



Gracemount High School

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Committed to Care
and Excellence

Head Teacher
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Mr Iain Hutchison
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Dear Parent/Carer

Participation in Physical Education, Dance and School of Football

Gracemount High School PE Department now operates a 'no explanatory note' policy. In line with our school values the new policy is being introduced to:

- Encourage pupils to be more accountable for being organised and bringing the correct equipment to school – **INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY.**
- Make sure your child's learning is never compromised through injury or illness – **NO BARRIERS TO SUCCESSFUL LEARNING.**
- Guarantee your child is included and involved in every PE/Dance/School of Football lesson – **BEING VALUED.**

All pupils must bring PE kit and get changed for PE lessons regardless of any injuries/illnesses.

There will no longer be a requirement to supply a note explaining an injury or illness which may limit your child's participation. However, should you wish to discuss any issues, please feel free to contact the school at any time.

If your child is unable to fully participate in a lesson, they should still get changed into PE kit before giving details of their condition to their teacher. The teacher will then find alternative activities to complete during the lesson. This might be coaching, recording, keeping scores or giving feedback to peers. It might also involve any physio/rehab exercises which may benefit an individual pupil's recovery.

By removing the need for an explanatory note, it will save you the time spent writing to the school and encourage independence in your child. By encouraging everyone to bring PE kit, learning and teaching will no longer be disrupted by the time currently spent dealing with pupils who do not bring kit.

As part of our commitment to your child's development, each teacher will: -

- Deliver high quality Learning and Teaching experiences.
- Support your child to manage any injury/condition as best possible.
- Make sure your child is involved and included in the class.
- Arrange alternative changing facilities when requested.
- Provide clean kit to borrow in the unfortunate event that kit is forgotten.
- Offer personalisation of tasks and activity choice where possible.

PE kit should include a full change of appropriate top, bottoms and trainers. For School of Football pupils must always wear the kit which is provided at the start of the year. Pupils who study dance may wear a combination of a black leotard, black footless tights, black leggings and a black or white t-shirt.

We will also be operating a new system of sanctions outlined below for pupils who fail to adhere to the new policy.

No Kit Occasion	Sanction
1	Borrow kit <u>or</u> verbal warning from class teacher.
2	Borrow kit <u>or</u> text sent home.
3	Borrow kit <u>or</u> CL or PSL phone call home.
4	Borrow kit <u>or</u> below expectations detention issued.
5	Borrow kit <u>or</u> below expectations detention issued – Referral to Year Head and Supported Intervention arranged.
6	Borrow kit <u>or</u> below expectations detention issued – Referral to Head Teacher.

For pupils who are issued a detention during periods 1-4, the detention will take place during the first 15 minutes of lunch that day. For pupils who are issued a detention periods 5 or 6, the detention will take place during the first 15 minutes of lunch on the following school day. Please note that detentions are also issued for refusing to follow instructions and procedures as well as forgetting to bring PE kit.

Any pupil who fails to attend detention will follow whole school procedures and spend time in isolation.

This policy and new procedures will be launched on Monday 24 April. It has been designed based on feedback from pupils, staff and parents as well as gathering information from other PE Departments within the City of Edinburgh. We hope this system will support all pupils to participate fully in PE, School of Football and Dance curriculums.

If you have any questions regarding the information in this letter, please contact me by phone or email.

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