

St Matthew Academy

St Joseph's Vale, Blackheath, London SE3 0XX

Headteacher: Ms Miranda Baldwin

Head of Primary: Ms Joanna Chick



8 December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

At St Matthew Academy, being 'ready to learn' is one of our three golden rules and therefore a key expectation of every pupil in our school. An important part of being ready to learn is to be correctly dressed in the St Matthew Academy uniform. We believe that the wearing of the correct school uniform creates an opportunity for pupils to identify with what St Matthew Academy represents; fosters pride and significantly reduces opportunities for pupils to become distracted by issues relating to current fashion trends. Being properly dressed in the St Matthew Academy uniform is also a visible symbol of our community.

A significant part of the St Matthew Academy uniform is hair style. Our expectation is simple: all pupils' hair should be a single natural colour and worn without ornamentation, other than a black hairband. Pupils' hair should therefore not include unnatural hair dyes; highlights or coloured hair accessories of any kind to ensure that all pupils are smartly and uniformly presented.

Our uniform expectations are set out here:

- Pupils are expected to wear black leather closed toe shoes. Boots, trainers or other canvas type of footwear is not permitted.
- Pupils can wear black / navy coats while outside. Sportswear, hoodies and other coloured coats are not permitted.
- Hair should be clean and tidy and one natural colour. Long hair should be tied back for safety. Hair ties are limited to a simple black hairband.
- Pupils are not allowed to wear scarves at any point during the school day, inside or outside the school building.
- Make Up should not be worn while at the Academy. Any pupil with obvious make up will be asked to remove it.
- Jewellery should not be worn; no piercings are permitted and covering piercings with a plaster is not acceptable.
- Pupils who are not in appropriate uniform may be given an alternative provided by the school or they may be removed from lessons until the uniform infringement is corrected.

In recent weeks, there has been a noticeable increase in the number of uniform infringements, particularly regarding hair at St Matthew Academy therefore we are giving notice that on our return to SMA on **Wednesday, 5th January**, staff will be asked to enforce our uniform policy rigorously. As stated above, uniform infringements could result in pupils being withdrawn from lessons or sent home until the uniform infringement has been corrected.

As ever, I thank you for your committed support in our shared endeavour of making St Matthew Academy a centre of excellence for everyone in our community.

Yours faithfully

Mr I Gunningham
Assistant Headteacher