope BA (Hons) PGCE MA  
Longden Road, Shrewsbury,  
Shropshire, SY3 9EE

01743 284000  
info@tpstrust.co.uk  
www.tpstrust.co.uk

24<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our uniform consultation closed on 11<sup>th</sup> June, and we received 85 responses from parents and carers with regard to the proposals; this is approximately 10% of our parental body. We also received feedback from students and consulted with School Parliament as well as involving staff. The principle behind these changes is driven by equality in that we wanted to move to one uniform for all. We also wished to address some issues around cost and availability of supplier as well as move to a style of skirt with an improved fit and length – all, of these matters had previously been raised by students and some parents over the past year.

The majority of parents were in favour of the proposed changes, but we have taken a considered approach to the constructive feedback offered by all groups. Uniform is incredibly important for us at Priory and underpins our ethos, values, and emphasis on how students should approach life at school. I understand there are differing opinions on this correlation but through my personal experience in many different educational settings, uniform does set the tone for expectations around conduct, behaviour, and attitudes; this in turn impacts on the smooth running of lessons and the atmosphere within the school. We will continue to place a high emphasis on students wearing it correctly and well and your continued support in this respect is very much appreciated.

We consulted around moving to a school shirt and tie for all and introducing a less expensive school skirt available directly through school. We also consulted on students wearing the Skort as part of the PE kit, something which we had temporarily removed this year.

The issues raised revolved around the feeling that a tie was too masculine for all, that the introduction of a new skirt would be too expensive when new ones had recently been purchased. Some, especially students, wanted the introduction of a blazer, however we feel this would be too expensive an addition, especially in the current climate. There were some suggestions over a black skirt available from supermarkets but experience of uniforms where this is included lend themselves to greater variation in quality and length of skirt.

We have therefore decided to make some small changes:

- School skirt – the new, less expensive style will be available from school for this September should parents wish to purchase it. We have acted upon parental feedback and have ensured it has a discrete zip pocket. **This will replace the 4-pleat skirt from September 2022, not this September.** In the interim if a skirt is still knee length, it can still be worn.

- School shirt and tie can be worn by all, if they choose to, and the reverse blouse will also remain but there is no distinction between girls' and boys' uniform. If a school shirt, rather than a blouse, is to be worn it will need to be with a school tie.
- Black school trousers still available for all to wear.
- School PE shorts or plain black leggings or jogging bottoms to be worn for PE lessons, a Skort of an appropriate length can be worn if the child has not grown their current item, but it should not be worn if it is too short. There will be a further review of the PE kit as there were some good suggestions around choice of tops and cost which the PE department would like to consider into next term.
- The wearing of black leather or leather like school shoes (not boots, trainers or black trainers with logos) will remain.

For those families who have already purchased items of uniform **there is no obligation to change at this stage** unless they wish to move to the shirt and tie or the new skirt. Hopefully, this, addresses concerns around cost and environmental impact raised.

As always, we will continue to provide support with the cost and purchase of items of uniform for our pupil premium students. Please contact our student support team via [info@tpstrust.co.uk](mailto:info@tpstrust.co.uk) who will be able to help you with this process. We also have a good stock of high quality donated uniform items from parents. Student support will continue to organise this but in addition we have had some very welcome volunteers from the parental body who will assist with a uniform stall. When we are able to organise and host these, we will provide further details. If you have items you would like to donate, please let student support know.

Please note from September we are hoping the government guidance will allow us to open the PE changing rooms again. This does mean that the main school uniform will be worn each day, with PE kit to be brought in for PE lessons. The wearing of trainers and various items of sport wear has led to a loosening of uniform standards, and we would like to return to a more standardised approach.

### **New School Skirt**

Please find attached the price list and image of the new style of school skirt if you wish to move to it. You can place your order and make payment via your child's Parent Pay account. Using the table of sizes and prices calculate the cost of your order. When you select the item on ParentPay the amount to pay will default to £12.95. Amend this amount to the value you have calculated. You then need to complete the compulsory comments box by adding the size and quantity of each size that you need.

We are purchasing based on orders and so to ensure delivery of these skirts before the end of the school year there is a short and strict deadline for payment which must be made by **9am Monday 5<sup>th</sup> July**. Please enter information carefully and ensure the value of the order matches the amount paid.

Skirts will then be delivered, via your child's form teacher.

If you miss this date, you can still order this style of skirt over the holidays, directly from [www.Trutex.com](http://www.Trutex.com). The price is slightly higher, and you may incur delivery charges.

Once back at school, the skirt will be available to purchase by completing an online order form which will be published on the website from September.

All of the above is subject to stock levels at Trutex.

Our consultation has enabled us to listen to views of a many people and as a result our decisions are informed by these viewpoints. We will continue to listen to input from all stakeholders as we move into the autumn term and may return to this at a later stage.

Kind regards

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

Mrs A Pope  
**Headteacher**