



19th December 2024

Behaviour and Standards Update – January 2025

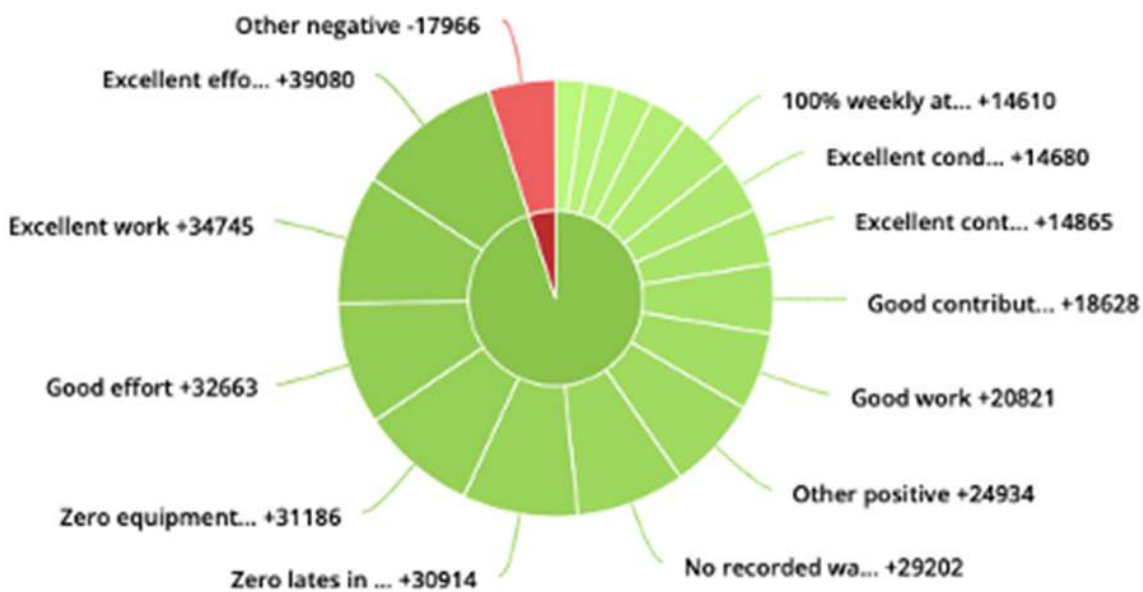
Dear Parents / Carers

As we approach the end of the first term and our thoughts turn to the upcoming festivities, we wanted to get in touch with you to share some behaviour updates and some important changes to systems from the New Year.

Overview

The vast majority of our students continue to do everything we ask of them and are a credit to you. All our students get things right, for a small minority, we want them to do that more often. The positive conduct policy has been successful for most of our students. 29,950 House Points have been spent on rewards this term and we enjoyed seeing over 500 students in years 8-11 attend rewards trips at Alton Towers, Flamingo Land and the Metro Centre in late September because of their good conduct last year.

As we head through the final week of term I am delighted to report that 95% of recorded behaviour in school is positive, with 343,342 House Points awarded in the first 14 weeks of the school year as the chart below demonstrates:



Updates/Changes for the New Year

Uniform and Equipment

Uniform is important for many reasons. It helps us safeguard our young people by recognising who should be on the site, it prepares them for future jobs that require uniform which could be the steel toe caps on a building site or the suit of a corporate setting and it helps them to settle into the mindset that when you come to school, you look smart and work hard. Arriving at school without the full and correct uniform can unfortunately be the first act of defiance for some young people and the first source of confrontation for members of staff. We therefore wish to ensure that this issue is addressed swiftly on a morning without conflict by supporting any student that does not arrive in full uniform to be able to borrow the correct items and continue their day.

From January 2025, students will not be able to start the school day without the correct uniform. Students with missing ties or wearing trainers will be loaned ties or shoes. Any student that refuses to loan an item will need the matter addressing by a parent or carer. This means that we will ask parents or carers to drop off any missing items or we will ask parents to collect them, correct their uniform and return them to school. Put simply, we don't want students going into lessons without the required uniform.

Our [uniform policy and expectations](#) are outlined on the school website and added as an appendix to this letter. It also details types of clothing that are not suitable so please check through this thoroughly if you are unsure and before making additional uniform purchases.

Being fully equipped is a prerequisite for going into lessons. Students should arrive at school with a bag which contains their equipment for lessons including their Chromebook and a water bottle. Tutors will provide basic equipment for students during tutor time and will continue to record the missing equipment in class charts. As a school we are going to request payment from parents for those children who persistently arrive at school without the necessary equipment.

Detentions

Detentions form an important part of the school sanctions system, providing an opportunity for students to reflect on the behaviour that has fallen below expectations. As a result of fewer students requiring this sanction we will be reducing the number of days that detentions operate from 5 to 3. From January 2025 detentions will operate from Tuesday to Thursday, this is for behaviour and homework detentions.

Reflection

Students are placed into our Reflection room for a variety of reasons, the main reason being that they have not attended an after-school detention. From January we are going to reduce the time spent in Reflection to half a day, with students attending either the AM or PM lessons, on the condition that they have behaved appropriately during the morning session and at break or lunchtime.



Summary

We are really pleased with the behaviour, attitude and respectful nature of the overwhelming majority of our students. For the minority who need additional guidance and who face sanctions as a consequence of their actions, the changes outlined above have been carefully considered to support them in making better choices. If you are concerned about your child's ability to meet the expectations and standards please contact your child's Head of Year for additional support and guidance.

Year 7	Mr Durham	sdurham@stokesley-alt.uk
Year 8	Mrs Dumphy Brook	Adumphybrook@stokesley-alt.uk
Year 9	Mrs Glickstein	cglickstein@stokesley-alt.uk
Year 10	Miss Mesley	hmesley@stokesley-alt.uk
Year 11	Mr Rayner	rrayner@stokesley-alt.uk
Year 12 and 13	Mr Dinsdale	jdinsdale@stokesley-alt.uk

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Kind regards



Mr James Burns
Senior Assistant Headteacher – Engagement and wellbeing



Appendix A: SCHOOL UNIFORM AND APPEARANCE

Our school uniform is important to us. It is one way in which we identify ourselves as a school family and it promotes a strong, cohesive school identity which supports high standards and expectations in all areas of school life. It promotes harmony between different groups represented in the school, and it enhances security, assisting the school to identify individual pupils in order to maintain good order, and to more easily spot those who shouldn't be on the school site.

High standards of appearance are expected at all times.

The school believes that a school uniform is important because it:

- looks smart
- wears well
- is cost effective
- contributes to a sense of belonging
- gives a common purpose
- fosters a feeling of pride
- reduces 'fashion competition' between children
- prepares students well for similar demands in the workplace in future years
- assists in safeguarding students by making them identifiable



All children should wear the uniform and we encourage them to maintain an acceptable standard of clean and tidy dress in school. It reflects the needs of the cultural traditions represented at Stokesley School. The uniform list sets out the details of the uniform that we expect students to wear and has been updated to reflect changes from 1st March 2023. Essentially, students must wear a blazer and year group tie supplied by our uniform supplier, in addition to a polo shirt for PE.

Our uniform supplier is: Michael Sehgal and Sons Ltd. Uniform can be purchased online at:

- www.michaelsehgal.co.uk
- Telephone: 0191 230 2320

THE CORRECT UNIFORM

- **From September 2024:** The tie colours for each year group are: Y7 orange; Y8 green; Y9 blue; Y10 red; Y11 purple. Ties are supplied by our uniform supplier.
- School blazer that must be worn at all times.
- Optional black v-neck knitted sweater. If a jumper is worn a blazer must be worn as well.
- A plain white school shirt (long-sleeved or short-sleeved) that can be buttoned to the collar (shirt should be buttoned at the top).
- School trousers must be black and full length. We appreciate that the fit of these can be difficult to judge. Slimmer fitting trousers will be allowed but they must be full length and have the attributes of trousers such as pockets, buttons and zips. We will not accept leggings or jeans material.
- Skirts must be black, pleated, formal, approximately knee length. If a skirt is to be worn, then plain black tights (minimum of 60 denier) must be worn under the skirt.
- Plain black tailored shorts (the same material as school trousers).
- Whilst in school, sensible plain black school shoes. No trainers, boots, plimsolls, sandals or heels may be worn. There should not be any sizeable logos, any colour or any extravagant adornments on the shoes such as large bows and sequins for example, small, black bows and small black tassels are acceptable. Examples of acceptable shoes and unacceptable shoes are shown on the next page. In very poor weather conditions (heavy snow or heavy rain), students may come to school in boots. However, when in school and on school grounds school shoes must be worn.
- If students are attending college for the day as part of their education they may come to school in the clothes they need for college. If they are back at school, they should change back into school uniform.
- A sturdy bag to carry equipment and books to and from school. School bags that are permitted are rucksacks, shoulder bags and satchels. PE kit may be brought into school in a separate kit bag.



Uniform Support

The school maintains a stock of second-hand uniform which is available for parents/carers upon request. The school encourages all parents/carers to donate any outgrown or unwanted uniform items to the school if they are able.



PE KIT

Like our School Uniform, the PE Kit is now supplied by **Michael Sehgal and Sons Ltd.** (www.michaelsehgal.co.uk). Different styles are available.

In addition to the PE Kit shown above all students require:

- Plain white ankle socks (indoor)
- Plain black football socks (outdoor)
- Plain white t-shirt
- Towel
- Swimming trunks/shorts (navy or black and above the knee) or one piece swimming costume
- Hair fastening, if required
- Plain black shorts
- Black tracksuit bottoms/leggings are optional, with staff permission
- Trainers
- Football or rugby boots

During the winter months when students take part in outdoor PE they would potentially benefit from the following additional items, however, they are non-compulsory:

- Plain black thermal underlayers (tops and leggings such as Skins)
- A plain black hooded top can also be bought from our uniform supplier
- Shin pads (highly recommended for hockey and rugby)
- Gum shield (highly recommended for hockey and rugby)



Examples of unbranded PE Kit for Stokesley School



Plain black PE Shorts



Plain White Polo



Plain white T Shirt



T Shirt with small brand logo

Examples of unacceptable PE Kit for Stokesley School



T shirts with large visible brand marks

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE NOT ALLOWED IN SCHOOL AS PART OF THE UNIFORM

- Non-black belts or overly elaborate, decorative belts
- Subtle, natural looking, make-up will be allowed but any student wearing excessive makeup (including false eyelashes and nails) will not be allowed. Any final decision about the appropriateness of elements of uniform or makeup will be at the discretion of the year leader or members of the senior team
- Tattoos including henna tattoos
- Trousers or skirts that are modified, other than bottom of trousers needing to be taken up
- Skin tight fitting, jeans or legging type trousers are not allowed in school
- Hoodies and sports tops worn as coats and under blazers
- Head wear including caps (unless specified by school)
- Sunglasses
- Jewellery is banned in school. For simplicity this means no earrings, rings, bracelets or necklaces. The only piece of jewellery a student can wear is a watch. Timely reminders are sent to parents about this expectation



Extreme haircuts are banned in school

- Very short hair, less than a blade two
- Students are not permitted to dye their hair in unnatural colours, this includes bleaching or bright colours
- Students are not allowed to have tramlines or patterns of any sort shaved into their hair
- If as a parent you have any query about appropriate hairstyles or cuts, please contact your child's Head of Year before going to a barber or hairdresser

Students wearing incorrect uniform

Standards of uniform are very high in the school, breaches have reduced over time and are now relatively rare. In all instances in which a student is not wearing the appropriate uniform, we support and work with both the student and parents to resolve the problem as it occurs, offering loaned uniform if a family is unable to provide this. Ultimately, if a student refuses to wear our uniform, we follow our behaviour policy to determine the appropriate sanctions.

ACCEPTABLE FOOTWEAR

BOYS



GIRLS

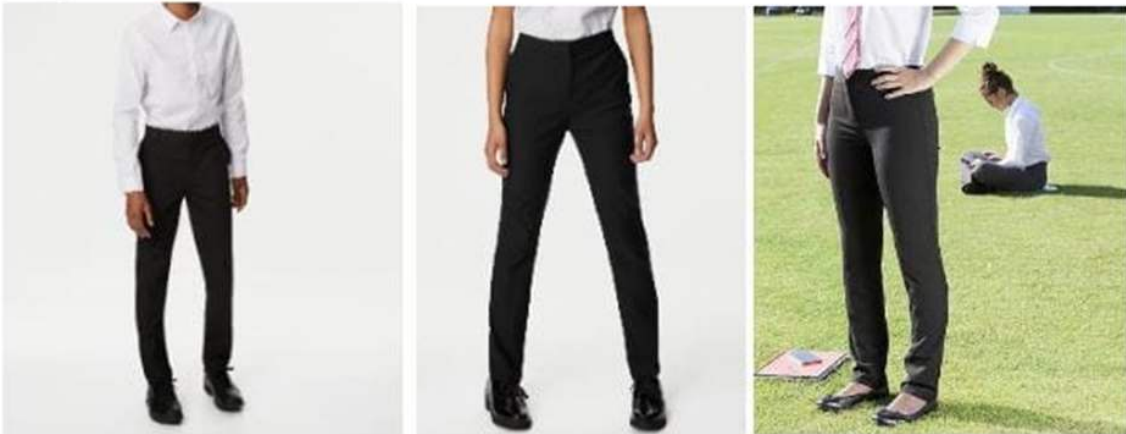


UNACCEPTABLE STYLES OF FOOTWEAR



Examples of acceptable and unacceptable unbranded uniform

Acceptable trousers



Acceptable shorts



Tailored shorts which meet the knee



Please note:

- Ties can be purchased from Student Services.
- If a student cannot get the correct uniform from home or is unable to purchase the missing item, they will receive a negative behaviour point for every item of uniform missing. These are accumulated with other negative behaviour points that lead to sanctions being issued as part of our behaviour policy.
- If a student has a specific medical reason for wearing non-uniform at any time, this must be communicated to the school in advance and be accompanied by a doctor's note.
- Adaptations to school uniform may be announced in the event of extreme weather events and will be communicated accordingly with parents, carers, students and staff.

EQUIPMENT

Specialised equipment may be required in certain lessons and they should be brought when necessary. Text books and specialised equipment will be issued on loan and students will be required to pay for any loss or damage to school property.

Students should also bring a water bottle with them to school to be able to to refill their water at break and lunch times from our free water fountains.

