Principal: **Mr M.Hacker**

Old Clough Lane, Worsley,
Manchester, M28 7JB

walkden.coopacademies.co.uk

Co-op Academy Walkden

Dear Parents and Carers,

PE Uniform Update

We want to update you on our PE t-shirts and explain a change we'll be making as part of our commitment to making school uniform more affordable for families.

Earlier this academic year, we introduced a grey PE t-shirt after pupils told us that the previous white material could be too transparent. We know, however, that many families have struggled to buy the grey t-shirt because of ongoing stock issues.

Last academic year, we shared our plans to move to a single uniform supplier across Co-op Academies Trust. Our aim is to make uniform considerably more affordable for families and make it easier to buy the items pupils need.

Following a competitive tender process, we've now selected our new supplier, who is working with us to prepare for the launch. However they have confirmed that they will no longer be able to produce the specific shade of grey used for our current PE t-shirt.

To make sure our PE uniform is easier to source in the future, we'll therefore be introducing a Co-op-branded blue PE t-shirt when our new supplier launches in the summer term.

We recognise that this means another change for families, particularly so soon after we introduced the grey t-shirt. We're sorry for the inconvenience this may cause, especially to those who have already bought one. With this in mind we wanted to reassure you there's no need to buy a new Co-op branded PE t-shirt until your child outgrows their current one.

What does this mean for your child?

- If you've already bought a grey branded PE t-shirt: Your child can continue to wear it until you feel it needs replacing/no longer fits
- If you haven't bought a grey branded PE t-shirt: Your child can continue to wear their existing white branded PE t-shirt.
- If your child's white branded PE t-shirt no longer fits or can't be worn: A plain white unbranded t-shirt is absolutely fine. You don't need to buy a branded replacement until September 2027 when the new supplier and colour is available.

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What happens next?

Our new supplier is expected to launch in the summer term, with the wider change to our uniform purchasing arrangements taking place in time for September 2027. We'll share more information in Spring 2027, including details of the new supplier and the reduced prices families can expect.

Until then, please continue to buy all other standard uniform items through Whittakers. We'll provide further guidance on the new PE t-shirt ahead of the change.

We know that the cost of school uniform matters, and that families need clear information and time to plan for any changes. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work to make uniform more affordable and accessible for everyone in our Trust community.

Best wishes,

Matt Hacker

Principal