

## Board of Trustees – Russley School Uniform Survey

There was a tremendous response from parents, with the biggest return ever for any survey. All the comments have been collated and the report will give the Board a clear direction for its future decisions.

### 1. Should Russley School have a uniform?

An overwhelming 97.4% of respondents wanted the school to retain a uniform. The main reasons included:

- It gives the students a unique sense of identity and pride
- It creates unity and reduces peer pressure to adhere to fashions.
- It saves parents time, money and emotional energy.

The 2.6% against having a uniform reflected on the fact that students don't like wearing it.

### 2. Should students have a sports uniform?

55.3% thought that students should have a sports uniform as it helped teams look smart.

44.7% disagreed but many of these still thought the representative teams should wear a sports uniform and liked the current system for providing them.

- Many respondents felt Year 5-8 students should be expected to change clothes for PE and sports e.g. a t-shirt and possibly shorts for hygiene reasons.
- Many felt suitable footwear should be expected for sports activities.
- Some expressed concerns about the cost of a separate sports uniform and practicalities like changing rooms. It was felt changing should be only for appropriate PE and sports not just for a quick class game.

### 3. Should brown or black shoes be required?

71.4% did not think this was necessary or desirable though many said the colours of the sports shoes should not be outlandish. Cost was a big factor as was the desire to have students active which meant trainers were more suitable.

28.6% were in favour of the idea as they felt the shoe option was tidier.

### 4. Should students be able to wear coloured polyprops under short sleeved shirts?

88.2% said yes this should be allowed and extended to black as it helps with costs and making the uniform last longer.

Many said other colours should not be accepted. Most thought the main issue was that students need to be warm yet also wearing the uniform with pride.

### 5. Should hair be tied back with black or brown ties and jewellery restricted to ear studs?

An overwhelming 94.7% said yes to both questions and some asked for the colours of hair ties be relaxed and that boys with long hair be required to tie their hair back as well.

### 6. Satisfaction with suppliers.

83.8% were satisfied with the service and quality of the uniforms.

16.2% were not happy and gave reasons ranging from the supplier being expensive and sometime slow to supply. A few also commented on the quality and consistency of sizing. There were some queries about whether Postie Plus could supply the uniforms cheaper.

### Other comments.

- Many thought the new logo was great.
- Most parents liked the uniform and thought it was practical and tidy.
- Some thought it was important to keep things simple and practical and at a cost that parents could afford.
- Many asked that the uniform was strictly enforced.
- Some complimented the PTA on their second hand uniform sales as these were very helpful.

### The way forward.

The Board will consider this valuable feedback and make its decisions based on the views expressed. Some further information will need to be gathered e.g. the option of Postie Plus and the issue of quality and availability from the current supplier.

However the feedback is clear enough to give the Board confidence that it can proceed with confidence on the following:

- Russley School will continue to have a uniform.
- Footwear will continue to allow trainers but parents will be asked to ensure these are a colour that complements the uniform.
- Hair will continue to be tied back though the colours of the hair ties can be extended to anything that complements the uniform.
- Jewellery will continue to be restricted to ear studs.
- Long sleeved polyprops will be allowed as long as it is blue, black or white.
- The option of Year 5-8 students having a t-shirt to wear when playing sport or PE at school will be further investigated.