

3 July 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Mahatma Gandhi said that one of the seven deadly sins was 'Knowledge without Character'. Whilst your child is at The Bewdley School we are doing all we can to develop both knowledge and also develop their character (ensuring that they are decent human beings) who have embraced and live out The Bewdley Values.

As we approach the end of another busy year I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the support you have given both to your child and to the school. We have many successes and achievements this year, including winning Worcestershire Secondary School of the Year, visits to Berlin Iceland and Llanrug, Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, Arts Showcase, launch of our new PE kit and PSHCE workshops on knife crime, County Lines, E-Safety and anti-social Behaviour.

In the last week of term the school will hold its first ever Eisteddfod. We would have called it The Bewdley School Festival, but the town already has an amazing Festival so Eisteddfod seems less confusing. This will consist of:

Monday 15 July:	Drama and Theatre Day
Tuesday 16 July:	Sports Day [Please ensure your child brings sun screen, a hat and encourage them to stay well hydrated during the day]
Wednesday 17 July:	Music Day
Thursday 18 July:	Spoken Word Day
Friday 19 July:	Prize-Giving Day – Term ends at 12.30pm [Non-School Uniform Day] School bus services will be aware of this arrangement, however if your child uses a public bus, you may need to make alternative arrangements/check bus times.

Tuesday 16 July and Friday 19 July will be non-school uniform days [we request suitable sports attire that may include the PE Kit for Sports Day] with a requested payment of £2 towards developing the wooded area at the back of the school. We also plan to conduct a student-led survey of this area during the last week of term to establish plans for its development.

School reopens on Tuesday 3rd September to Year 7 and Sixth Form Students only and the rest of the school will return on Wednesday 4th September 2019. Students are expected to be on-site for no later than 8.35am. The school does have a Teacher Training on Friday 4th October. The rest of my letter will focus on school uniform (including the new PE Kit), river safety, personal safety advice and E-safety advice.

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School Uniform

Our uniform allows students to feel part of the school and have a sense of belonging. We will continue to be very vigilant about ensuring our students wear their uniform correctly and I have included the school's dress code to help you when buying school wear over the summer.

All of our uniform is available to order online or by telephone from Marks & Spencer at www.mandsyourschooluniform.com including core items such as trousers/shirts (M&S are advising parents that the 20% discount on school uniform has been extended to 31st July 2019).

Please see the "Acceptable School Uniform Guidelines" handout at the end of this letter.

Uniform

Black blazer

School clip on tie

Black shoes

White School school shirt

Blue polo shirt (Summer Term only)

Black **School** Trousers school trousers or **knee length** skirt **[Pleated skirts only – straight skirts are not permitted unless linked to a diagnosed medical condition]**

Black/Grey/White/Neutral Socks or Tights socks or tight

Black V-neck school jumper with school logo

The new PE kit can be ordered directly from Scimitar Sports online shop:

<https://www.scimitarclubs.com/product-category/bewdley-school/>

If you have any Customer Service issues, please contact Scimitar directly on: **01905 425324**, or email: **info@scimitarclubs.com**

There is no expectation for whole school implementation of this kit for September 2019 [with the exception of our new Year 7 2019 cohort] as it will be phased in as new students arrive at school; our existing kit (white polo shirt, black football shorts/tracksuit bottoms, black round necked sweatshirt) is perfectly acceptable to be worn until it has been outgrown or needs replacing.

General Expectations

Uniform and general appearance should be appropriate for school, your place of work, and conform to Health & Safety standards. It is therefore required that:

- **Shoes** should be worn that are sensible and practical i.e. low heels (no boots or trainers unless a doctor's note is presented).
- **Jewellery** should not be worn or brought into school, to avoid loss, damage or injury. One pair of studs in the lobes of ears can be worn but will need to be removed for PE/Games. (No other piercings or retainers are permitted)
- **Make-up**, including nail varnish, is not necessary for school and if obvious will be expected to be removed.

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- **Jackets/Coats/Jumpers** should be suitable for school and the weather conditions. Hooded jackets/jumpers/branded logo jumpers etc. are not permitted
- **False/acrylic nails** are not allowed to be worn in school.
- **Hair** – if long it should be tied back for practical lessons. Hair bands etc. should be black, white or blue (school colours). Extreme styles and colours are not acceptable; symbols, names etc. cut or dyed into hair will require a student to return home.
- **Additional subject uniform** (i.e. PE) and equipment lists are available from the school. White Polo top, Black (football) type shorts or tracksuit bottoms (No leggings), Black jumper/Sweatshirt & Suitable trainers
- **Other Valuables** (i.e. mobile phones, iPod etc.) If they are brought into school, the school will not take responsibility for loss or damage.

Sixth Form

The Sixth Form are senior members of the school and, as such, are not expected to wear the school uniform. However, you are requested to wear 'smart casual' dress, remembering that you are role models for younger pupils.

River Safety

Around 85% of accidental drownings occur at open water sites. Many of these drownings occur due to a lack of knowledge and understanding of open water safety. The basic principles of open water safety, combined with knowledge and understanding of the hazards, can increase enjoyment of open water and significantly reduce the number of incidents that occur each year.

Open Water Safety Tips:

The conditions at **open water sites** change constantly:

- Always look for warning and guidance signs
- Swim parallel with the shore, not away from it
- Avoid drifting in the currents
- Do not enter fast flowing water
- Be aware of **underwater hazards**
- Get out of the water as soon as you start to feel cold
- Never enter the water after consuming alcohol
- Only enter the water in areas with adequate supervision and rescue cover
- Always wear a buoyancy aid or lifejacket for activities on the water or at the water's edge (such as when boating or fishing)
- Always take someone with you when you go into or near water. If something goes wrong they will be able to get help
- If someone is in difficulty in the water shout reassurance to them and shout for help and call the emergency services (call 999 or 112)

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- Without endangering yourself see if you can reach out to them with a stick, pole or item of clothing – lie down to ensure you stay secure. Alternatively throw something buoyant to them such as a ring buoy or anything that will float

Dos and Dont's and the Dangers of Open Water:

Don't:

- Swim at unsupervised (un-lifeguarded sites) including lakes, quarries reservoirs and rivers
- Jump into the water until you have acclimatised to the water temperature
- Jump into the water from heights or 'tombstone'
- Swim into deep water which will be colder

Do:

- Swim at supervised (lifeguarded) sites
- Swim parallel with the shore, where you can quickly get to safety
- Swim with friends or family, so that you can help each other if you need to
- Look for signs and advice about the specific dangers at the place where you are swimming
- Think about what you will do if something goes wrong
- Contact a reputable outdoor pursuits or coasteering centre if you want to take part in more extreme activities

Dangers of open water include:

- The depth of the water – this changes and is unpredictable
- Submerged objects may not be visible
- Obstacles or other people in the water
- Lack of safety equipment and increased difficulty for rescue
- The shock of cold water can make swimming difficult and increase the difficulty in getting out of the water
- Strong currents can rapidly sweep people away
- Uneven banks and river beds
- Water quality e.g. toxic algal blooms and industrial/agricultural pollution

Further information can be found at the Royal Life Saving Society at <https://rlss.org.uk/water-safety/water-safety/water-safety-in-open-water/>

E-Safety

Online Safety is an important part of keeping children safe at The Bewdley School. We can only be successful in keeping all of our children safe online if we work with you to ensure that online safety messages are consistent and that all members of the community behave safely and appropriately online.

What is my child doing online through social networking?

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Children and young people go online to connect with friends, and make new ones, to browse the internet for information, chat with others and play games. They may:

- Search for information or content on search engines like Google and Bing
 - Share images and watch videos through websites or mobile apps like Instagram, Pinterest, Vine, YouTube and Whatsapp
 - Use social networking websites like Instagram, SnapChat, Facebook and Twitter
 - Write or reply to messages on forums and message boards
 - Play games alone or with others through websites, apps or game consoles
 - Chat with other people through online games such as Fortnite, games consoles, webcams, social networks and tools like Whatsapp.
 - When online, children and young people can learn new things, get help with homework, express themselves creatively and connect with friends and family.
- There are also risks, but by understanding and talking about the dangers you can help keep your child safe online.

What can I do to support my child?

Parents and carers play a key role in supporting children to learn about how to stay safe online, and they are one of the first people children turn to if things go wrong. We know it can be difficult to stay on top of the wide range of sites and devices that young people use, so we hope that the following advice helps.

- Have ongoing conversations with your children about staying safe online
- Carry out spot checks on the devices that your children use, looking at images, videos, and social media
- Use safety tools on social networks and other online services, e.g. Facebook privacy settings
- Decide if you want to use parental controls on your home internet
- Understand devices and the parental control tools they offer. A useful guide can be found on the [UK Safer Internet Centre's website](#).
- Encourage your child not to accept unknown friend requests

How can I report safety concerns?

If you are concerned that your child is in immediate danger, call 999. If it is a less immediate concern, you should contact your local police station.

- If you're worried that your child is being groomed online or sexually exploited you should also report your concerns to the Child Exploitation & Online Protection Centre (CEOP). You can report your concern through their website: www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre
- If you are concerned that your child is being bullied at school, you should contact your child's head of year.

A more detailed guide to the social networks your child uses can be found on the Net Aware website: www.net-aware.org.uk

Additional information about online safety can be found on the following websites:

- www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents

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- www.saferinternet.org.uk
- www.childnet.com
- www.nscpsc.org.uk/onlinesafety
- www.internetmatters.org
- www.getsafeonline.org

Personal Safety

As the lighter nights are well amongst us we would like to encourage Parents/ Carers to speak to their children about personal safety awareness and keeping safe particularly over the summer holiday period.

Please help keep your child safe and talk about personal safety. Please read the top tips with them and discuss their questions or concerns. Explain to them why you are concerned so that they can empathise with your concerns and why they should adopt your concerns as theirs. This will only help to re-enforce the safety messages they receive in school.

People you do not know (strangers)

- Watch out for cars that are following you
- Never get into a car with a person you do not know
- Never approach a person you don't know sitting in a car
- Stay strong, saying "no" is not wrong
- Never tell a stranger your name or address
- Don't believe what strangers tell you
- Don't accept gifts, treats or sweets from strangers
- Keep your distance and never go anywhere with someone you don't know
- Trust your feelings, if it doesn't feel right, it isn't

Yell and Tell

- Don't be afraid to say "no"
- If a stranger makes you feel unsafe, always 'yell and tell'
- Yell 'help' or 'I don't know you' to get someone's attention - then tell someone you trust what has happened
- Don't let anyone make you feel unsafe

Know a Safe place

- A safe place is a place that has someone you can trust and talk to, such as a school, shop, police station or friend's house
- If someone does make you feel unsafe, always run to a safe place

When Playing Outside

- If a stranger comes near, be safe and call out so your parents can hear
- Never approach or talk to a stranger that comes into the your garden
- If someone makes you feel unsafe go back inside and tell your parents about it
- Always play in an area where your parents can see you

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Using a computer

- If someone asks you for personal information online remember “when online, always decline!”
- Don’t give out your name or address to a stranger online
- Be careful who you talk to
- Never tell anyone you’re home alone

Using a phone

- When on a phone stay in a safe place and say no in a firm tone
- Never tell a stranger your name or address
- Don’t trust what a stranger tells you on the phone
- If you answer the phone and you don’t know the person talking, always let your parents talk to them

When at home

- If you hear a knock on the door, day or night, don’t invite strangers in, no matter what they say to you
- Never answer the door alone, even when your parents are home
- Never invite strangers into your home

Help your friends

- Always stay with your friends, family, or parents and never walk off
- Tell an adult you trust if you feel unsafe while with your friends
- If you see your friend do something that worries you tell them then tell an adult you trust

Going to and from school

- Never accept lifts from people you do not know
- If someone makes you feel scared or uncomfortable avoid them and tell an adult you trust
- Trust your feelings, if it doesn’t feel right, it isn’t
- If someone approaches you, you are allowed to ignore them
- Try not to use short cuts where you will be on your own
- Try to walk with friends to and from school
- Carry a mobile phone that is charged, you don’t need credit to phone 999
- Go to the nearest safe place if you feel unsafe such as a shop, home or school

I would like to thank our parents, carers and families for your continued support to The Bewdley School. Have a great summer break!

Best wishes



Mr D Chauhan – Deputy Headteacher