



## Ackworth Howard Church of England (VC) Junior and Infant School

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**Educating 'for life in all its fullness.'**

Growth in MIND, BODY, SPIRIT

19<sup>th</sup> April 2021

### Parent Consultation – School Uniform (PE) Proposal

Dear Parents/Carers

We want the children who attend Ackworth Howard School to feel they belong and have a real sense of pride in their school. Wearing a uniform goes a long way to help prepare children for the school day and supports their positive participation in the life of the school. Our uniform is an outward sign of the schools' identity within the community both locally and further afield which includes sporting events and competitions.

It is our intention to propose a change to our current PE uniform at the next Governing body meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021. Before we do this, we want to consider the views of parents/carers and pupils.

As it currently stands, pupils in all age groups come to school in formal uniform every day and get changed in to PE uniform for PE lessons and sporting competitions. Our proposal is to change this so that pupils attend school in active wear on PE days (not forest schools) and for sporting competitions. Active wear would include: school hoodie, school PE shirt (dri-fit technical shirt), tracksuit bottoms and trainers.

This change has been implemented by many schools around the country prior to Covid, but restrictions as a result of the pandemic have increased the number of schools moving to this model. We believe that this change would benefit pupils and parents/carers, whilst maintaining the formal identity of our uniform.

The benefits include:

- An increase to the time pupils undertake PE as they wouldn't need to get changed before and after lessons. It currently takes 20 minutes out of an hour long lesson on average across school.
- Pupils/parents would not need to pack a PE bag on PE mornings.
- A reduction in the number of lost items of clothing as pupils will not be removing them.
- Schools that have made the change to active wear already have reported an increase in physical activity at breaktimes.
- A reduction in the amount of equipment in cloakrooms and lockers.
- Pupils would be more likely to associate physical activity with these days.

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- Parents would have more time to wash school uniform as they will wear school uniform three days a week and active wear twice a week.
- The amount of space in school to get pupils to change in separate gender areas has reduced and this makes it extremely difficult to keep genders separate in key stage 2. By removing changing, this problem would be solved.
- It would bring awareness to school competitions and pupils competing for school. At local authority competitions it creates a sense of identity amongst pupils as a team, rather than the ordinary white t-shirt.
- It would address the anxieties that some pupils have about getting changed for PE, increasing the likelihood that these pupils have positive experiences with physical activity.

As part of the proposed change, pupils in Reception to Year 6 (2021-2022 academic year) would all receive a free PE shirt so that we would be able to support the implementation of any changes.

We would really appreciate your views on this before we make any proposals. You can do this by clicking the link to our ['parent consultation survey.'](#)

The survey asks that you select from three scenarios:

1. Stick with the current PE and sports uniform policy.
2. Implement the active school wear policy, with pupils required to wear a technical PE shirt, with school logo (first shirt provided free by school). Consistent colour but no logo required for the tracksuit bottoms, shorts and hoodie.
3. Implement the active school wear policy, with pupils required to wear all PE kit with school logo on it. This includes: tracksuit bottoms, shorts and hoodie.

Thank you for taking the time to read through the information within this letter. If you have any questions you would like to discuss before completing the survey, please do contact us. We really do believe that the benefits we have discussed make this a change worthy of strong consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Mr M Walker

Headteacher



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