

Queen Elizabeth High School Ysgol Uwchradd Y Frenhines Elisabeth



Dear Parent/Carer

As Covid-19 restrictions and transmission rates are in decline, we are now able to open our PE changing rooms. **This means that immediately after half term we will be returning to wearing full school uniform.** I am taking the opportunity to write to you, in order to make clear the rules surrounding school uniform and what is and what is not acceptable as school attire. We feel that our standards for uniform should reflect the expectations of excellence that we strive for and the pride we place in QEHS as a school at the heart of its community.

These rules for uniform are based on 5 main principles:

1. Security. In order to keep our pupils safe they need to be easily identifiable.
2. Equality. School is not about labels and materialistic ideology. As a school we pride ourselves on equality and uniform is a great way to express this.
3. That we are a community and that rules work best when there is a shared responsibility. Pupils should be proud of belonging to Queen Elizabeth High School.
4. As a school an important part of our ethos, as well as supporting our pupils educationally and pastorally, is to do our best to prepare them for the wider world of work. Pupils must present themselves neatly and tidily in an acceptable uniform as similar demands will often be made by future employers.
5. Personal expression. Pupils should be judged on who they are and their values and beliefs. We want our pupils to express themselves through their voice and positive actions at school.

The school reserves the right to decide what acceptable uniform is and pupils are expected to be presentable at all times. Pupils who do not follow the school rules regarding uniform will be allowed to continue with their education but can expect to be isolated from their peers and the wider school community until they conform to the school rules.

Piercing

Earrings: The school will allow one pair of small stud earrings. Hoops or long earrings present a health and safety risk and are, therefore, unacceptable. Small crystal/bling earrings are acceptable, but large crystals are not.

The school will not allow tongue studs or any other facial piercings (e.g. nose studs, lip piercings etc.) the practice of placing a plaster over a piercing is no longer acceptable. **Pupils, should they wish to, are encouraged to have new piercing made at the start of the summer holidays. This gives sufficient times for piercings to heal and allows pupils to comply with school rules when they are asked to remove studs on their return to school in September.**

Pupils will be asked to remove piercing should they break school rules, and we reserve the right to confiscate items where there is persistent refusal to cooperate with school rules.

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Jewellery:

A single small ring on each hand is acceptable as is a bangle on each wrist. However, pupils should be prepared to remove these items if requested to do so by a member of staff in a practical lesson or where there might be a Health and Safety concern.

Coats/Hoodies/Scarves:

No denim or leather. Coats have to be plain (some piping is acceptable) with no slogans or large motifs. No vivid/Day-Glo colours are permitted, though light coloured coats and jackets are acceptable. Coats and hoodies cannot be used as jumpers and must be removed once inside the school building. The exception is school sanctioned tops with QEH logo which can be used in the school building.

Shoes/trainers:

All black shoes and trainers are permitted. Trainers and shoes should have no coloured flashing or stripes. Girls are required to wear shoes with a sensible heel that are suitable for school i.e. negotiating stairs and walking in crowds and that do not prove a Health and Safety risk. Boots are allowed in winter provided that they are worn underneath trousers.

Trousers and skirts:

No black jeans or denim. Trousers and skirts are to be tailored (no lycra, leggings, jeggings or clinging material) and neat. Girls should wear skirts that are of an appropriate and modest length and that will not cause offence or embarrassment. Skirts should be worn with thick black tights.

The current uniform was agreed between parents and pupils. The school council has been regularly consulted about uniform and adaptations. We would appreciate the support of parents in achieving the standards and expectations we are striving for.

If a parent has any faces any financial hardship in providing school uniform or equipment they can apply for a School Uniform and Equipment Grant, details of which can be found at:

<https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/education-schools/financial-support/school-uniform-and-equipment-grant/>

Should a parent/carer have any concerns or issues regarding uniform then please do not hesitate to contact the school via email at Office@qehs.carms.sch.uk, by phoning 01267 245300 or by emailing or contacting the relevant Head of Learning.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Kind regards,

Dave Williams
Headteacher