



Monday 27th March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

School Uniform – Important

At Barrow Hedges we strive for excellence and are frequently praised for the high standards that we set. Indeed, many parents and carers cite this as one of the reasons they choose our school for their child. Although this may seem insignificant, particularly in the midst of a cost of living crisis and after years of disruption due to the pandemic, we feel that is necessary to address the issue of school uniform with everybody.

School uniform is important for a number of reasons. It:

1. promotes pride, confidence and a feeling of belonging within the school community.
2. places children on a 'level playing field,' reducing the pressure to wear fashionable and/or branded clothing.
3. removes the additional pressure of deciding what to wear each day and, most items are widely available in many supermarkets, offering value for money.

Evidence also shows that when children wear a uniform, behaviour is improved as it sets a boundary by placing children in a 'learning mindset', helping them separate their home and school life.

At Barrow Hedges, prior to the pandemic, children would wear full school uniform each day and change into their PE kit, kept in their cloakroom for the half term, when required. While children were in 'bubbles' due to the Covid restrictions, we changed arrangements so that children wear their PE kit for the full day on which their lesson falls. This facilitated more frequent washing of clothes and prevented children changing in the classroom. Like many schools, we saw the benefit of these revised arrangements and continued with this post-pandemic. We continue to recognise the increased time for learning and being active in PE lessons rather than getting changed, as well as children preferring not having to get changed in front of their peers. Additionally, there are fewer items of PE kit in our lost property.

Unfortunately, we are noticing that a number of children are not wearing the correct uniform to school. Key issues are: boots instead of shoes; brightly coloured trainers; long sleeved, coloured tops underneath school uniform; leggings with skirts or dresses; heavily branded sportswear often of the wrong colour, and large, brightly coloured hair accessories. Another key issue is that many children appear to be wearing a mix of school uniform and PE kit, for example, school jumpers/cardigans with jogging bottoms on a PE day or trainers and white socks with school uniform.



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For all the reasons above, we have reviewed our guidelines in order to provide as much clarity as possible and with the aim of ensuring that all children are dressed in the correct uniform. Please note, the only change we have made is to no longer permit the wearing of black items for PE. It is far simpler all round for PE to be plain navy items (with the collarless white T-shirt) and this should allow for more consistency. Furthermore, plain navy items are affordable and widely available.

We do appreciate that there may be financial implications and as such, if your child is wearing black shorts, as per the current/previous guidelines, this will be permissible until the end of the academic year (July 2023). However, everything else on the guidelines below has always been stipulated and as such, children should have always worn these. Any instances of these guidelines not being followed will result in children being sent home with a slip indicating what they should be wearing so that parents can supply this. Should there be any difficulties in the purchasing of correct uniform, please do contact Miss Gardiner, our Family Support Worker, via the school office (office@barrowhedges.com).

Thank you to parents for your support and cooperation in this important matter. It is so important to maintain high standards in this regard, just as we do for the quality of education and children's personal development and wellbeing.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Louise Wood
Headteacher

UNIFORM GUIDELINES

We have a school uniform, which children wear with pride. We ask for parental support in ensuring that children come to school smartly dressed in school uniform each day.

Compulsory Items – Reception to Year 6	
School Uniform	
Girls	Boys
Grey pinafore dress, skirt or tailored trousers	Grey trousers or shorts
Light blue polo shirt	Light blue polo shirt
Barrow Hedges cardigan or sweatshirt	Barrow Hedges sweatshirt
Grey or white socks or grey tights	Grey socks
Black shoes – <u>no trainers or boots (not even plain black leather ones)</u> , open sandals, no heels, no lace-ups for Infants	Black shoes – <u>no trainers or boots (not even plain black leather ones)</u> and no lace-ups for Infants
SUMMER – blue & white gingham dress with sleeves	



School Bags

Reception and Key Stage 1 – Barrow Hedges book bag (please do NOT buy a rucksack until your child is in KS2.)

Key Stage 2 – Barrow Hedges rucksack or own choice of rucksack

PE Kit

Girls

Plain white T shirt or Barrow Hedges PE T shirt
 Plain (or minimally branded) navy shorts
 Plain (or minimally branded) navy jogging bottoms or leggings
 Plain (or minimally branded) navy hoodie/sweatshirt
 Plain trainers – trainers should be black, white or navy – no bright colours and simple in design

Boys

Plain white T shirt or Barrow Hedges PE T shirt
 Plain (or minimally branded) navy shorts
 Plain (or minimally branded) navy jogging bottoms
 Plain (or minimally branded) navy hoodie/sweatshirt
 Plain trainers – trainers should be black, white or navy – no bright colours and simple in design

Safety and presentation

We would prefer children **NOT** to wear earrings to school. **Earrings are NOT permitted for PE** or after school sports activities. Parents should apply tape over stud earrings which cannot be removed for PE/after school sport activities. On other days **a maximum of one pair of small plain studs** is permitted. No hoops or large studs and no dangly earrings please.

No other jewellery should be worn. In addition, nail varnish is **not** to be worn to school and long hair **must** be tied back at all times.

Hair bands to be blue, white, black or brown or natural hair coloured.

No large hair accessories should be worn e.g. large bows.

Cropped hair must be no shorter than grade 2.

No patterns should be shaved into the hair.

No temporary tattoos.

No visible 'base layers' or thermals.

T-shirts are to be tucked in during all lesson times and when inside the building.

Swimming

Swimming costume / swimming trunks or tighter fitting shorts (no large baggy shorts)

Swimming hat

Nursery

