



December 2019

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Marshland School Uniform

We are writing to you, following our initial consultation surrounding the school uniform, to share a summary of the feedback that we have received.

Affordability

One of the most expressed concerns by students and parents related to affordability of uniform, and felt that whatever the uniform worn, it needs to be affordable.

- Some felt the current indicative prices of the proposed uniform changes would be too costly, others did not find any difficulty with the indicative costs.
- Some expressed that they were pleased that the school will provide financial support for some families, whilst other parents/carers expressed they were unhappy with this, as they felt it was unfair that they may have to pay the cost of a new uniform when others receive a subsidy.
- Some parents/carers felt the school should not use its funding to subsidise a change in school uniform. Some suggested that the school purchase a free jacket/blazer for every student as other schools have done.
- Another suggestion was to stagger the change over time to limit the cost burden.

Colour

Some respondents expressed they did not support a wholly grey uniform. They felt the design was drab and outdated. Concerns were expressed by some about the grey showing up marks too easily and that this colour may make students look 'washed-out'. There was also some concern that the brighter blue blazer would make students look like they were from a well-known holiday company. Several views stated the uniform would be too similar to that worn by children attending a private school. In contrast, other respondents expressed they were very supportive of the colour and style. They thought the grey looked lovely, very smart, formal and tidy. Others proposed to keep either the current black, change to navy, or possibly adopt a two-tone uniform.

Blazers

Parents/carers expressed their support for the introduction of a blazer, albeit there were mixed views about what colour this should be. They felt it would make the uniform smarter, particularly given uniform worn by other schools. Some expressed they would like a shorter fitted blazer for girls, whilst others preferred longer length blazers. Some responses expressed that they did not see a need for a blazer. Some felt the current uniform washes well but a blazer may not and may be uncomfortable to wear.

Skirts and Trousers

Some respondents expressed the wish to have a free choice of skirt or trouser from whatever supplier they wished. Reasons included being able to choose the size and style to suit their needs, or achieve value for money. Other parents/carers expressed their understanding for consistency with skirts and trousers and wanted this addressing. Some went as far as to express their unhappiness at parents that allowed their child to attend school in uniform that did not meet school policy. If the uniform were to change, there were requests that a specific skirt or trouser be chosen, or that skirts were removed completely from our uniform.

There were mixed views about pleated skirts. Some really liked the idea, understanding that it would help prevent girls from rolling their skirt up to a shortened length. Some stated they liked the tartan, whilst others felt this was outdated. Worries were expressed around pleated skirts blowing up on a windy day, or that they would be difficult and time-consuming to iron.

Other Considerations

Other thoughts shared with us included:

- Some wanted to keep clip-on ties; others wanted to remove them and replace with traditional ties.
- We received contrasting views about the design of the school tie.
- Some liked the sleeveless jumper option. Others wanted this to be compulsory, whilst some did not want a sleeveless jumper.
- There were requests to consider changing from a white shirt to a navy/blue shirt.
- Some expressed the need to take account of children's physical growth when deciding on the style and cost of uniform.
- Another important consideration was for the school to take account of exceptional medical needs for specific children. For example, severe eczema or mental health / anxiety / body image concerns.
- Ideas were also shared around the environmental impact and social costs. Suggestions were made around introducing a recycling scheme for school uniform.

Some parents/carers and students expressed a wish to keep the existing uniform with no change at all. Others felt and understood the need for a change and were supportive of change.

We would like to take this opportunity of thanking all those who engaged constructively in this initial consultation on the uniform proposals. I read every single response personally. We very much appreciate the time, consideration and effort you made.

It is our hope that you will see from the content of this letter, that we have received a diverse range of views and that we are being transparent regarding the feedback you have provided. We also recognise that the significant majority of parents/carers with children registered at our school have not felt a need or a desire to express their views.

We are currently reflecting on this feedback before considering any further consultation, next steps and/or decision.

Yours faithfully



Craig Jansen
Headteacher