

Uniform review summary and outcome

3 December 2018

The Board of Trustees would like to thank all parents who have contributed to the school uniform review. This document summarises the process undertaken by the Board and the final decisions made.

Background

The uniform at St Benedict's school has existed in its current format for a number of years. The uniform has provided the school with a unique identification and children attending St Benedict's have always looked smart and well presented. Parents with multiple children at the school have enjoyed the opportunity to hand the uniform down to other children to wear, reducing the cost of new uniforms. These were important considerations for the Board as we commenced this exercise.

Why we started a review

The school uniform has been something a number of Parents have approached the Board about: in relation to the material of the jersey, the cost of the jersey, and girls always having to wear skirts and dresses from both a practicality and movement perspective.

The Board acknowledged that it was time to review the core parts of the school's uniform. We also acknowledged that a robust process would need to be undertaken to ensure the parent community had an opportunity to have a say, financial factors (for parents and the school) had to be taken into consideration, and any decision was to help future proof the uniform for the school.

Surveying the parent community

What we agreed at the outset was that we were not looking to fully replace the current school uniform. However, if there was significant support for changes to certain items, further investigation would be undertaken. It was also a requirement that our students continue to look smart, well presented and the uniform remained cohesive. We also agreed it was important to the students that there remain a distinction between the junior and senior uniforms.

The first survey was to test our parent community around the desire for change, and what, if any, items would parents like to see introduced. Overall there was support for change to the uniform, there were four areas which received a high number of comments:

- The school jersey
- Trousers
- An alternative for the girls to wearing a dress/skirt/tunic
- The practicality of the girl's white shirt

The second survey was to seek further input from parents based on the key themes that came out of the first survey.

Responses to the questions for the second survey are attached to this overview as *Appendix 1*.

The outcome

An evaluation on each of the potential uniform changes was then undertaken by the Board using the following criteria:

- Cost to families
- Cost to the school
- Cohesiveness
- Durability
- Archdiocese approval
- Ease of looking after the uniform
- Comfort/ability to move freely
- Parent feedback through the survey
- Supply chain

The results of the above resulted in the board deciding

1. All uniform items are unisex
2. The current summer dress remains for years 1-6 and the blue shorts and blue polo become unisex options.
3. The current girls white shirt remains as the only option to be worn with the winter tunic.
4. The current winter tunic remains for years 1-6 and the blue shorts and maroon polo become unisex options.
5. The current jersey remains with the addition of a blue monogrammed sweatshirt.
6. Navy blue trousers are an option for all students all year round.
7. For years 7 and 8: The current summer and winter skirt and white shirt remain. There is an introduction of a navy skort for wearing year-round. All uniform items become unisex. The existing white and sky blue shirts can be worn with either short or skort.
8. Introduce summer and winter socks. Navy blue ankle sock with maroon band for summer and navy blue knee high sock with double maroon band for winter.

<p>New Uniform options for years 1-6 The offering for both boys and girls will be:</p>	<p>New Uniform options for years 7 and 8 The offering for both boys and girls will be:</p>
<p><i>Summer</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blue shorts with light blue polo shirt • Blue trousers with light blue polo shirt • Summer dress <p>All options to be worn with the summer weight navy ankle sock with maroon trim (new) or blue tights. With the exception of trousers which can be worn with either summer or winter sock.</p>	<p><i>Summer</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blue skorts with white short sleeved shirt • Blue shorts with sky blue short sleeved shirt • Blue trousers with either white or sky blue short sleeved shirt • Summer skirt with white short sleeved shirt <p>All options to be worn with the summer weight navy ankle sock with maroon trim (new). With the exception of trousers which can be worn with either summer or winter sock.</p>

New Uniform options for years 1-6 The offering for both boys and girls will be:	New Uniform options for years 7 and 8 The offering for both boys and girls will be:
<p><i>Winter</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blue trousers with maroon polo shirt • Blue shorts with maroon polo shirt • Winter tunic with white shirt <p>All options to be worn with the winter knee high navy sock with maroon trim (current boys sock) or blue tights. With the exception of trousers which can be worn with either summer or winter sock.</p>	<p><i>Winter</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blue skorts with white long sleeve shirt • Blue shorts with sky blue long sleeve shirt • Blue trousers with either white or sky blue long sleeve shirt • Winter skirt with white long sleeve shirt <p>All options to be worn winter knee high navy sock with maroon trim (current boys sock) or blue tights. Exception of trousers which can be worn with either summer or winter sock.</p>
<p>For years 1-8 Either the current school jersey or the school sweatshirt (new) can be worn. The current summer sun hat is unchanged. The school beanie is still available for during winter. The sports uniform has not been reviewed as part of this exercise. Uniform shoes are unchanged.</p>	

Summary of changes

Once implemented, all current uniform items will still be able to be worn, except for white socks for the girls.

All uniform items for each year group can be worn by any student, regardless of sex.

All students can wear the trousers at any time of the year (to take into consideration Wellington’s inclement weather).

The winter and summer style navy shorts will be replaced with one style of shorts which will be able to be worn year round. Note: current styles are still considered uniform items and can continue to be worn until further notice.

New summer socks have been introduced for all students.

A new sweatshirt will be available as an alternative option to the current jersey and can be worn as part of the sports uniform.

The intermediate school options have been expanded.

When the changes take effect

The new uniform options will take effect from 30 January 2019.

Please be patient with regards to supply of new uniform items over the first 2 terms of 2019.

There will be leniency over the first 2 terms with regards to girls still wearing white ankle socks.

We would expect that by term 3 of 2019 all students will be able to comply with the new sock requirements.

Suppliers

As part of this exercise, the Board has looked at supply contracts and current commitments.

Taking into consideration NZ suppliers, product costs, supply chain and contract requirements of different suppliers, the Board has agreed to continue with Moana as our main uniform supplier.

The board is committed to reviewing the uniform supplier on a regular basis to ensure that we continue to get value for money and a durable uniform of good quality.

Price list

Below is the price list for the new items.

Item	Years	Size	Price (incl GST)
Navy blue skort	7-8	8-14	\$50
Navy blue trousers	1-8	4-14	\$45
Sweatshirt – Navy Blue monogrammed	1-8	Child	\$40
		Adult	\$45
Ankle socks with maroon band (summer)	1-8	SML	\$9.50
Knee high sock with maroon band (winter) Merino (cotton available for children with wool allergies)	1-8	SML	\$12

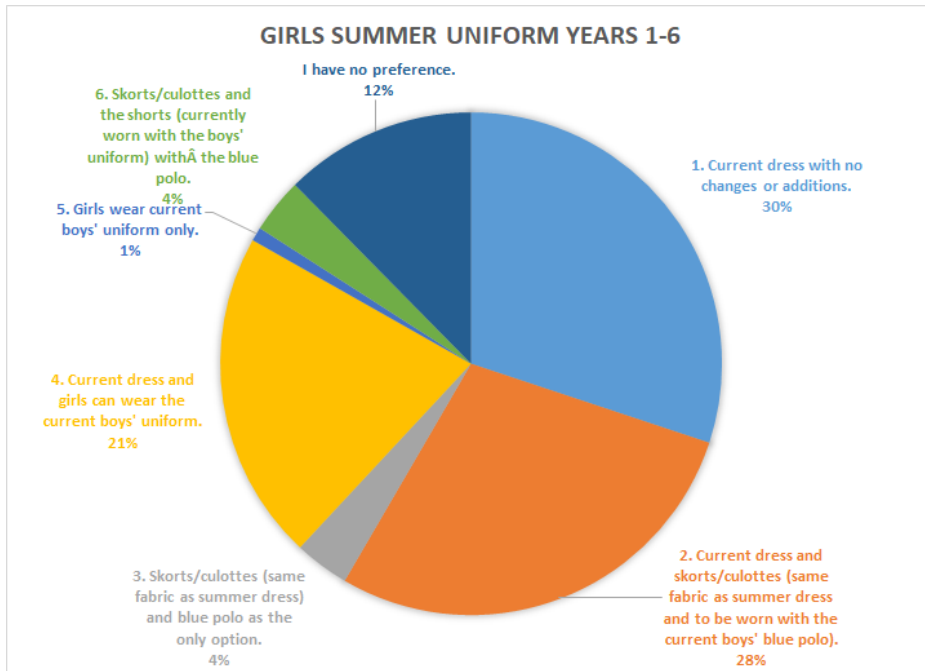
The Board feels it has undertaken a comprehensive and fair review and the outcome is a result of that review. Photos will be made available in due course on the school website.

Richard Uerata-Jennings

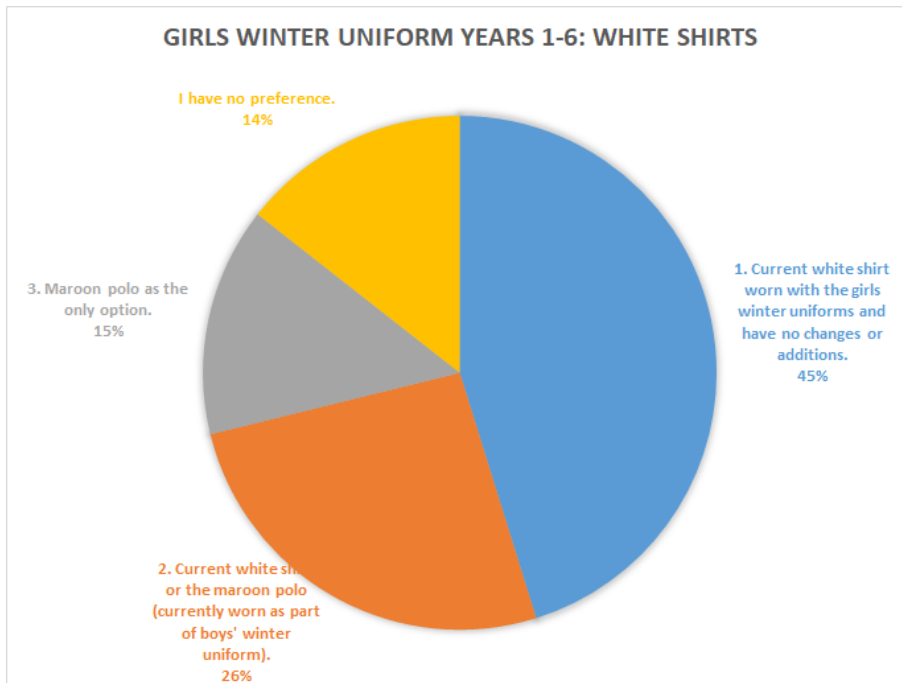
Chairperson, Board of Trustee

Appendix 1: St Benedict's School Uniform Review November 2018 - Results

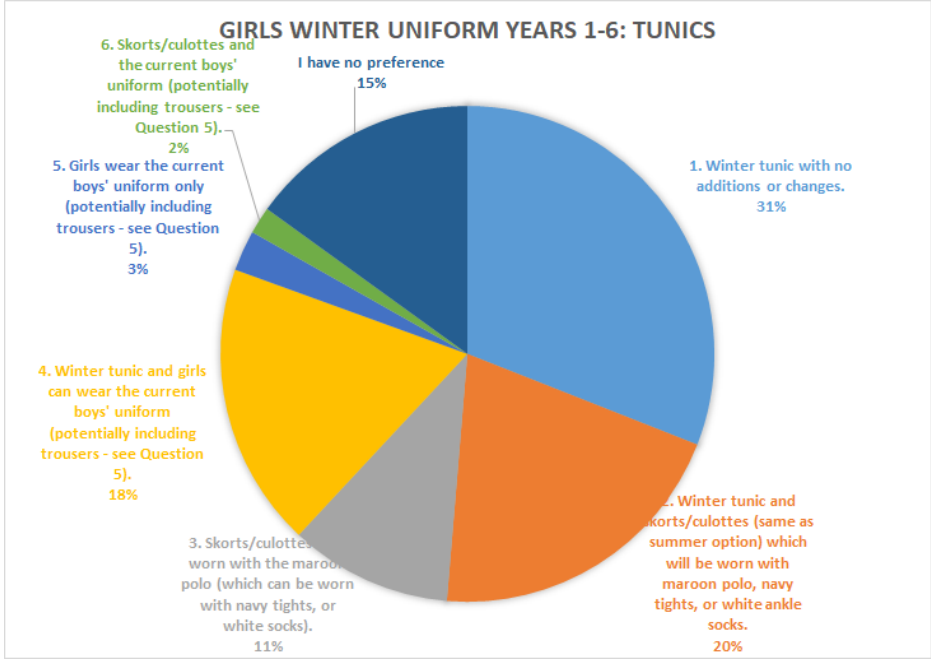
Question One: Girls Summer Uniform Years 1-6. Please mark your preferred option below.



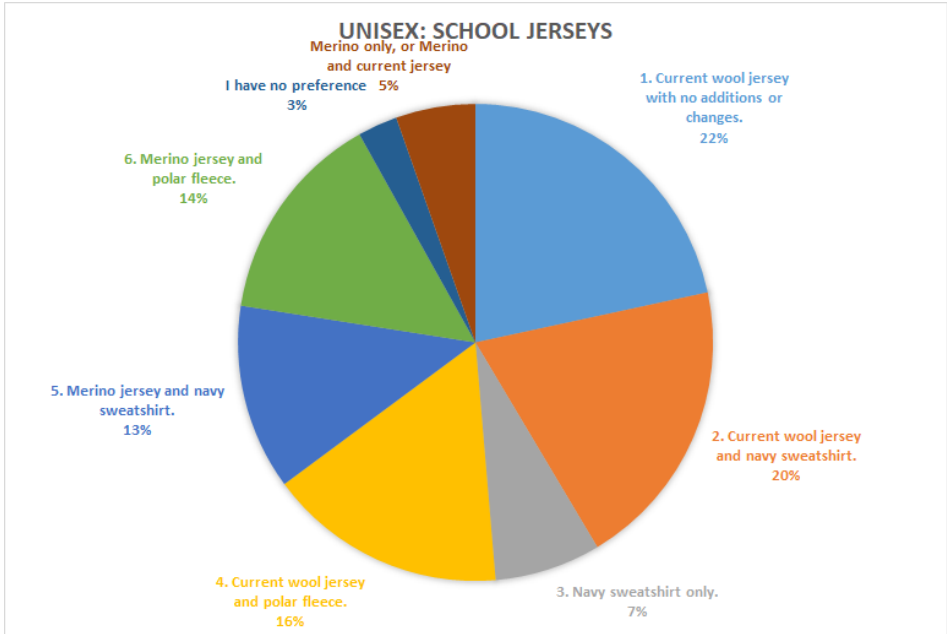
Question 2: Girls Winter Uniform Years 1-6: Tunics. Please mark your preference below.



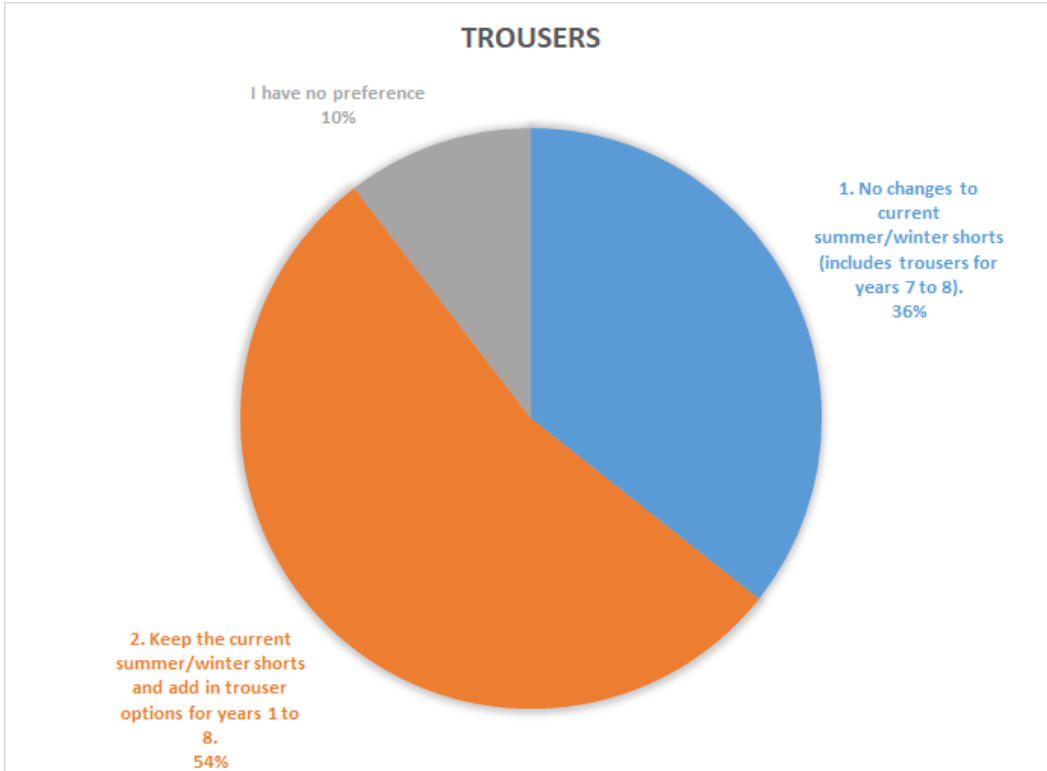
Question 3: Girls Winter Uniform Years 1-6: Tunics. Please mark your preference below.



Question 4: Unisex: School Jerseys. Please mark your preference below.



Question 5: Trousers. Please mark your preference below.



Question 6: Girls: Intermediate Uniform. Please mark your preference below.

