

# RIPLEY ST THOMAS

CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

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Dear parent/carers,

## Uniform and Appearance

I am writing to you with information and guidance on our uniform and appearance policy, ahead of the half term break. We of course pride ourselves on how smart our young people look when they arrive at school. We want to work with you to ensure this is always the case as the 21-22 academic year continues.

School uniform plays an important role in establishing the ethos of a school and is strongly encouraged by the DfE. At Ripley we believe that our Uniform and Appearance policy benefits the school in a number of ways:

- It encourages pupils to identify with the school and nurtures the notion of community
- It protects children from social pressures to dress in a particular way
- It supports discipline and good behaviour
- It instils a sense of pride in the school
- It promotes more effective teaching and learning
- It is not a prohibitive factor for any family applying for admission to Ripley

The appearance of pupils is also an important factor at Ripley in promoting good behaviour and ensuring the health and safety of pupils and staff. The Uniform and Appearance Policy will be strictly enforced. Every opportunity will be given for pupils to conform to the uniform policy and rectify any identified issues.

The table below provides detailed guidance to be reminded of:

Aspect of Uniform and Appearance	Expectation/Acceptable
Haircuts	Haircuts must be neat and tidy and of natural colour. Long hair must be tied back, for safety reasons, in certain subject areas. Haircuts must not be shorter than a 'number 2' overall. Short hairstyles may be blended smartly and neatly down to a 'number 1' (but not shorter) <u>at the back</u> .
Jewellery	One wrist watch is allowed in school – no other jewellery is acceptable.
Skirts	Grey, pleated skirt with Ripley St Thomas logo. Skirts should sit on or just above the knee. Extremely short skirts or rolled up skirts are not acceptable.
Shoes	Traditional flat, black shoes. No trainers are allowed unless for a specific medical reason which has been verified following contact with school.
Socks and tights	Plain black ankle or knee-length socks. Plain black, opaque tights.

*Believe.....*

Skirts should be worn on or just above the knee. If your child has grown too tall for their current skirt please ensure they are equipped with a new one for their return after half term. We are assured there is now more stock available, however if you are struggling to get hold of a new skirt over half term, please do let us know. We have a small stock of new skirts in school that we are able to help out with.

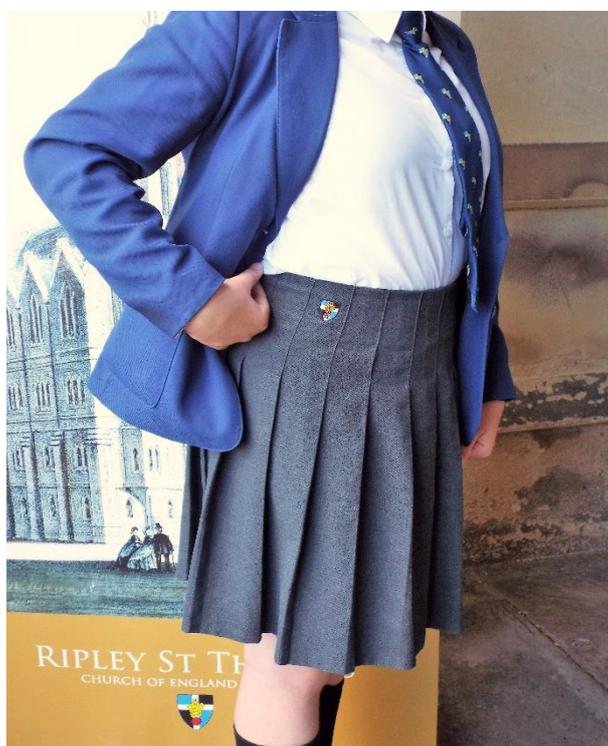
The academy is always the final arbiter of what constitutes appropriate and acceptable dress and appearance. Our experience is that we prevent misunderstandings by being very precise about our requirements. We will assist and support with any issues or queries surrounding the buying of new uniform ready for the next half term – please contact your child’s Progress Leader/Assistant Progress Leader in the first instance via Parentline. Attached are several visual examples of how uniform should look at Ripley St Thomas.

Yours sincerely,

Mr P. Wilson  
Senior Assistant Principal



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