



## OLD TOWN INFANT SCHOOL & NURSERY

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Headteacher: Mr Douglas Gubbins BA (Hons), PGCE, NPQH



2nd October 2024

### **P.E Kits/Getting Changed for P.E in School**

Dear Parent/Carers

You may recall that back in March I wrote to you regarding P.E and changing arrangements. It was raised by several of our (then) Year 2 parents, that when the children make their transition to junior school, they are expected to get changed in to their P.E kit by themselves in school. Rightly, some of these parents were worried that the children had not had any practice to date in doing this. We therefore implemented changes in Year 2 from April 2024 that allowed the children to get changed for P.E in school in preparation for a successful transition into junior school.

We believe that asking children to change into PE kit in school has many advantages:

- It helps younger children to be more independent and learn how to dress/undress themselves, do buttons up, tie laces, etc. It also helps to develop fine and gross motor skills and enables them to rehearse this skill, preparing them for everyday life.
- It prepares our Year 2 children for junior school routines and expectations
- It enables teachers to be flexible about when PE takes place during the week
- Children will always look smart in school on PE days – last year there was a slow and steady drop-off in standards of P.E kit, with some children no longer wearing the correct attire to school on P.E days (Frozen/Batman t-shirts, onesies, ballerina dresses, crop tops). Some children also attended school in normal uniform - without a P.E kit and this posed challenges in finding spare kit.

However, from speaking to several parents over the last few days I am aware that several of our families are unhappy, worried or concerned about this change – for a number of different reasons. This has surprised me slightly as nearly seven months have passed since the original letter was posted and no concerns were raised about this in our last Parent Focus Group meeting back in July.

Please be assured that we have not 'gone rogue'. Having spoken to our two closest infant schools and all three of our feeder junior schools, I can confirm that in both infant schools and two out of the three junior schools, children get changed for P.E in school – just as we do here at Old Town.

That said, we have always been a school that listens and I am keen to hear the thoughts of our community. Rather than wait until the next PFG meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> October, I thought I would act now and open a two-week survey to hear people's thoughts and feelings on this issue. When this survey closes, I can draw together the feedback, present the data and explore ways forward (in conjunction with the PFG).

Below you will find a link to the survey. If you could complete this by Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2024, it would be greatly appreciated. I recognise that there will be differing thoughts on this matter so please can I ask that comments are respectful and kind. On a final note, we are always looking to enhance the membership of our PFG, if this is something you would like to be part of, please drop them an email to register your interest:

[oldtownpfg@coastalpartnership.co.uk](mailto:oldtownpfg@coastalpartnership.co.uk)

Link to survey

<https://forms.office.com/e/JgJ3w467Wf>

I look forward to your feedback,

*Doug*

Mr Douglas Gubbins  
Headteacher