

Marks and Spencer, our current uniform supplier, have given notice that they will no longer be providing this service from October 2024. This has resulted in us having to consider potential new contractors to provide our uniform moving forward and it is our intention to have made this change before we finish this academic year.

The Governing Board (GB) discussed this decision recently, including taking the opportunity to review the school's Uniform Policy. The review will be undertaken using three agreed principles that they believe the policy should aim to achieve:

1. Affordability
2. Durability
3. Equity and Inclusivity – *School uniforms should not only promote a sense of community/belonging, but equally seek to remove differences in clothing caused through different economic backgrounds*

The GB have looked at a variety of contractor provider possibilities and currently narrowed it down to one, that they would like to explore further. In terms of the three principles above the GB feel that this option provides:

1. Jumpers and cardigans in the 'knitted' style similar to our current M&S offer. However, these are more expensive. Additionally, they can offer a 'sweat shirt/jersey' material jumper and cardigan option, which would be in line with current M&S prices. The two options look and feel very different however; but it is understood this is open to personal preference.
2. The GB believes that the durability of the samples seen would probably be very similar. All uniform options are machine washable. However, only time and testing will demonstrate how well the colour lasts etc. Schools already using this contractor have been approached and none have raised durability as an issue.
3. The GB felt that maintaining in our policy an 'everyday' uniform option as well as PE uniform option, coupled with the wording '*Children can dress in the uniform listed in which they feel most comfortable*' provided families with choice and flexibility. Many children currently wear a blend of the two, but some find the PE uniform more comfortable on a daily basis. The GB did feel that it was important that when children are representing our school, at events that do not involve sport, the 'everyday' uniform looked smartest.

The GB would like to open this debate to include views that our families have on either the school uniform policy or replacement uniform products from the provider we are considering. **Please email these to info@ewell-grove.surrey.sch.uk by 11th March.** Samples of the new school uniform will be available for you to view in the school foyer between **4th to 8th March**. Your views will be considered before a final provider is chosen and as part of the GB Uniform Policy review, in preparation for September 2024.