



14th March 2022

Dear Parents

In line with [statutory guidance from the Department for Education](#), we have reviewed our School Uniform costs. In reviewing the guidance, we have considered the following factors and detail our responses to each of these below.

Accessibility

The guidance requires us to avoid single supplier arrangements and ensure that parents have options when purchasing school uniform. Since our school serves a wide catchment area across Nottinghamshire it is important that Parents can access a variety of suppliers who are conveniently located close to where they live. We do not have a preferred supplier agreement with any of our suppliers and uniform is available from the following shops:

- Hamiltons, Ilkeston
- Just Schoolwear, Arnold (also online)
- Schoolwear Solutions, Chilwell (also online)

We have previously offered a uniform fitting service in school for our new starters and we will continue to work with our suppliers to offer this going forward. In addition, we will be offering 'pop up shops' at these events and at set points throughout the year to ensure that you can try on and purchase items to take home the same day (if in stock) or have these delivered to school free of charge for convenience and cost effectiveness.

Cost

The guidance requires us to minimise the cost of compulsory or "branded" items of uniform. Our uniform providers have shared research by 'The Schoolwear Association' that the average cost of compulsory secondary school uniform and sportswear items is £93 per pupil. The total cost of branded items for a 'New Starter' (blazer, tie and PE Polo) uniform for The Kimberley School is £51.95 is well below this benchmark. Even with the addition of the School Skirt the total cost of branded items of the school uniform falls well below the national average.

Second-Hand Uniform

The guidance requires us to ensure that second-hand uniforms are available for parents to acquire. In order to address this Schoolwear Solutions will work with us to offer second hand uniform in their shop which will reduce the costs even further. More details on this will follow later this term.

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Environment

Currently the school blazer is only part recyclable (outer layer) and so we have worked with Schoolwear Solutions to offer an alternative for the same price which is fully recyclable. The offer of second hand uniform sales will support the environment by ensuring that items are reused. Information regarding how to donate outgrown uniform will follow shortly. All second hand uniform will be assessed on donation to ensure suitability for resale and these will be offered at competitive prices to our parents.

Parents' Consultation

We are required to engage with parents and pupils when developing school uniform policy. There are no plans to introduce any changes to the school uniform but parents and carers should be reassured that we will also engage in a full consultation if we do propose any changes.

Website

School uniform policy must also be published on the school's website. Parents and Carers can access this on this page of our website

<https://www.kimberleyschool.co.uk/uniform>

We have tried to make sure the information is clear and easily understood. However, if you need support or advice on what is acceptable in school then please do contact school reception who will make sure that your question is directed to someone who can help.

We trust that the above information outlines our commitment to ensuring that our uniform remains accessible and is cost effective for our families. If you have any comments or questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully



Kirsty Andrews

Business and Operations Manager