



15 October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Changes to uniform from Tuesday 3 November**

As you are aware, we have been following a thorough Risk Assessment at St Katherine's School in order to limit any spread of COVID-19 within the school. From the start of term we have asked students to come to school in their PE kit on those days when they have PE. This allowed us to avoid using the changing rooms and take children directly onto the fields for their lessons.

However, as the weather deteriorates as winter approaches, we have adjusted our approach in line with our Risk Assessment. In poor weather, we are currently unable to use the fields because children are unable to get changed back into their uniform following PE lessons. The consequence of using the fields in poor weather and requiring children to wear wet PE kit for the remainder of the day is not acceptable. Similarly, offering students indoor facilities only for PE lessons for much of the winter is undesirable from a curriculum perspective.

**To avoid this concerns, we intend to adopt the following measures from the return to school after half term:**

- **All children should attend school in their normal school uniform and bring their PE kit with them on days on which they have PE lessons.**
- Benches will be removed from changing rooms to reduce surface areas for cleaning.
- Children will have allocated spaces in the changing rooms recorded on a seating plan.
- As is the practice in other specialised rooms which are shared amongst year groups in the school, children will be asked to wipe down the area they have used in the changing rooms after changing. This will be supervised by the PE department.
- The PE department have invested in a sanitising machine which will be used twice daily to fully sanitise the changing rooms.
- Following the practice in other schools, we will ask children to change in silence and to leave the changing rooms as soon as they are changed.
- PE changing rooms will be used for essential changing only, where privacy is demanded. Changing of boots/shoes for example, will take place outside changing rooms wherever possible.

These changes have been considered carefully by the school and PE department and we are confident this is the most effective way to mitigate risk whilst allowing children to continue to participate in the full curriculum, inline with other schools.

Many thanks for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely

**Matthew Maw**  
**Deputy Headteacher**