

November 2011

Dear Parents/Carers

Girls' Uniform

As you are aware, we have been monitoring girls' uniform – especially the appropriateness of skirts for school – this half-term.

At the beginning of the school year, I made it clear to all of the girls that tight and/or short skirts were not acceptable school wear and that they had to sort this out otherwise we would have to move to trousers only for girls; over half of the girls are already wearing trousers. This was also reiterated in the September newsletter which all parents received a copy of in the post.

Despite our best efforts, many of the skirt wearing girls continue to wear short and/or tight skirts. Even with black tights on, walking up the stairs behind a girl wearing one of these skirts gives the person behind a clear view of the girl's underwear as the skirt rides up.

The image of the school that these girls give when walking to and from school within our local community is not positive. I am well aware that this is an issue for many other schools but I am only concerned with the standard of uniform at John Colet.

The Governing Body and the Senior Leadership Team have been discussing this issue and have decided that the current situation cannot be allowed to continue. As a result, from 4 January 2012, all girls in Years 7 to 11 will have to wear trousers and not skirts. If this causes problems on religious or medical grounds then please do get in touch with me by Friday 2 December 2011.

Can I remind parents/carers of what our uniform policy says about girls' trousers:

- Plain black trousers (not cords or jeans) which are straight leg or with small bootleg. Trousers which look like "skinny jeans" or "jeans" are not permitted
- "Plain" is defined as being without embellishment i.e studs, additional zips, braiding, logos etc

If buying trousers is going to cause financial hardship for any family, then please write to me by Friday 2 December 2011 explaining the issue and giving your daughter's waist and height size. We will then provide 2 pairs of appropriate school trousers for your daughter to wear.

I am now hoping that through this change, the girls' uniform will be less of an issue.

Yours sincerely

Christine McLintock
Headteacher