



Dear Parent/Carer(s),

## **Formal consultation – Change to uniform rule: girls' skirts**

At Tuxford Academy we pride ourselves on having the highest expectations of our students. However, one area that still needs refinement is girls' skirts. The current uniform is a mid-grey, pleated skirt which is to be worn no more than 5cm above the knee. Unfortunately, the length of a girl's skirt is an ongoing challenge in schools across the country. Many staff spend too much time dealing with uniform infringements, sometimes causing unnecessary conflict which takes time away from learning.

Following an agreement by governors to address this matter, we intend to start a consultation with students and parents/carers to make an amendment to the uniform policy. Over the coming weeks, we will work with suppliers and our stakeholders to find an appropriate, affordable school skirt which will be introduced in five months' time for the new academic year, starting September 2017.

Initial discussions with students indicate that they welcome a new skirt and are happy for a change as long as all students are required to wear the same. Similar discussions have taken place with some parents who expressed relief that the skirt policy will now be 'uniform' with no debate over the style; we fully understand that skirts that fit in with our current policy are becoming increasingly difficult to source.

At this stage, the costs will depend on the design and quality of the skirt chosen but we will do all we can to ensure the skirt is affordable, good quality and easily available to buy. The chosen skirt will be a minimum of 20 inches in length but longer skirts will be available for taller students. The current policy of skirts being worn no more than 5cm above the knee will continue. We are confident that the combination of a standard school skirt and application of our uniform policy will minimise any further issues in the future.

Our school shop will stock this skirt, as well as other school wear providers approved by the Academy. We will also create a number of opportunities for parents and students to purchase the new skirt closer to September 2017.

If you have any concerns about the cost of the skirt, do not hesitate to get in touch with the Academy. We will do all we can to support parents and students during the transition of the uniform.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

**Mr D Vernon**  
**Academy Director**