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Dear Parent/Carer

Update on School Uniform Policy

You will recall that I wrote to you in September to update you on our approach to school uniform. At that time, I told you that we would continue with a relaxed approach until Christmas. I am now writing to provide a further update.

Our decision:

We have now decided to extend this relaxed approach. In primary this will continue for the remainder of the session; in secondary it is also likely to continue until August 2021, though we are keeping open the option of perhaps reintroducing uniform at the time of timetable change.

Our reason:

In my previous correspondence I have shared with you some of the arguments for and against school uniform in our current circumstances, so I will not rehearse these again now. I do though want to draw your attention to key factors that have informed our decision to extend this relaxation.

- *Changing room closure*

Despite having managed to risk assess and open our changing rooms for a few weeks, we are now subject to a blanket ban across Perth and Kinross Council. This means that pupils who are getting PE will need to come to school dressed in their PE kit. In practice this will mean that about one quarter of our secondary pupils will require to be out of uniform on any given day. Under such circumstances it would be very difficult indeed to enforce compliance with uniform in secondary.



- *Ongoing guidance is that 15% of all windows remain open at all times*

There has been a relaxation in the guidance on windows being open which has moved from all windows being open at all times to 15% of windows remaining open during class time with full opening at other times. Despite this, there remains a serious challenge in trying to ensure comfort for pupils and staff during class time. Normally as part of our uniform regulations we would ask pupils to remove outdoor clothing in classrooms. At the moment, it would not be appropriate to do this, nor to dictate to pupils or parents what clothing should be worn, when the priority must be trying to keep warm as we enter Winter.

I realise that there will be parents who are unhappy with this decision. However, I would reassure you that this session our approach towards uniform has been anomalous – as have so many other approaches – and that **it is our intention to reinstate uniform in August 2021**. Some parents who have expressed concerns about our approach to uniform have suggested that we are the only secondary in Perth and Kinross not to be in uniform and that this approach impacts on ethos and attainment. I think it is useful to point out that there are, in fact, several secondary schools in the local authority who have reached the same conclusion as us, including Kinross High School and the Community School of Auchterarder, who along with ourselves are amongst the highest attaining schools in the local authority.

As we approach the end of 2020, I would again extend my thanks to you as parents and also commend both staff and pupils on their heroism in dealing with these challenging circumstances with such dignity and perseverance. I trust that 2021 will see the return to normal times.

Yours sincerely



John Devine
Headteacher