

# Meopham School

## A Member of Swale Academies Trust

Headteacher: Mr E Roberts BA Hons. PGCE NPQH



Wrotham Road Meopham Kent DA13 0AH

Tel: 01474 814646

Website: [www.meophamschool.org.uk](http://www.meophamschool.org.uk)

26th June 2026

Dear parents and carers,

We hope this letter finds you well.

At Meopham School, we are committed to promoting a culture of high standards and expectations which our young people will take with them into adult life. As I am sure you will agree, the smartness with which one dresses and presents themselves makes a clear statement about their character and attitude. It is vital we instil this value in our young people.

A smart and consistent uniform provides parity amongst all students, fosters a strong sense of school identity, and ensures a culture of formality and pride. Educational research shows that the schools with the best outcomes consistently focus on high standards in every aspect of school life - including uniform.

As you are aware, this week we adapted our school uniform - permitting the wearing of PE kit as an alternative during the very hot weather - however as we return to more normal temperatures next week, we will be returning to our standard summer uniform i.e. everything except blazers.

As we get towards the end of the summer term, typically schools see a decline in uniform, however at Meopham School, we are committed to keeping our high standards until the end of the school year, and indeed preparing for high standards in the year ahead.

To maintain these standards, **we are continuing with our high uniform expectations throughout the remainder of this academic year.** We do not expect families to buy new uniform before the summer break - we have plenty of spare uniform for those who need it - but we do want to make clear that our expectations remain high until the very last day of school.

### What will the high expectations look like?

We check for the standard of uniform in four different ways during the school day:

1. **School gate** - in the morning, leaders will meet and greet all students and support them to make any corrections needed for their uniform. Students are reminded on the walk down to the gate to correct uniform. If by the time they reach the gate this is not corrected, students will receive a C3 detention. **Any student that would rather enter the school via a quieter entrance where they can correct their uniform with a member of staff can do so via an entrance by the Killick building, opposite Busy Bees nursery.**
2. **Line ups** - each week, students will take part in line-ups with their form tutors and pastoral team to check uniform standards and deliver key messages. Any students with incorrect uniform will be asked to correct it by moving to the *side*, into the high expectations line. No students are brought to the front for uniform infringements.
3. **Classroom threshold** - we know that, throughout the school day, students' uniform will vary - particularly as they enjoy Break and Lunch and move around. Whilst we appreciate students won't always have perfect uniform in the corridors, they will be prompted to correct uniform by staff, and by the time they reach the threshold of their class, they should have corrected all uniform issues. Their teachers will meet

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and greet them to check their uniform is ready for learning. Students who have not corrected their uniform by this point will receive a C3 detention, but they will receive reminders in corridors - by staff - to ensure this can be avoided.

4. **Break and Lunch queues** - we appreciate at Break and Lunch, uniform is sometimes a little more relaxed, within reason. However, staff on duty points will still confiscate items that are inappropriate for school e.g. jewellery, airpods and phones.

If students are repeatedly ignoring uniform standards, after multiple opportunities to meet our expectations, they will unfortunately receive an escalated consequence - such as a C4 detention - as we would consider this to be defiance of school rules, rather than a uniform infringement.

## New Policy Update: Piercings, Bags and Summer Uniform

Following a review, we have decided to amend our uniform policy in response to feedback from students:

- **As of Monday 22nd June**, the school moved to **summer uniform**. This means - on a normal day - students are expected in full uniform, *except blazers*. During the hot week last week specifically, students were allowed to make further adjustments to the uniform i.e. we had no ties on Monday and PE kit for the rest of the week. *This was a temporary measure due to extreme heat. Moving forward, as temperatures return to normal levels, we are returning to normal summer uniform i.e. full uniform except blazers.*
- **As of Monday 29th June**, students are permitted to wear **one plain silver or gold stud in each ear**. *No hoops, diamante, drop-earrings, or spacers are acceptable.*
- All other piercings, unnatural hair colours, and inappropriate false nails or eyelashes remain strictly unacceptable.
- **From September 2026**, all students will require a plain black rucksack-style school bag, capable of holding A4 exercise books, as all students will be expected to take their exercise books to and from school.

Of course, getting used to any new change within a school takes time, and we intend to provide our students with plenty of time to process these new changes and practise getting this right.

## Uniform Standards - Timeline

Please note the following dates for implementing our plan to continue raising uniform standards:

- **Week of 6th July (Trial Week):** Students' uniform will be regularly checked and they will be reminded about any uniform infractions, but **no consequences** will be issued. This is a grace period for students to correct any issues.
- **Week of 13th July (New System in Place):** The sanction system begins. Any student arriving at the school gate / arriving to the classroom or on a Line Up with incorrect uniform—including **trainers, no blazer/tie, wearing jewellery, incorrect skirt length, long/sports socks or false nails or eyelashes**—will immediately be issued a **C3 consequence** upon arrival. Those uniform infringements that cannot be removed will result in students being placed in SSP (Student Support Provision). *As mentioned above, we have plenty of clean, spare uniform in school if you are*

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*concerned that your child has outgrown uniform but you do not wish to purchase more before the summer holidays.*

- **Important Note on Defiance (C4 consequence):** If a student is issued a C3 for a uniform issue that *can* be easily rectified (e.g. removing a non-compliant item or putting a tie back on) and they choose to revert back to the incorrect uniform, a **C4 consequence** will unfortunately be applied for non-compliance.

### Reminder of our Uniform Expectations

- **Summer Blouses:** They are no longer part of the school uniform.
- **Shirts & Ties:** Shirts, with a top button done up, must be worn with the Meopham School tie. Shirts must be tucked in at all times.
- **Footwear:** School shoes must be plain black and from **non-sports brands**. No trainers or shoes with sports logos are permitted.
- **Skirts:** Skirts must be approaching the knee and **must not be rolled at the waist**. We reserve the right to direct students to wear trousers if skirts are persistently worn too short.
- **Bags & Equipment:** All students must have a **plain black rucksack-style school bag** to carry their essential equipment. At a minimum, students require: black/blue writing pens, a green pen, a ruler, an eraser, a pencil and a scientific calculator.
- **Socks:** These should be **black ankle length** socks and **not knee high**. This includes wearing long socks pulled down and leg-warmer style socks.

To help students be successful in meeting our high expectations, parents and carers are welcome to provide feedback on how we can best support their child by completing this survey:

<https://forms.gle/1RAkPhtYGcfQeCYY9>

Whilst we expect all students to meet our uniform standards, we will take a sensitive approach to individual cases to ensure they can be successful.

We look forward to seeing all of our students wearing their Meopham uniform with smartness and pride, reflecting our commitment to develop our students into excellent young people, ready for the demands of adult life.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs H. Davies-Lane and Mr A. Wood  
Assistant Headteachers - KS3 and KS4 Conduct and Welfare Leads