



16 July 2026

Dear Parents / Guardians,

End of Year Letter to Parents

Our last day for this academic year will be Wednesday 22 July. Students will be leaving school at 12:30pm following our end of year assembly.

As we approach the end of this academic year and prepare for the start of the new one in September, I am writing to reiterate our expectations regarding school uniform, mobile phones, and equipment at Maiden Erlegh School in Reading (MER).

At MER, we place great importance on maintaining high standards. We know that students who take pride in their appearance are more likely to take pride in their learning and conduct.

Uniform Expectations

All students are expected to always wear full school uniform. Key requirements include:

- Blazer, tie and white shirt/blouse must be worn correctly.
- Trousers/shorts must be charcoal/black, tailored school trousers.
- Please note: tight-fitting, legging-style trousers or flares (kick flares) are not permitted.
- Skirts must be charcoal/black pleated
- Socks must be black/grey in colour only
- Optional items such as a navy jumper may be worn in addition to, not instead of, the blazer.
- Students must have an MER branded PE top for all PE lessons

Footwear

- Students must wear plain black, polishable school shoes.
- Trainers, canvas shoes and boots are not allowed.

Lanyards

- All students must always wear their school lanyard whilst on the school site.

Personal Appearance

Students should have natural coloured hair. False eyelashes and false nails are not permitted and make up should be natural.



Jewellery

Students are permitted to wear one small stud in nose and one pair of stud earrings. No other jewellery, such as necklaces or bracelets are permitted. Students will need to remove all jewellery for PE lessons. Further guidance around the school uniform can be seen in the images at the end of this letter and found on the school website.

Equipment Expectations

From September, there is a renewed focus on students being fully equipped for learning. All equipment should be kept in a clear pencil case. Equipment required for students include:

- Black pen
- Green pen
- Pencil
- 15cm ruler
- Protractor
- Compass
- Scientific calculator – recommended Casio FX83GT or Casio FX85GT
- It would also be beneficial for students to bring a highlighter and small selection of coloured pencils; however, this is not compulsory.

In addition to the above a refillable water bottle is a required item for all students from September 2026. Students may bring their own bottle or purchase one from school for £2.

We expect all students to arrive in September fully compliant with these expectations. Where students do not meet uniform and equipment standards, sanctions may be applied in line with our behaviour policy. If you require any support in obtaining uniform or equipment, please do not hesitate to contact the school to discuss accessing the second-hand uniform shop.

You will have also received a letter regarding the changes to mobile phone access in school. The DfE expects schools to implement a policy whereby pupils do not have access to their mobile phone throughout the school day including during lessons, the time between lessons, breaktimes and lunchtime.

In response to this legislation, the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026 (section 36) notes that schools should be phone free from the 29 June 2026. We have therefore taken the decision to introduce magnetic signal-blocking phone pouches in the new academic year and to strengthen the sanctions associated with mobile phone misuse in our schools to ensure we comply with this new legislation.

Students can continue to bring their mobile phone to school next academic year if they wish. However, we will be adopting the sanctions shown in the table below if a student is seen using a mobile phone on the school site during the school day.



These sanctions will start from the start of the new term in September.

	Sanction	Consequence for refusing to hand over the phone
1 st offence in the year	The phone is taken from the student at the time of the offence. A phone call / message is sent home to alert the parents of the confiscation. The phone is kept until the end of the week in the school office. The student attends an after-school detention on Friday and is given their phone back at the end of the detention.	The student is placed into Internal isolation until the phone is handed in. If the student refuses isolation they will be suspended for defiance for the remainder of the day. When the parent collects their child in order to serve the suspension, the phone must be handed to a member of staff. The phone is kept in the school office until Friday and is handed back to the student after the Friday detention.
2 nd offence in the year (and all further offences)	The phone is taken from the student at the time of the offence. A phone call / message is sent home to alert the parents of the confiscation. The phone is kept in the school office until the end of the half term. The student sits a detention on the last day of the half term. The parents come to school at the end of the detention to collect the phone and their child.	The student is placed into Internal isolation until the phone is handed in. If the student refuses isolation they will be suspended for defiance for the remainder of the day. When the parent collects their child in order to serve the suspension, the phone must be handed to a member of staff. The phone is kept in the school office until the last day of the term and is handed back to the student after the Friday detention.

From the 3 November (immediately after October half term), on arrival each morning, phones must be switched off and placed into a secure magnetic pouch. The pouch will remain with the student throughout the school day but cannot be opened until the end of the school day using designated unlocking stations located at exit points in the schools. This will result in students being unable to access their phones during lessons, breaktimes, lunchtimes or between lessons each school day.

All students will be provided with one pouch free of charge by the school. If students lose or damage their pouch a replacement will need to be purchased by the student.



Parents and carers can be assured that they will still be able to contact their child in an emergency through the school office. Likewise, if a student needs to contact home during the school day for an essential reason, they will be able to do so via the school office/student services. Any diabetic student who requires a mobile phone for insulin monitoring will have this accessible to them.

We appreciate that this represents a significant change in school policy. However, we firmly believe that this approach will support students in developing healthy habits, improving focus and making the most of every learning opportunity available to them. The Trust's policy for mobile phones, and other smart devices, will be updated to reflect these changes.

Thank you in advance for your support in maintaining the high standards and ethos of Maiden Erlegh School in Reading.

Yours sincerely,

S. Gibbs

B Davies

Mrs S Gibbs & Miss B Davies



Please find our uniform policies below.

Uniform Expectations for Maiden Erlegh in Reading



UNIFORM LIST	
Mandatory items	
Blazer	MER blazer
Tie	School striped tie
Shirt/Blouse	Traditional white shirt/blouse (long or short sleeved)
Trousers/Skirt	Charcoal/black tailored trousers Charcoal/black tailored shorts Charcoal/black pleated skirt Skirt may be worn under the skirt for religious reasons. (No jeans, leggings or jogging bottoms)
Lanyard	At the start of the year, a year group specific lanyard will be provided for each student. Replacement lanyards may be purchased for £2.
School bag	MER branded is available, otherwise dark colours only
Others	Grey/black socks/tights
Optional items	
Jumper	Navy pullover
Headscarf	Plain navy blue
Turban	Plain navy blue

Sikh students may wear the Five Ks only if it has been agreed with the headteacher. For information please contact the school office.

SHOES

Students should wear black, polishable shoes
Boots, trainers, canvas shoes etc. are not appropriate and students should not wear them. Shoes should be sensible i.e. not have thick soles or high heels/wedges.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION KIT

Compulsory	
	MER PE/sports top Navy PE shorts White sport socks Football boots Non-marking trainers 5/10m pads Mouth guard
Optional	
	Navy tracksuit bottoms Navy sports top/flanne (not hoodie) Navy leggings

PERSONAL APPEARANCE

Well-groomed hair/facial hair (no extreme styles)
One small silver/gold stud in nose and one in each ear only; no other jewelry should be worn to school.
Natural coloured hair. No nail varnish or makeup, except light foundation.

UNIFORM SHOES



SUITABLE FOR SCHOOL (BLACK, POLISHABLE SCHOOL SHOES)



BOOTS, TRAINERS, CANVAS SHOES, HEeled SHOES ETC. ARE NOT APPROPRIATE AND SHOULD NOT BE WORN.



Maiden Erlegh Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity registered in England and Wales under company number 07548754 with registered office at Silverdale Road, Earley, Reading, RG6 7HS.

