

February 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Every five years schools are required to retender their uniform supplier. Over the last few months we have been going through this tendering process. Our aim was to reduce the cost of uniform and compulsory items, take on board stakeholder feedback the availability of supplier shop for parents in our community and integrate our House system into our uniform. In addition to reducing the costs of our school uniform, by changing supplier we have also avoided a predicted increase for 2024/25.

We are therefore delighted to inform you of our new uniform suppliers as below:

Main School Uniform

Penn School Uniform Shop, 15 Kents Hill Road, South Benfleet SS5 5PN

<https://pennuk.com/>

Physical Education Kit

School Sports 4U Uniform shop

Romford Shopping Hall, Unit 114, 43 Market Place RM1 3AB

<https://schoolsports4u.co.uk/>

Both supplier websites will be updated with Appleton uniform products in due course, ready for purchases to be made from 13th June 2024.

Our new suppliers are also offering free online delivery to school, during term-time, with our new PE supplier offering regular fitting sessions on the school site during the school year. The first of these fitting sessions will be held on Year 6 Welcome Evening on 13th June 2024.

Both in-store and online customers do not need any special access code to purchase uniform. Their direct link to the school uniform page in our website is below **and all items will be online for purchase from 13th June, 2024.**

Headteacher: Sarah Cox, BA (Hons)

Croft Road, Benfleet, Essex, SS7 5RN **Tel:** 01268 794215

Email: info@theappletonschool.org **Website:** www.theappletonschool.org

Please note our current supplier Morbec Sports <https://morbecsports.com/> will continue to sell The Appleton School uniform products for Years 8 - 13. Current design school ties (until stocks run out) and iron on badges for blazers will continue to be available for purchase from either the school or the uniform supplier.

Our Main Uniform and PE kit Year 8-11 is unchanged for September 2024 (unless new items need to be purchased). The amount of compulsory branded PE kit items has also been reduced.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION KIT

Compulsory Items:

- Appleton badged Green PE top*
- Appleton badged Black PE Shorts*
- Plain black knee length Football socks
- Plain colour swimming trunks or plain colour one-piece swimming costume and goggles
- Trainers
- Football boots
- Shinpads
- Gum Shield (required for rugby)

Optional Items:

- Appleton badged Rugby shirt*
- Appleton badged ¼ Zip Training Top*
- Appleton badged Black Tracksuit Bottoms* or Appleton badged PE Sport leggings*
- Appleton badged Rain Jacket*
- Towel for shower use

*Denotes PE kit items only available from the uniform supplier

Our revised School Uniform for Year 7 September 2024 is as follows:

Uniform Year 7

- A plain black blazer with The Appleton School badge. This is available with integral badge from the official uniform supplier. It may be purchased from any supplier, but must be a blazer, not a fitted jacket. The School badge – available from the uniform shop – to be sewn to blazer breast pocket.
- Plain white formal shirt with collar, buttoned to the neck; to be tucked in at all times.
- School clip-on tie, fastened over the top shirt button (available from the school only and based on your child's House allocation).
- Plain black formal trousers, tailored in style, and long enough to cover the top of the shoe. Jeans, leggings, jeggings, harem-pants, combat trousers, those with large buckles, very skinny or very wide styles are not permitted.

- The Appleton School black kilt skirt, (optional). No other skirt is acceptable, however school trousers can be worn as an alternative. Please note, the school skirt should be worn no shorter than two inches above the knee and must not be rolled up at the waist.
- A plain black 'V' neck pullover is optional, but if worn it must be a plain school jumper (**No branded jumpers, hooded tops, sweatshirts or tracksuit tops**).
- Plain black tights or black or white ankle socks. **Knee length socks are not permitted.**
- School Shoes – Formal practical black leather (or faux leather alternative) shoes which must have a heel and black laces (where appropriate).
- Shoes with visible brands or emblems or logos are not permitted.
- **Canvas shoes, flat sole shoes, trainers, high heels or boots of any kind are not permitted.** This includes those with medical needs, whilst we accept a trainer type shoe in that situation (with a doctor's letter) we do not accept trainers with visible branding such as Converse, Nike, Adidas or Puma.

Parents are strongly advised to contact Student Services if in doubt about permissible school shoes. Many retail outlets advertise footwear as 'school shoes' when they are in fact trainers and we are always happy to advise.

For all year groups:

- **Only natural looking hair colours are permitted.**
- **False eyelashes and false nails including acrylics and gels are not permitted.**
- One ring of a sensible size
- Watch (not a 'smart watch' as no internet enabled devices or mobile phones are permitted to be used in school)
- Earrings / piercings – one small, plain stud in each ear lobe. Spacers or stretchers are not permitted, nor are piercings anywhere other than the ear lobe. No other visible piercings are permitted.
- No other jewellery is permitted
- Articles of faith, please contact your child's Head of Year; for example, if worn, headscarves must be plain black in colour.

In light of these changes we have made updates to our uniform policy in preparation for the new uniform for Year 7 2024, which can be found here [Uniform Policy](#).

To support parents/carers with the cost of transition from the current uniform to the new one please read the following information:

- All new Year 7 students from September 2024 must wear the new school uniform.
- Students currently in Years 7 and 8 (Years 8 and 9 from September 2023) can continue to wear their existing uniform or choose to wear the new school uniform items (house tie, skirt, PE kit) but, it is an expectation that they are wearing the new items, where applicable no later than September 2025, when they start Years 9 and 10.
- Students currently in Years 9 and 10 (Years 10 and 11 in September 2024) can continue to wear their existing uniform until they leave the school or choose to wear the updated version.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S Cox', written in a cursive style.

Ms S Cox
Headteacher