



## Penyrheol Comprehensive School

### School Uniform – Frequently Asked Questions

Some elements of our school uniform are changing for September 2018. There is a lot of information and misinformation circulating in the local community. This FAQ sheet will give you the correct information. If you have any further questions or are uncertain about anything, please do get in touch via the school phone number: 01792 533066.

#### ***Why is the school uniform changing?***

It is more than 20 years since the Penyrheol Comprehensive School uniform was last changed. Over those years, pupils have made various requests for changes (e.g. the most common being a request to be able to wear shorts in the Summer Term). In the last two years in particular, an increasing number of young people are breaking our current uniform code by not wearing school uniform trousers/skirts to school. Certain retail chains are including items as 'school uniform' which are not smart or appropriate. For all these reasons, we decided to undertake a full review of our uniform in 2017/18. This fact was communicated to parents and pupils in the Summer Term newsletter in July 2017.

#### ***What elements of the uniform are changing and what are staying the same?***

The majority of our uniform is remaining the same. White polo shirts and blue sweatshirts with the school crest on remain. Our PE kit remains the same. The only change is that what pupils wear on the lower half of their body will have to carry the Penyrheol trademark. This is to ensure that it meets the standards of smartness required of our uniform. We have also introduced shorts for boys (and are aiming to source shorts for girls for summer 2019) as an option at the request of Student Voice and have also agreed that black trainers can be worn as an alternative to black school shoes. The full information about our uniform, including images of what is and is not appropriate, is published on our website: [www.penyhreol-comp.net](http://www.penyhreol-comp.net). This information was emailed to parents in June 2018 and was followed up by a text message.

#### ***What is the Penyrheol trademark and why is this being introduced?***

The Penyrheol trademark is a unique indicator that has been patented with the UK government and is the property of the school for the next ten years in the first instance. This is being introduced because it is the only way to ensure that all pupils in the school are wearing our school uniform trousers/skirts/shorts. We notified parents of the trademark and how it would be used to distinguish our uniform in the Spring Term newsletter in March 2018.

#### ***Can I get the trademark embroidered on other trousers/skirts/shorts?***

No. The trademark is the property of the school and any manufacturer who embroiders it on to clothing either has to have the school's specific permission to do so or is in breach of trademark law. We have given permission for our two official suppliers, 'Picton Sports' and 'Sew and Sew' to place the trademark on specific trousers, skirts and shorts that have been selected by Student Voice from a range that was considered. There are at least two styles available for each item and a wide range of sizes. The trademark can't be added on to any other items or we will be straight back to the current situation we face where pupils are wearing many inappropriate styles of clothing to school.

***When can school uniform shorts be worn?***

School uniform shorts can only be worn during the Summer Term. We have been unable to source appropriate school uniform shorts for girls in time for the Summer Term 2018, but intend to have these available for the Summer Term 2019.

***Who has been consulted about the changes?***

The initial review was carried out in consultation with Student Voice, our School Council, and with Year Councils. Student Voice made three requests for changes (to allow black school shorts as an option to trousers/skirts, to allow black trainers as an option to black school shoes, and to introduce a blue school hoodie). These proposals were sent to parents and staff for consultation in November/December 2017. The results of these consultations were taken to governors in December 2017 and, after lengthy discussions, it was agreed to allow the black school shorts in the Summer Term and the black trainers as an option alongside black school shoes. It was agreed that we would not introduce a blue school hoodie as this was less smart, would increase costs and gave some health and safety concerns. There was no consultation with regard to placing our trademark on appropriate trousers/skirts/shorts as this was a non-negotiable element of the changes to our uniform, because this is the only way we can ensure that all pupils are wearing the correct uniform on the lower half of their bodies.

***Why are the trademarked trousers/skirts/shorts more expensive than ones you can purchase in large retail chains?***

Large retail chains are able to drive down prices through economies of scale, but they are also selling as school uniform items that are inappropriate and that are potentially of lower quality than the Penyrheol school uniform. Our new uniform trousers/skirts/shorts have been sourced from reputable manufacturers with long experience of supplying school uniforms across the UK. These items are smart and durable and represent good value for money.

***What if we are struggling to afford the new uniform trousers/skirts/shorts?***

We have made it clear that we will always look sympathetically on cases of genuine hardship. We are prepared to make a contribution towards trademarked items in any cases of genuine hardship. Parents can contact the school on 01792 533066 for a confidential discussion.

***Is the school gaining financially from these changes?***

No. The school has no financial arrangement with our suppliers and is not gaining financially from our uniform. As the school is prepared to make a contribution towards trademarked items for families experiencing financial hardship, we will be losing money. However, we believe that this will be money well spent to improve the smartness of appearance of our pupils and to save the time that is currently wasted dealing with uniform issues when staff would be better employed educating pupils.

***What will happen to pupils who aren't wearing the correct school uniform in September?***

Any pupil not wearing the correct uniform will be sent home to change and parents will be contacted. As with any school rules and sanctions, if a parent doesn't agree with them then they need to consider whether Penyrheol Comprehensive School is the right place for their child(ren) to be educated.