

Edward Peake C of E (VC) Middle School

Headteacher: Miss Z J Linington
Potton Road, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire. SG18 0EJ
Tel: 01767 314562
E-mail: info@edwardpeake.beds.sch.uk
Web: <http://www.edwardpeake.beds.sch.uk>



21 May 2024

Dear Parent / Carer,

Earlier this year we consulted pupils, parents and staff on proposed changes to our school name and uniform. We wanted to thank you for your comments regarding these changes. The consultation regarding uniform raised some key questions and strong opinions with the split on whether or not to change to the proposed new uniform split almost 50/50 for or against.

Ultimately, the decision for any changes to our uniform and name lies with the school's governing body. At a full governing body meeting the governors voted in favour of the following changes:

- School name: From September 2024, the school's name will be Edward Peake Church of England (VC) School.
- Uniform: The governors voted to introduce the new school uniform with shirt, tie and blazer. Some alterations have been made based on feedback from pupils including the inclusion of an optional jumper.

We appreciate that change is never easy and we want to help manage this change for all stakeholders. Attached to this letter you will find a response to some of the queries we had from the consultation. We are still waiting for images from Price and Buckland of the new uniform and will send these images out as soon as possible.

We will be in touch with the families of our current year 8 pupils who are staying with us to be a part of our pioneering year 9 cohort to make arrangements for ordering their blazers which will be provided free of charge by the school.

We have made the decision not to change the uniform yet for the other year groups as this is not an expense our families were expecting especially for those who have only joined the school this academic year whereas traditionally, pupils joining year 9 would be buying a uniform for another school.

Please rest assured that as our other existing year groups progress through the school, they will also be given a blazer free of charge.

The current PE uniform will remain the same for next academic year.

Consultation feedback:

Uniform

Query: How does the cost of the new uniform compare to the existing uniform? Will this uniform be more expensive for parents?

Response: We have reduced the number of branded items that are part of our school uniform meaning that families are able to buy almost all of their uniform items from any supplier including supermarkets. As the school will be providing the blazer to pupils free of charge, the cost of the new uniform is less than the existing uniform.

Query: Will there be an alternative for those pupils with sensory issues?

Response: In cases where a child has a diagnosed sensory issue we will discuss these with the pupil and family and make decisions on an individual basis.

Query: What about when it is cold? Can a jumper be added?

Response: Following a number of queries regarding jumpers, we have added an optional plain navy jumper which can be worn over the shirt and under the blazer if desired.

Query: What about when it is hot? Will children have to wear their blazers?

Response: As is the case in every other local school where blazers are worn, staff will allow children to remove blazers if it is too warm. If there are periods when the weather will be warm for a long period of time the school will communicate with families to inform them that blazers will not need to be worn to school.

Query: Why doesn't everyone change to the new uniform at the same time? It will be strange to have two different uniforms.

Response: Whilst it would be lovely to have everyone in the new uniform from September 2024, some of our families have only very recently purchased the existing uniform having joined us this academic year. We are trying to reduce the cost and impact on these families as much as possible. Pupils in year 8 would have traditionally moved onto their upper school and had to purchase a new uniform for their new school.

Query: Will pupils who are not in the first year 9 group also be bought a blazer by the school?

Response: Yes, all pupils who are currently pupils at our school will be bought a blazer when it is phased in for their year group.

Query: Why not have logoed skirts/trousers/shorts so you can be sure they are appropriate for school?

Response: A number of local secondary schools do have these items with their school logo on however, this means you can only purchase from one supplier and is more expensive than being able to purchase from your choice of supplier.

Query: Does the school make money from the sale of uniform?

Response: No, the school makes no money from the sale of its uniform. Any money paid goes to the supplier.

School name:

Query: What happens if the school's age range is changed again? What about those pupils in Year 6 who aren't in a secondary school?

Response: Following comments from parents, staff and governors, the decision was taken to remove the word 'secondary' from the proposed school name. Whilst another change to the age range of the pupils the school has is unlikely, removing 'secondary' from the name safeguards against something like this and is also more inclusive of our final year of primary aged pupils.

Query: Why not use the opportunity to completely change the school's name?

Response: Our school has been proudly named after Edward Peake since it was first opened. Edward Peake was an important philanthropist in the Biggleswade community who set up the very first school in Biggleswade to help provide an education for those who otherwise wouldn't have been able to attend school. We think it is only right that we continue to respect and honour this dedication to the local community.

Query: Why does the name have to include CofE/Church of England?

Response: We are a Church of England school. Our Christian ethos is embedded in everything that we do. Whilst it is not a requirement that our families are Christian or attend church, we do ask that our families support the Christian ethos of the school.

Query: What does VC mean?

Response: This stands for Voluntary Controlled. This means that whilst we are a school funded and run by central government via the local authority, the church via the local diocese has input and influence on how the school is run

Yours sincerely,



Miss Z J Linington
Headteacher