

CHR/SJP  
19th September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

**RE: School Footwear Standards**

As we begin the new term, I would like to take the opportunity to thank all parents/carers for your support with ensuring your son's/daughter's compliance with the Mobile Phone Policy. We are already observing the social benefits of this policy, as our students are talking and socialising more with peers during break and lunchtimes.

Nevertheless, I need to write to you today in order to revisit our uniform expectations, due to a number of students who are wearing incorrect footwear. Our uniform policy provides parents/carers with a visual guide of what is acceptable, suitable, black footwear. To support parents/carers in purchasing uniform over the summer holiday, we deliver a presentation to all year groups regarding uniform and acceptable footwear. As part of the presentation, we reinforce what is acceptable and what is not acceptable to help our students guide you in the purchase of their uniform.

Our Uniform Policy stipulates that footwear in the style of "Vans, Converse, Nike Air Force or similar are not permitted". This includes certain brands of Kickers and Clarks, which are being advertised, marketed, and sold as school shoes; however, they are not.

We understand the difficulty with high street stores branding footwear in their back to school range, when in fact, the style of footwear is based upon a trainer. These include certain brands such as Kickers, specifically, the Tovni Lacer, Tovni Stack, Tovni Twin Flex, Tovni Tumble, Kick Lo, Kick Hi, Kelland Lace Hi, and Kelland Lace Lo. Additionally, Clarks, Fawn Lay Youth, Kick Step, CICA Older, CICA Youth, Scape Bright, Palmer Mist, Orbit Sprint and Clowder Sprint.

The cost of this trainer-inspired style footwear can be expensive, and I would recommend that parents/carers refer to Appendix B of our Uniform Policy, to ensure that your child's footwear is a suitable formal, black, low-heeled school shoe.

If your child is wearing a pair of shoes that does not meet uniform standards, you will be personally notified by your child's Head of Year/Assistant Head of Year if this issue affects them. If you are financially able to replace the trainer style shoes, we would kindly request that these are replaced with immediate effect. However, considering the current economic climate, we will be providing all affected parents/carers with one term's notice for the shoes to be replaced with a suitable formal, black, low-heeled school shoe.

Therefore, by Monday 8th January, all students must be wearing school shoes that meet our uniform standard.

Cont.

Headteacher: **Mrs C Handy-Rivett, BA (Hons), MA, NPQH**

St Michael's Church of England High School • Rowley Learning Campus • Curral Road • Rowley Regis • West Midlands • B65 9AN  
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We have been made aware that one of the photographs in our uniform policy is out of date and, in view of this, if your child is currently wearing the older style of a Kicker trainer inspired shoe, called Tovni Tumble Leather Black, you will have until the end of the academic year to replace the trainer inspired footwear with a suitable formal, black, low-heeled school shoe that meets the expected standards.

Thank you for your support and cooperation with this matter. Yours

faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'C Handy-Rivett'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large 'C' and a long, sweeping underline.

Mrs C Handy-Rivett  
**Headteacher**

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