



# Cardinal Newman Catholic Primary School

Arch Road, Hersham, Surrey KT12 4QT  
Telephone: (01932) 222536  
Head of School: Mr G Flower  
Executive Headteacher: Mrs C Burnham



## Coffee and conversation Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> July 2024

### Uniform

- 1. Our current uniform has a number of options for pupils; this allows choice, but can also look untidy when we are all together at different events. Would we settle on one uniform choice for summer and one for winter?**

There were many different views on the uniform choices available to girls in particular. It emerged that there were differing opinions between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 parents. The younger children prefer to wear the pinafore but as they move into Key Stage 2 prefer to wear the skirt.

Parents commented that the red polo shirt is thicker than the winter shirt and that many girls opt to wear the summer dress rather than the polo on hot days purely because it is thinner.

The quality of the red polo shirt was discussed as it can fade over time and the colour can run when being washed. It was thought that this is particularly true of more recent purchases.

The range of different colour socks that girls in particular are wearing was discussed and parents at the meeting unanimously voted for navy socks in preference to white.

### **2. Changes to the PE kit**

Following a previous Coffee and Conversation meeting where the subject of PE kit was discussed, Mr Flower passed around a possible replacement for the current T-shirt. The alternative was made of a different fabric. Mr Flower said that this option would mean an increase in cost but the parents in the meeting were in agreement with the change. Parents asked if there would be a change to the shorts - this will be further investigated.

Mr Flower stated that anything we decide will not be actioned in time for September 2024.

### Mobile Phones

**Our current policy allows year 6 children who walk to and from school on their own to hand in their phone at the office.**

- **Does it need to change?**

Mr Flower began by outlining the school's current rules surrounding mobile phones. Phones are not allowed in the school building; children in year 6 who walk to school on their own hand their phone into the office immediately upon arrival and before they have entered the playgrounds. They then collect them after being dismissed, accessing the office from the main entrance. All parents at the

meeting agreed that the process was effective and prevented mobile phones being accessed during the school day.

- **‘Smartphone Free Childhood’**

The conversation moved on to the ‘Smartphone Free Childhood’ campaign that has been in the media recently. A couple of parents had met Mr Flower and Mrs Burnham recently to discuss how the school could work with them to share information with the parent body. It was agreed that it would be discussed at a Coffee and Conversation meeting and that the school would provide an opportunity for them to present research surrounding the topic in the autumn term.

A couple of parents shared their intention for the meeting as not telling people what to do, just ensuring that they have the data to make an informed decision, thinking about it as a group. Parents asked for certain content for the meeting such as

- Suggestions for things you can talk about with your child.
- How much information to share with your child.

If and when you give your child a Smartphone is a parental decision. However, parents at the meeting felt that as soon as children reach year 6 the expectation is that they will receive a mobile phone and usually a Smartphone. Some parents were keen for this expectation to be removed but said that this will only happen if they agree together.

Parents stated that children become anxious that they do not have a Smartphone: they feel that they are missing out. They are upset if they are not on WhatsApp or Snapchat.

Mr Flower commented that whether it is a Smartphone or not there are problems when children begin messaging as they will often send messages that they wouldn’t even consider saying face to face. Therefore, it is important that parents support their child when they first get a phone and talk through rules and boundaries.

Mr Flower mentioned that Sharon Girling will be delivering a presentation to parents in the autumn term (16/10/24).

“Sharon Girling OBE is a former police officer who retired from the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) following thirty years’ service. She was at the forefront of a national and international response to online child abuse and developed the processes and procedures that led to the creation of CEOP. Sharon has been awarded an OBE by Her Majesty the Queen for her services to policing.”