

21 July 2021

Dear parents and carers,

As we come to the end of this unprecedented school year, our thoughts turn to the beginning of the new school year and the opportunities that come with all new beginnings. After such a turbulent year, we thought it was important to reassure you as parents and carers that at St Thomas More we continue to strive to establish and maintain a culture of high expectations and standards for the benefit of all learners. Uniform, attendance and behaviour are three of the key elements of this culture.

Uniform and equipment

Many of you will be ordering school items for your children so we thought it important to clarify our school policy on uniform and equipment. Throughout this school year, as part of our Recovery Curriculum, we took an approach to uniform that recognised the difficulties that some families have faced. This letter is to be clear that from September, our uniform policy will apply in full to all pupils. You can view the policy along with a full description of our uniform and equipment requirements on our website [here](#) where you will also find clear descriptions of suitable footwear. The School Support Fund is available to any families who may need it to help with uniform and equipment. Details are enclosed and can be found on our website [here](#).

Our policy on school uniform is based on the notion that school uniform:

- represents high standards and expectations;
- promotes a sense of pride in the school;
- generates a sense of community and belonging towards the school;
- is practical and smart;
- identifies the children with the school;
- prevents children from coming to school in fashion clothes that could be distracting in class;
- makes children feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance;
- is regarded as suitable wear for school and good value for money

We thank parents and carers for working with us to maintain high standards by providing and ensuring that pupils come to school in full uniform and fully equipped.

Attendance and punctuality

Over the course of this year, as a school community, we have managed to maintain relatively good levels of attendance despite the challenges of the pandemic. From September, we reset the clock on attendance. New government guidelines state that only pupils who test positive for Covid-19 should not attend school; close contacts will not be required to self-isolate. Our attendance policy can be viewed [here](#).

The school day will begin at 8.50am for all pupils. Pupils should arrive in good time so that they are in their form rooms ready to start the school day promptly at 8.50am. All pupils arriving after 8.50am will be marked late. Any pupils arriving after 9.10am should sign in at school reception. Late arrivals before 9.10am should go directly to their form rooms where they will be registered.



Behaviour Policy

This policy is key in our ambition to ensure high standards of behaviour through a culture of respect for oneself, for the school and for others, embracing the fact that we are all members of a wider multi-cultural and multi-faith community, whilst holding a strong sense of pride and belonging for our own school community. It also supports our mission to produce happy, healthy, successful and responsible global citizens of the future. Our behaviour policy can be viewed [here](#).

Your sincerely,



Aoife Galletly
Deputy Headteacher

