

1<sup>st</sup> November 2021

Dear Parents

As you are aware, the governors have held a recent consultation regarding Ropley CE Primary School's uniform policy. Government guidance states that school uniform policy must be reviewed regularly to make sure it is fit for purpose and meets the most recent government guidance and legal requirements. More information regarding this can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-law-to-make-school-uniform-costs-affordable-for-all> In line with this directive, the consultation asked for your input on the colour, affordability, range and ease of purchase of our current school uniform. Parents were given the opportunity to email or meet face to face with governors on the uniform subcommittee.

Taking parental views and Government legislation into account, the governors found that the current school uniform **does not** satisfactorily meet the revised government requirements. It is, therefore, not compliant on the grounds of affordability, equality and accessibility. Some items of uniform are not readily available and do not represent value for money. Additionally, some items of clothing cannot be sourced for both girls and boys, which is also not compliant.

The items causing the most dissatisfaction are the brown trousers and shorts. In order to rectify this the decision was taken to change the plain brown items to charcoal grey. Charcoal grey items of school uniform are readily available and represent value for money. There is a significant cost difference between brown clothing and the more widely available grey equivalent.

Governors considered the mixture of charcoal grey trousers and the existing brown jumpers/cardigans. Governors unanimously agreed that this colour combination is not aesthetically pleasing. As this change is a long term decision and not a 'quick fix', the Governors all agreed to change the brown jumper colour to royal blue.

The Governors appreciate that this change will receive mixed feelings from the community as the Ropley colour of brown holds a dear heritage to many for several different reasons. It is however, essential that the school complies with the revised Government policy for school uniform. The Governors are sure that the new uniform policy is not only very much in line with legislation but also will become a smart uniform that the whole community will be proud of.

There will be systems put in place to ensure the redundant uniform can be worn for a reasonable period before being recycled or reused by others. The new uniform options will cover a range of demands from polyester to cotton and 50% recycled material. The blue polo shirts and summer dresses remain unchanged.

**In summary the Ropley school uniform will be:**

Charcoal grey trousers, shorts, skirts, pinafores, tights, socks etc. Pale blue polo shirt (with or without logo), Royal Blue jumper or cardigan (with or without logo), blue gingham summer dresses and black shoes.



APPRECIATION ❤️ BELONGING ❤️ COMPASSION

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SCHOOL  
MEMBER



**Headteacher Miss S Vittle B Ed (Hons)**

We will introduce the new uniform in January 2022. Our expectation is that our new 2022 Year R children will wear the new colours and all other children will have the rest of the year to outgrow the old uniform ready for all children to be in the new colours by September 2023.

Governors received input from over 17 families. Although some families wanted to keep the uniform as it is, the majority of these families wanted to change the uniform for various reasons. All parents praised the second-hand uniform facility for its reasonable cost and plentiful stock. Below are some of the details given in your input and how they have shaped the decisions reached by the governing body:

**You said it was very hard to get boys brown shorts, trousers suitable for girls and brown tights.** *We will require trousers, shorts, skirts, pinafores, socks and tights to be charcoal grey. This is easy to find in many different shops, for both boys and girls, is of good value for money and meets the legal requirements of our uniform.*

**You said you were proud of the brown colour as it was unique to Ropley:** *We recognise that the historical choices were valid at the time and ones that we can be proud of. The uniform has been of good quality and different from other schools in colour. However, supply, demand and up to date government guidance means we need to ensure our uniform is easily available and means changing from brown to royal blue and dark grey. None of the schools in the 7AS have royal blue as their colour, so this will still be unique to Ropley, in our area.*

**You said you were concerned that the current jumpers and cardigans were of poor quality and the production and recycling would lead to a negative effect on the environment:** *We will source cotton rich jumpers or recycled content jumpers and offer a valid recycling service for uniform that can no longer be worn. The new uniform will be phased in with any pupil able to wear it from the Spring term 2022, new starters wearing it from September 2022 and a year for all others to outgrow their existing uniform. NB: Cotton jumpers are more expensive than cotton/acrylic jumpers and so we are offering parents a choice.*

**You said you were proud of the Ropley Wheel:** *We will ensure that the wheel remains a symbol for the school with its history and meaning shared with the children. There will continue to be optional logo'd jumpers, cardigans, polo shirts, PE T shirts and hoodies in our uniform list.*

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. It contains important information that will affect all families. Rest assured you do not need to go out and immediately purchase the new uniform. As and when your child out grows their current uniform, the new uniform will be ready for you to purchase in the usual way from our current supplier, Skoolkit, or from many other outlets, such as Asda, Sainsburys, Marks and Spencer, for example. If you would like to make any comments regarding this decision, please email the Governors directly on [uniformpolicyreview@gmail.com](mailto:uniformpolicyreview@gmail.com)

Yours sincerely  
The Governors of Ropley CE Primary School