

20 October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

## Re: Expectations in school

Half-term and other breaks in the school year provide a helpful opportunity to reset expectations to ensure that we maintain high standards of behaviour and learning in our school. To this end, I would politely ask parents/carers to review carefully the information in this letter with their child and proactively reinforce with them the 'ready, respectful, safe' expectations that we have at Springfield.

## School Uniform

Being 'ready' for school involves pupils wearing correct uniform every day, and in our Home-School Agreement we ask parents/carers to provide this and ensure that it is worn properly by their child. Full details of our [school uniform](#) are published on the school's website. In summary, pupils should wear:

- Trousers - smart, full-length, plain black and regular fit (leggings not allowed)
- Skirts - plain black and reaching the knees (stretch/jersey skirts not allowed)
- Shirts - plain white with collar suitable for our school tie
- Springfield tie
- Shoes - plain black leather (or equivalent) and suitable to 'take polish'
- Discreet make-up only (false eyelashes/nails not allowed)
- One pair of plain stud earrings only - any other visible piercing must be removed or have a clear 'retainer' stud in its place
- Extreme haircuts or unnatural dyed hair colours are not acceptable

If you have any queries about uniform, please contact your child's Tutor or Year Office Team.

## Mobile Phone Misuse

You may be aware that Gillian Keegan, the Education Secretary, announced on 2 October that [mobile phone use should be banned](#) across England to improve behaviour.

Our school policy on this is simple: pupils may bring a mobile phone to school but it must be switched off and stored securely in the pupil's school bag such that it is neither seen or heard at any time on the school site. This approach has been extremely helpful in reducing on-line bullying and distraction during lessons. The majority of our pupils manage this very well, but please be aware that staff will confiscate a pupil's mobile phone if misused and will require parents/carers to come to school to collect it the next day. Should a pupil refuse to hand over their mobile phone then the pupil will receive as a minimum one day in the school's isolation room. We would obviously rather avoid this and so as well as asking for your support with reinforcing this expectation with your child, we would also politely ask that parents/carers refrain from contacting their child's mobile phone during the school day.



## General Behaviour

A number of recent national reports have highlighted a concerning trend of more frequent and more serious instances of pupil indiscipline in UK schools, in particular following the return to full-time, on-site learning after the COVID-19 pandemic. Ofsted's Chief Inspector, Amanda Spielman, commented on this in a [recent speech](#).

While the underlying factors causing this trend can be debated, you will agree that it is essential that our pupils meet the school's behaviour expectations and follow school routines at all times. We require pupils to be respectful and not to behave in a way that might interrupt the learning or welfare of others. While the majority of our pupils behave exceptionally well each and every day, there are regrettably some incidences where this is not the case.

You will agree with me that swearing, rudeness, defiance and truancy from lessons are unacceptable behaviours and this message is made clear to pupils by staff on an on-going basis. Should your child engage in such behaviours then the school will apply its behaviour policy accordingly, which for serious incidents could include suspension or even permanent exclusion from school. Again, we would rather these measures were not required and so we ask for your unequivocal support in reinforcing these important messages with your child and, should your child make a mistake in school, that you respect and back the sanction(s) issued by staff.

These are important issues that the whole school community need to be aware of. That being said, I would use this opportunity to thank and praise the majority of our pupils who arguably do not need these reminders as they wear their uniform with pride, behave well and come to school keen to learn and progress. Well done!

We hope that you and your family are able to have some rest and relaxation over the coming half-term week; term starts again on Monday, 30 October.

Yours sincerely

Ms S F Spivey  
Headteacher, Springfield School  
CEO, The De Curci Trust

