

From: Alistair Stubbs
Sent: 26 July 2021 22:46
To: Ryland, Tania (EPS - EBPG)
Subject: Re: school Uniform Policy

Good Evening Tanya

I hope you are well. I have been forwarded your email and hopefully I can help you to respond to the query that was sent to you.

Clearly you are aware that we have a uniform change that is due to be implemented in September 2021. The first uniform change at Elfed High School in over 25 years. As part of our implementation, and in line with Welsh Government guidance, we have suggested that September 2021 will be a transitional year in order to aid affordability.

Since announcing the introduction of the new uniform in February, following the decision of the governing body, we were very pleased to see that the Welsh Government extended the PDG Access grant to include Years 8, 9 and 11 in its eligibility criteria. This supported affordability considerably.

In addition to this, the school have made available a Hardship Grant to support ANY family who find any aspect of the uniform cost-prohibitive. In doing this, we have been able to support in excess of 100 families. This was communicated to all parents on numerous occasions and was open until 16th July. The reason for the closing date was simply administrative, to ensure that we could inform our suppliers in advance of our administrative staff not in work during the 6 weeks of the summer holidays.

I have made it clear to all parents that it is my wish for all students to return in September in the new uniform. However, if students opted to remain in the previous uniform, as long as it was full and correct, there would be no issues with this.

Where students do retain their old uniform, we will be working closely with the families to see if there are financial reasons for this. What I will be avoiding is any situations where the wearing of the previous uniform is an act of defiance rather than a sustainable decision, which I would fully support.

All of this has been communicated on numerous occasions to parents. Our uniform policy on our website has always reflected the expectations around the new uniform and this clarity is important for our community.

We have an excellent school and a very supportive community. Change is always a challenge but our governing body have gone above and beyond to ensure that any family who needs the support will receive it.

I hope that helps you better understand the current situation. Happy to answer any questions.

Take care
Alistair



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