

Headteacher/Pennaeth
Alan Tootill

Tel: (01792) 533066
Fax: (01792) 533366



Pontarddulais Road
Gorseinon
SWANSEA
SA4 4FG

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Dear Parents / Guardians

School Uniform for 2019/20

You will be aware that we have carried out a full review of our school uniform this year following the concerns raised by some parents about some of the changes we made to our uniform for the 2018/19 academic year. This review has included consulting with parents, pupils, staff and governors.

There were three main concerns raised by parents:

1. The cost of certain items.
2. The range of sizes/fits that were available.
3. The inability of our suppliers to meet the demand for certain uniform items.

Our main suppliers of school uniform will continue to be *Sew and Sew* on Gorseinon High Street and *Picton's* in Dafen Industrial Park. We have worked well with these companies for many years and want to support local businesses where possible.

However, we are also partnering with two further suppliers and this should help to resolve the concerns that some parents raised last autumn. One supplier is MyClothing. This company used to operate under the Tesco brand, but it is now a standalone company. It operates an online service for embroidered polo shirts and sweatshirts and the items are cheaper than those provided by our main suppliers. The company's website is www.myclothing.com. The direct link to our uniform is <https://myclothing.com/ueslink/25906.school?t=1557762298121>. It has always been possible for parents to purchase plain white polo shirts from other retailers and then to have our main suppliers embroider the school crest on to them and some parents choose this route, which can also reduce costs.

The other supplier we are using is Asda, because it is local to our catchment area. We have agreed two pairs of trousers and a pair of shorts from the George uniform range in Asda as uniform options. Full details can be found on our website www.penyrrheol-comp.net and in the document that accompanies the emailed version of this letter. Asda will be displaying these in a Penyrheol section of its school uniform display. These items are significantly cheaper than the ones being sold by our main suppliers, but they will need the school logo to be embroidered on them by *Sew and Sew* or *Picton's*. Both of these companies



have stated that they are prepared to carry out this service free of charge if parents are purchasing other uniform items from them.

In December 2018 governors took the decision to allow pupils to wear the Penyrheol uniform shorts to school at any time of the academic year. Many pupils have taken up this option since then.

We are also making another change following our consultation, which is that grey and white socks can also be worn as part of our uniform as well as black socks. However, any tights being worn with skirts must be plain black ones.

A final change we are making for September is that our school uniform will be gender neutral. We won't be specifying certain items for boys and different ones for girls. This is in line with the latest school uniform guidance from the Welsh Government. This does not apply to PE kit.

The full details of our uniform changes, the styles that are available and further information about purchasing online can all be found on our website at www.penyrrheol-comp.net and in the document that accompanies the emailed version of this letter. Please take the time to have a look at this so that there is no uncertainty about what our uniform requirements are.

I am delighted that almost all of our pupils are coming to school in the correct uniform and looking very smart as a result. This is an important part of our ethos and has an impact on pupils' motivation and attainment. We are very grateful to all parents who support us in trying to sustain and improve our high standards at Penyrheol.

Finally, we already have a **swap shop** in school where pupils may be able to find second-hand uniform items free of charge. This year it hasn't included our trousers/shorts/skirts as these were newly introduced. However, Year 11 are now leaving us and we are requesting that they donate their uniform to the swap shop. We would also ask all parents to donate old uniform when children grow out of it so that it can be recycled and others can benefit from this.

Our local MP, Tonia Antoniazzi, is fully behind this initiative and her office next to the Gorseinon library will also stock uniform items from the swap shop. My grateful thanks go to Ms Antoniazzi for her support.

Yours faithfully



ALAN TOOTILL
Headteacher