

Let's talk uniform...

Change is always difficult to manage and we are aware that the current uniform change is causing some disquiet in the community.

I hope the information below will answer some if not all of these concerns.

Why the Change?

The arrangement with our previous uniform supplier was not successful. There were supply issues. Up to 12 students started the year without a complete uniform. Some parents had returned uniform pieces several times over at considerable cost to themselves.

Parents shared their experiences with us and many asked for an opportunity to try the uniform on before buying.

Parents also wanted to have a warmer item available, specifically a fleece. Our previous fleece had not been popular and we carried stock for several years. This stock was depleted and a new fleece was needed.

The drill shorts were uncomfortable and unable to accommodate the growth spurts of many students, particularly in year 8. A new design was needed. Parents had complained about the fading and we felt this was a quality issue also.

Over the past few years it had become increasingly difficult to distinguish our students from those of a couple other schools in the region. This was very evident when a group of us were cheering on students from another school at sports events, mistaking them for ours. A change of colour for the PE shirt was needed.

Rebranding entailed developing a new logo and icons that reflected the new direction of the school. Our uniform needed to show this new logo.

NZ Uniforms

This company was asked to tender to be our new uniform provider. They have a retail outlet in Thorndon Quay and several customer service personnel assigned to meet the needs of our school. They are open Monday to Friday but also on Saturday mornings.

They have a uniform club where our families can set up an account and make automatic payments in advance to help with purchases.

The items are a little more expensive than our previous supplier but their prices too were due to rise. You can buy a basic uniform for around \$280.

2017

While we would love to see all our new year 7s wearing our new uniform we appreciate that some families have been holding on to items from older siblings ready to wear next year. Year 7s who already have old uniform organised for 2017 may wear it for the year. This will give families a full year to purchase the new uniform for 2018.

Angela Lowe, principal and Rama Smith BOT Chair