

Stanhope Barrington C of E
Primary School



Westcroft

Stanhope

Bishop Auckland

Co Durham

DL13 2NU

Head Teacher: Mrs D Cross

School Number 840 3087

Tel: 01388 528218

Email: admin@stanhopebarrington.org.uk

Website: stanhopebarrington.org.uk

Dear Parent/Carer

4th October 2021

Re: School PE Kits

Years ago we took the decision not to have a formal school PE kit but to let children wear shorts, T-shirts and joggers which they would already have. We took this decision to try to minimise the cost of uniform to parents and this seemed to work well.

Unfortunately, last Summer term and this term we are experiencing real problems with PE kits. Children are coming into school with extremely expensive pieces of kit and then refusing to get them dirty because they cost so much money and they would get wrong, or leaving expensive hoodies outside and then panicking in case they are lost. We have also had a lot of children upset because comments are being made about them NOT having a designer brand of hoodie or T-shirt which is incredibly unkind.

Similarly, we have a large number of children wearing totally inappropriate clothing for a PE lesson such as crop tops and skimpy shorts. Again, comments are being made by other children and some children are being made to feel uncomfortable. We have even had children refuse to take part in an activity because they are worried about their top or shorts exposing them inappropriately. We want our children to be free to enjoy PE and participate without feeling self-conscious about these issues.

PE lessons are part of the National Curriculum and children are required to participate. Our lessons cover a wide range of sports activities and exercise is part of living a healthy lifestyle.

As a team, we have carefully considered the way forward and therefore have taken the decision to introduce a basic PE kit for ALL children to wear for PE lessons. We are however, mindful of not putting additional costs onto parents and therefore the kit will consist of:

- A white or light blue T-Shirt
- Dark coloured shorts (not skimpy)
- Or Dark coloured joggers or non-see through leggings

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- Trainers

These items have been chosen as we believe most children will already own something along these lines. We do not want the school badge on the T-shirts, just plain T-shirts will be enough.

Some PE kit is available on our Pre-loved rail available outside of the school (weather permitting) or at St. Thomas' Church Hall on a Tuesday after 11.30am.

We will also be providing a set of PE kits for each Learning Zone and therefore if children do not have the correct PE kit with them, they will be given a set of PE kit from their teacher to wear for that lesson.

We are aiming to take part in more festivals and competitions and if children have the correct PE kit we will be 'festival ready' rather than having to source a school kit for these events.

To give everyone time to adapt to this new school rule, it will be effective from Monday 1st November 2021 (after the half term holidays).

I thank you in advance for your support and understanding.

If you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Mrs D Cross
Head Teacher