



## Discovery Primary School

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Head Teacher: Ms M Siequien

Deputy Head Teacher: Miss C Daniels

## Aspire Discover Achieve

Dear Parents/Carers,

The Local Governing Body met last week. During the meeting, the new school uniform was discussed and the feedback from all parents considered. Before we look at the actions we have taken in response to parental feedback, we would like to share with you the reasons for our new school uniform.

Our new uniform reflects our values and reinforces our school's culture of high expectations and academic achievement. Our school uniform is important to us. It is one way in which we identify ourselves as a school community 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 academy and it enhances security.

### **We have a required school uniform for several reasons including the following:**

- **Uniforms unite the academy.** Pupils make a commitment that when they put on their Discovery uniform they will abide by the rules of the community.
- **Uniforms reduce distractions.** We are focused on achieving success. When pupils are allowed to wear their own clothing, there is the potential to talk about fashions and styles rather than learning.
- **Uniforms make us all equal.** Whether families have high incomes or low incomes, the pupils come to school looking the same way. No one has to feel bad about the clothes they have or don't have.
- **Uniforms look professional.** Pupils look neat and ready to learn. As the saying goes, "Look smart, think smart."

Most of our parents and the community support the new uniform and understand why these changes have been introduced. However, as with any change, there are questions asked and feedback received. It is these that we wish to address now.

### **Your feedback indicated a concern about the cost of the uniform, especially with the introduction after Christmas.**

#### **What we have done to help so far**

- Informed you of the uniform changes earlier on in the year encouraging you not to buy too much uniform for September.
- Made provision for all children to receive a free new set of uniform ready for January. This includes a made to measure sweatshirt or knitted jumper with additional growing room. They will be available in December. If a child does require a slightly larger size the clothing company are happy to exchange as necessary. This does exclude the blue shirts and other items such as skirts and trousers. These can still be purchased at other outlets.
- Made provision for any child who has ever received Free School meals during their time in school to receive an additional set of uniform in January.

- Priced our new uniform for Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 so it is cheaper than the previous Discovery logoed uniform. In September 2018, the sweatshirt and polo shirt with the logo for Discovery Primary School parents cost £17.99 in total. It is now £14.74. The new Key Stage 2 V neck jumper is being provided by the new clothing company cheaper than any other local providers (please note this is comparing like with like not V neck sweatshirts). The book bag and PE bag is the same price as the previous book bag and PE bag.
- Planned for all children to receive a tie with their uniform in Key Stage 2.
- Written to parents/carers of children in year 2 and year 6 to inform them that they do not need to purchase additional uniform for the remainder of the year if they still have old uniform that is still wearable.
- Met with individual parents to discuss how we can support them with the introduction of the uniform.

#### **What else we intend to do**

- Phase the new uniform in over the next two terms. Children can therefore wear their new uniform but also the previous school uniform. This will give everyone time to prepare for the new uniform being worn by everyone in September 2019.
- In September 2019, children in year 2 and year 4 will receive a free tie ready for the start of year 3 and 5. Lessons in how to tie a tie will be given to all children in Key Stage 2 before Christmas 2018 and in January 2019.
- Provide the new logoed polo shirts at a discounted special price of 2 for 1 at £5.99 for the Spring term only. These will be available on line via the school office with a lead time of approximately 10 days.
- Provide single blue unisex long sleeved shirts from the school office at the cost of £2.50 each for those parents finding them difficult to purchase due to lack of stock in some outlets. This will be for a limited time only, subject to availability with a lead time of up to 10 days.
- Meet with any parents/carers at any time to discuss any additional support which can be given with regards to uniform, especially those parents with more than one child.
- Allow old Discovery Primary School sweatshirts or polo shirts to be used for PE until they do not fit.

**Your Feedback indicated that you were concerned about the number of items you would need to purchase in January.**

#### **What we have done so far to help**

- The new uniform is of good quality and should last longer than previous school uniform especially plain sweatshirts brought from other outlets.
- The new uniform can be tumbled dried if required.

#### **What else we intend to do**

- Provide a suggested essential list of items required for January if you wish to change uniform then or in September.  
The suggested basic list for Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 will be two sweatshirts and three logoed polo shirts. This includes the free sweatshirt and polo shirt they will be given. Therefore, we suggest that one more sweatshirt and two logoed polo shirts are purchased.  
The suggested basic list for Key Stage 2 will be three shirts and two jumpers. This again includes the free jumper the children will receive. Therefore, we suggest that one more jumper is purchased as well as three shirts.
- Ensure that all staff in school support the children in putting their sweatshirt or jumper in their locker or bag if they take them off. This will reduce the number mislaid.
- Ensure that during Art or DT activities that either the sweatshirt or jumper is removed or fully covered by an apron.
- Talk to the children consistently about looking after things especially their uniform.
- Make an optional cardigan, to wear with pinafores or dresses, available on the website in January.

- Start a 'nearly new' shop so uniform can be purchased at a reduced cost if required.

When it was decided to introduce a new uniform, we thought very carefully about our children and our school community. We really believe that it will help the children to feel proud of themselves and their school, further developing their sense of belonging. It is common for schools to introduce a new uniform when they become an Academy so we got in touch with a number of local schools to find out about how they had gone about it. Although they did not offer a free uniform for their children or additional uniform for pupils who have received free school meals, we have always felt that this was important and planned for it. We hope that this, alongside the other steps we have taken in response to parental feedback, will help to support our families. We are deeply committed to providing the best possible care and education for our children. We know that together, with your support as parents, we can achieve this.

If anyone has any further feedback then please do contact the Senior Staff or the Chair of the Local Governing Committee, Mr Abbott, through the office email, [office@discovery.peterborough.sch.uk](mailto:office@discovery.peterborough.sch.uk).

We look forward to the gradual phased introduction of our new uniform ready for all children wearing it in September 2019.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Abbott', with a large, sweeping flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Mr Kevin Abbott on behalf of  
The Local Governing Committee

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Stegman', written in a cursive style.

Headteacher of the Academy