



**FERNDOWN**  
Upper School

Admission  
Booklet



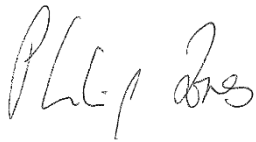
## **Welcome to Ferndown Upper School**

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to Ferndown Upper School. I know that starting Upper School may initially be a little daunting, but I know that you will quickly fit in and fully enjoy your time here. Welcome to the Ferndown Family!

At Ferndown, we believe that you should be happy and safe, that you should also achieve and that you should be fully prepared for life after school; whether that be employment, apprenticeship or University.

We have a proud record of student support, high exam results and many extra-curricular activities. So, I challenge you to make the very most out of your time with us.

This booklet contains some useful information for you to read before you start and I look forward to seeing you on Transfer Day.



Philip Jones  
Headteacher

## **Welcome to Year 9**

We would like to welcome you to Ferndown Upper School. We can reassure you that you have made an excellent choice and as a Year Team, we will do our best to make you feel very welcome and happy at our school over the next 5 years.

As a school, we have all been working towards making this transition as successful as possible. We look forward to welcoming your child into FUS on the Transfer Day prior to the summer holidays so please look out for the details of this. We know that starting at the Upper School is a major change and we are trying our best to reduce those concerns and worries which are inevitable at a time like this.

We believe, along with all of the other staff here at FUS, that students will flourish and develop to reach their full potential whilst they are here. If students follow our Ferndown Way they will thrive here and achieve the skills and qualifications needed to be successful in whatever future pathway they want to follow.

This booklet contains lots of important information about our school and hopefully it will provide answers to the many questions we are sure you have and will be of use in preparation for your start with us in September.

We are really looking forward to seeing you all and supporting you through what we are sure will be a successful journey with us at Ferndown Upper School.

Many thanks and best wishes,  
The Transfer Team

## Contents

Welcome to Ferndown Upper School .....	2
Welcome to Year 9 .....	2
Ferndown Upper School Online Admission Form & Contact Information .....	4
Management Information System, MCAS (My Child at School) and the Student Portal.....	4
Transfer Evening – Thursday 26th June.....	4
Transfer Day – Friday 27th June .....	5
FAQ’s for Transfer Day.....	6
FAQ’s for September .....	6
Equipment List .....	7
Getting to School .....	8
Late minibus.....	9
Bikes and riding to school.....	9
Absence recording and reporting .....	10
Year 9 Costs.....	10
Acceptable Computer, Internet, and WiFi Use Policy .....	11
Use of School Wi-Fi.....	12
Catering.....	13
School Uniform .....	13
General uniform guidance .....	16
Student Progress.....	17
Mobile Phone and Smart Watch Use .....	19
Headphones.....	19
Safeguarding – key information .....	20
Music Lessons .....	21
Rewarding students.....	22
Parent/Guardian Support .....	23



## **Ferndown Upper School Online Admission Form & Contact Information**

You will be sent an email containing log-in details for our online Admissions Form. These invitations will be sent to the email address that you used for the application process with Dorset. If you change your email address during this transition period, please let us know by emailing [transfer@fernup.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:transfer@fernup.dorset.sch.uk) and we will update your details and re-send the invite. If you have not received your invitation by the end of April, or if you are having any issues with the application form, please email and we will contact you directly to assist. The information that you give us on this form will enable us to ensure a smooth start for your child at Ferndown Upper School and should be completed no later than **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2025**.

### **Management Information System, MCAS (My Child at School) and the Student Portal**

FUS uses a Management Information System called Bromcom which includes apps for parents and students to see information from the school including student timetables, assessment grades and attendance information. Parents use an app called *MCAS*. The student version is called *Student Portal*. For payments, we also use *MCAS*. Access to *MCAS* will be granted to parents in the summer term. Students will not be able to access the student portal until they join us in September. Their first computer lesson will show them how to access this along with their school email.

**Further information can be found on our website: [www.fernup.dorset.sch.uk](http://www.fernup.dorset.sch.uk)**  
**Or contact us on: 01202 871243**  
**[transfer@fernup.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:transfer@fernup.dorset.sch.uk)**

### **Transfer Evening – Thursday 26th June**

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June from 6:30 – 7.30pm is the New Parents' Information Evening where parents will meet important members of staff, along with the parents of the other Year 9 students. We will notify you of the House and Tutor Group which students have been allocated to on this evening. Parents will be given general information regarding systems here at Ferndown Upper School as well as the opportunity to meet your child's Head of House.

The Year 9 Team will also be available to answer any questions you may have. The evening will be in two sittings. The first group will be in the Hall for a presentation at 6:30pm with the Headteacher, Deputy Heads, Heads of House and Mrs Chater (Transfer Coordinator). Once the hall has reached capacity, or 6:30pm, whichever happens first, the other parents will be asked to go to the Café. This other group can informally meet the other staff and get answers to those all-important questions that they may have. There will be a chance to talk about the structure of the school day, uniform, what activities the school has to offer as well as a chance to meet the Pastoral Managers. Then, sitting two will be at 7pm in the Hall, giving the other group of parents the opportunity to meet in the café. Students do not need to attend this evening.

## Transfer Day – Friday 27th June

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June at 8.20am is the first day of the transfer experience. The programme for the day will be:

<b>Arrival 8.20am</b>	All students should gather in the main hall, where you will find stations marked alphabetically with your surname and you will collect your information sticker for the day. This sticker has your tutor group on it and is important as you will be in these groups during the day. You will then be asked to sit in houses in your new tutor groups.
<b>LESSON 1 8.55am-9.50am</b>	Your lesson 1 teachers will come to the hall to pick you up and take you to their room for your first lesson at FUS.
<b>LESSON 2 9.50am-10.40am</b>	After lesson 1 has finished you will be dismissed to go to lesson 2. The timetable will tell you what subject you have, who is teaching it and where it is located.
<b>BREAK 10.40am-11.10am This has been extended by 10 minutes for today only</b>	All transfer students are allowed to purchase hot food and snacks from the café. Any student eligible for free school meals can give their name to one of our checkout operators who will deduct the standard amount from the total food bill. Break time is a great opportunity to find the toilets, catch up with friends and find out where your next lesson is going to be!
<b>LESSON 3 11.10am-12.10pm</b>	When the bell goes at the end of break time you will need to check your timetable and head off to your next lesson.
<b>LESSON 4 12.10pm-1.00pm</b>	If you're not sure of where to go next, ask your lesson 3 teacher to point you in the right direction. There will also be lots of staff and 6 <sup>th</sup> Form students around to help you find your way. You will be in the same group so stick with those students who you have been in lessons with already.
<b>LUNCH 1.00pm-1.40pm (also extended by 10 mins)</b>	Slightly extended lunch, long enough to fill up your water bottle, get some more food and chat with friends.
<b>LESSON 5 1.40pm-2.40pm</b>	The bell will sound for the end of lunch and you go to lesson 5. This will be a shortened lesson as the day will end with a brief assembly in the school hall.

During the day, one of your timetabled lessons will be 'tutor time'. You might meet your tutor for September during this hour and you will get the opportunity to find out more about the students in your tutor group.

## FAQ's for Transfer Day

### 1. Transport – how do I get to school?

You must arrange your own transport for this day. We cannot guarantee that there will be sufficient room on the existing school buses. Make sure you can get to school before 8:20am and don't forget we finish at 2:40pm (due to a shorter lunch break).

### 2. What can I eat at lunch time and break times?

You may bring your own packed lunch and eat it in our café or outside at the tables in our quad. The cost of a café meal starts at £2 and you can choose a range of hot or cold 'grab and go' items or a cooked lunch. The café also has a salad bar. Students will not need more than £5 to spend on drinks and food at break and lunch time. If your child is eligible for free school meals, this will be provided by the main café for the standard amount of £3.50.

### 3. What should I wear on transfer day?

Wear your normal middle school uniform and arrive looking neat and tidy.

### 4. Do I need PE Kit?

*Some* students have a PE lesson on their timetable, the simplest thing to do is to bring your middle school kit.

### 5. What happens if I can't do PE for medical reasons?

Bring a short note in from home excusing you from PE.

## FAQ's for September

### 1. When is my first day?

Year 9 Induction Day is on **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September**

### 2. What should I wear?

Full FUS school uniform – details are on later pages of this booklet or you can visit our website:

<http://fernup.dorset.sch.uk/information/uniform/>

### 3. What about my locker, when do I get that?

In September, students who have paid the £30 fee will be allocated a locker. Students need to provide their own padlock.

### 4. Where do I go on my first day?

On the first day of the new term, all students will assemble in the main school hall at 8.25am for a short meeting. You will then spend time with your tutor before going off to lessons.

Finally, if on transfer day your child has any issues or concerns, our Pastoral Support Team can be found in C Block just above the large café. Our Pastoral Support Team will ensure that any questions or queries are resolved as quickly as possible.

## **Equipment List**

### **Essential:**

- 1 x 30cm ruler
- 3 x Blue or black pens
- 2 x Purple pens for reflective work
- 1 x Casio FX- 83GTX Scientific calculator
- 3 x Sharp HB pencils
- 1 x Rubber
- 1 x Protractor
- 1 x Pair of compasses
- 1 x Pencil case
- 1 x Pencil sharpener
- 1 x Strong school bag
- 3 x Highlighters in different colours

### **Optional:**

- 1 x USB (you may also store your work on Microsoft OneDrive)
- Media students – SD card
- Art students – sketchbook
- Photography students – photography book
- 1 x Diary
- 1 x Glue stick
- 1 x Pair of scissors
- 1 x Set of coloured pencils

## Getting to School

Dorset Council runs all the bus services for our feeder schools. Parents whose children need to use the school buses will receive detailed information from DC about these services but this information can also be obtained from the school office. The detailed routes and times can be found by clicking on the relevant PDF document on our website.

### Outside of catchment

Students outside of catchment (e.g. Bournemouth, Poole) will need to arrange their own transport e.g. public buses (for which there are bus stops just outside the school) or car.

Courteous and considerate behaviour on buses is expected from all pupils and parents' help to ensure this is appreciated. The school reserves the right to ban students who misbehave from travelling on a school bus, and this will be supported by the LA.

The buses operating to and from Ferndown Upper School are as follows:

(This may be subject to change due to increased numbers of students in the school from September 2025.)

<b>Service</b>	<b>Area Covered</b>	<b>Run by</b>	<b>Bus company</b>
F1	Verwood, Three Legged Cross, West Moors to Ferndown	DC	Damory
F2	Ashley Heath, Verwood, Three Legged Cross, West Moors to Ferndown	DC	Damory
F3	Ringwood, Verwood, Three Legged Cross, West Moors to Ferndown	DC	Damory
F4	Verwood, Three Legged Cross, West Moors to Ferndown	DC	Damory
F7	Ashley Heath, St Leonards, Tricketts Cross to Ferndown	DC	Excelsior



All buses normally arrive at the Upper School Car Park at about 8.20am and leave from the same location 10 minutes after the end of the afternoon session. The school provides an additional late minibus service to some areas of Verwood, Three-Legged Cross, West Moors and Tricketts Cross every day.

Ferndown Upper School – Dorset Council routes

To determine if your child is entitled to free transport, or to find out how to apply and pay for a bus pass call DC on 01202 224545 or visit [www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk) and search for “Transport Policy”.

Please note that **6<sup>th</sup> Formers** do not have an automatic entitlement to transport on the DC buses. Passes are usually available but, in most cases, there will be a charge. Applications for September passes must be made to Dorset Council between May 1<sup>st</sup> and May 31<sup>st</sup>. Any applications made after this date will not normally be processed until October half term. For more information, please refer to [www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk) and search for “Eligibility for Post 16 Transport”.

### **Late minibus**

Some areas are also served by a late minibus every day, which departs at 4pm. This is run by the school so places are limited. Students should sign up in the school reception in advance as a seat cannot be guaranteed otherwise. Bookings can be made at break and lunchtime. If a student forgets to sign up, they may still be able to get a place but of course, the minibus may be full if they leave it to the last minute. There is not a late bus on a Friday. Parents are not able to book spaces for their child.

### **Disruptions to service**

If a school bus fails to turn up on time in the morning, the student should use their mobile phone to ring the school (01202 871243) or the relevant bus company (listed on the previous page) for information and advice. If a bus fails to turn up after school, we will make every effort to get students home. For live information on any disruptions to service, please refer to [www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk) and search for “Transport Updates”.

### **Bus Timetables**

Please refer to <https://www.excelsior-coaches.com/schools-timetables> for detailed information on bus routes.

### **Bikes and riding to school**

We encourage students to ride to school and as such have over 100 spaces in our various bike sheds. Although these sheds remain locked during the school day, we would ask that all students lock their bikes individually too, as we cannot accept responsibility for them during the times that the sheds are open.

We would also like to stress the importance of wearing bike helmets, as we are all too aware of the lasting and terrible damage that can be done by a simple fall. Additionally, we always expect sensible and courteous riding and students not adhering to this will be sanctioned.

## Absence recording and reporting

If your child is going to be unexpectedly absent, please inform us either via email to [studentabsence@fernup.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:studentabsence@fernup.dorset.sch.uk) or you can contact us on 01202 871243 and select Option 1 for student absence. You can also report absence via My Child At School (MCAS) using the web browser version. You will need to leave your child's name, your relationship to the child and the reason for absence. If your child is absent for more than one day, then you will need to report their absence on each day for safeguarding purposes. We are only able to authorise up to 3 days of absence for illness unless medical evidence is provided. This can be in the form of a doctor's appointment card, a photograph of a prescription or prescribed medication, or a hospital letter. If your child is absent and we have not heard from you, we will send you a text message, an email or ring you to check that everything is Ok.

All requests for pre-booked term time absence must be made in writing to the Headteacher. Term-time leave can only be authorised in exceptional circumstances. Please note that holidays are not classed as exceptional circumstances.

At Ferndown we place a huge importance on good attendance because we know the effect that poor attendance has on achievement. To this end we will monitor your child's attendance weekly and if it falls below 95%, we will contact you expressing our concerns and offering support. Please refer to our full Attendance Policy on our school website.

## Year 9 Costs

When a student begins their education at Ferndown Upper School, we ask all parents to contribute a fee of **£30**, which will cover the following:

- Use and maintenance of a locker (for which they will need to provide a padlock) for the three years from 9 to 11 – an essential requirement for students to allow them to store their equipment, outdoor coats and personal items safely and securely every day.
- Access to cashless catering using biometric fingerprint recognition which is linked to a MCAS account. If not using biometrics students can pay by cash/card.
- A student notepad for Year 9, which will help them organise themselves.
- £5 worth of printing credits (B&W costs 2p, colour costs 5p).

Payment should be made before 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025. You can pay via the *MCAS* shop.

Pupil Premium students will receive these items free of charge.

*MCAS* will also enable you to make payments to school for trips and equipment. You can also use *MCAS* to load money onto your child's biometric/fob dinner account. We do however advise that you give your child cash to purchase their lunch on their first few days (or to bring a packed lunch), in the unlikely event that there is a problem with the systems as your child transitions from middle to upper school.

If you are not able to use the *MCAS* system for any reason, please contact the school office.

The cost of a meal starts at £2 and you can choose a range of hot or cold 'grab and go' items or a full cooked meal. There are also breakfast items for sale from 7:45am each morning e.g. cereal bars, Danish pastries and bacon rolls. Students will not need more than £5 to spend on drinks and food at break and lunchtime. If your child is eligible for free school meals, the allowance is £3.50 per day which can be used at break and/or lunchtime. Students may bring their own packed lunch and eat it in our café or outside at the tables in our courtyard.

## Acceptable Computer, Internet, and WiFi Use Policy

This policy protects students, staff, and the school by clearly defining acceptable and unacceptable use of computer resources. A copy of this policy is available at on our website.

### Personal Responsibility

As a representative of the school, I accept personal responsibility for reporting any network misuse to a staff member.

### Acceptable Use

The school network, including internet access, is provided to support education and research by providing access to unique resources and opportunity for collaborative work. Users must ensure their activities align with Ferndown Upper School's educational objectives.

Users must not access, share, or create content related to:

- Pornography (including child pornography)
- Discrimination of any kind
- Racial or religious hatred
- Illegal activities
- Material that may offend colleagues
- Use another user's account or modify/delete their files or passwords.
- Install or attempt to install programs of any kind.

### Privileges

Access to the computer network and internet is a privilege, not a right. Inappropriate use may result in loss of privileges, as determined by system administrators. Staff may request the denial, revocation or suspension of specific user accounts. Personal financial gain, gambling, political activities, gaming, or advertising are prohibited.

### Services Disclaimer

Ferndown Upper School makes no warranties regarding network service and is not responsible for damages, including data loss due to delays, errors, or service interruptions. Users should back up their files regularly using an appropriate storage device. Information obtained via the network is used at the user's own risk.

### Network & Email Etiquette

Users must adhere to these guidelines when using the school computer systems:

1. Be polite; avoid abusive messages.
2. Use appropriate language; do not swear or use inappropriate terms.
3. Do not engage in illegal activities.
4. Protect personal information (e.g. addresses, phone numbers).
5. Understand that emails are not private and may be monitored.
6. Avoid disrupting network use for others (e.g. gaming, downloading music).
7. Do not send anonymous messages or chain letters.
8. Chat rooms are not permitted.
9. Additional considerations:
  - a. Be concise and proofread messages.
  - b. Recognise that humour and satire can be misinterpreted.
  - c. Respect others' rights and beliefs.

## Email Use

Students must use email responsibly. Sending or receiving inappropriate content is strictly forbidden. Spamming (sending excessive emails) can overload the system and may result in a loss of privileges, ranging from two weeks to permanent removal.

Security is a priority. Users must:

- Report security issues to IT Services or an IT teacher.
- Never use another person's account.
- Avoid attempting to log in as a system administrator.
- Understand that security risks or past misuse may result in denied access.
- Regularly change their password

## Vandalism

Intentional damage to IT resources, including creating viruses, hardware damage, or deleting data, may result in revoked privileges. Users must report issues to IT Services instead of attempting repairs themselves.

## Monitoring

The school reserves the right to monitor computer use, including website access and email interception. Inappropriate or unauthorised use may result in content deletion.

## Sanctions

Violations may result in revoked IT access and disciplinary action. Authorities may be involved if necessary.

## **Use of School Wi-Fi**

Ferndown Upper School provides wireless internet for staff, students, and visitors. Users must abide by all relevant laws and regulations.

## Terms & Conditions

- The school is not liable for device damage or data loss.
- Personal devices are used at the owner's risk.
- Users may not charge devices using school power outlets.

## Security Considerations

- There is no expectation of privacy when using the school's Wi-Fi.
- The school is not responsible for compromised personal information.
- Users must have up-to-date antivirus protection and security patches.
- A security certificate must be installed to allow web traffic inspection.
- VPNs (Virtual Private Networks) are prohibited. Use may result in sanctions or Wi-Fi bans.

## Web Filtering & Monitoring

Ferndown Upper School uses the Netsweeper filtering solution provided by School's Broadband.

This includes:

- Installing a security certificate on all devices using the Wi-Fi network.
- Filtering and monitoring website access to ensure educational appropriateness.
- Blocking unauthorised content and applications.

The security certificate does not track users and has no effect outside the school network.

The school's **Code of Conduct Policy** applies to Wi-Fi use. Misuse may result in loss of access and disciplinary or legal action.

Users agree not to create or transmit:

1. Offensive, obscene or indecent images.
2. Material causing annoyance, inconvenience, or anxiety.
3. Defamatory content.
4. Copyright-infringing material.

Issues should be reported to the IT helpdesk. The Wi-Fi service may be temporarily unavailable for maintenance without notice.

## **Catering**

At Ferndown Upper School, food can be paid for in a number of ways:

- Using a standard credit/debit card or Apple Pay.
- Using the student's fingerprint which will be taken (if permission granted) during the first few days of the Autumn Term. This will link to a *MCAS* account which can be topped up with credit.
- Cash – but we prefer not to use cash if at all possible after the first few days of term.

### **Q. What if I am entitled to Free School Meals?**

A. There is no discrimination as the system works exactly the same for all students whether they pay or have a free school meal entitlement. The set allowance will be electronically placed onto the child's fob account each day (the allowance is not rolled over so must be used in full each day). Additional cash can also be added to enable a greater daily spend using the *MCAS* account. This is retained in a separate electronic purse and is only used when free meal entitlement has been used in full.

## **School Uniform**

We wish to remind everyone of the school uniform requirements and urge you all to send your child to school in the correct uniform. This is especially important when starting a new school. Children wearing the wrong uniform will either; be able to adjust it to be correct, be loaned the correct uniform, or removed from social times until uniform is corrected. At Ferndown, we are determined that our students will follow our school rules and we ask that you support us in making sure that this is the case. This starts with having the correct uniform.

We work to maintain high standards for our children and school uniform is an area where we expect students to share these expectations and have pride in belonging to our school community. We therefore set a clear expectation that uniform will be worn. Extremes of fashion are neither acceptable nor appropriate for school either in clothes, footwear, make-up, jewellery or hairstyle. Hair should be cut in an appropriate style for school e.g. no Mohicans or patterns shaved in. Students with long hair must carry a hair band for tying back their hair in some lessons e.g. PE, Design Technology for health and safety reasons. Shoes worn to school should be an appropriate style. Trainers may be worn for PE but must not be worn in place of shoes as they can become an expensive and inappropriate fashion statement for some children. Please see our school website for details of acceptable and non-acceptable school shoes. We do not allow branded shoes e.g. Nike Air, Vans etc.. We want you to be safe at all times, therefore, the wearing of jewellery is firmly discouraged. If a child has pierced ears then stud earrings only may be worn

(no other piercings are allowed), but we ask that these are removed for swimming and PE activities.

Acrylic nails and fake nails are also not acceptable as they can pose a risk during practical lessons such as Science. Nails need to be sensible and a practical length. If nail varnish is to be worn, it should be a light and natural colour. No unnatural tips are to be worn. Make-up should also be a natural look and not noticeable. Students choosing to ignore these rules could find that they are asked for their make up or nail varnish to be removed immediately.

Please also be aware that you should not bring any precious items or valuables to school, although you are issued a reasonably secure locker, we cannot take responsibility should they be lost or damaged, this includes your mobile phone, air pods etc.

Cost of the uniform can be obtained from the uniform shop.

Students who qualify for Pupil Premium funding will receive a £75 grant for the uniform shop in West Moors. We will send these out at the end of the summer term.

In the summer we will have a pre-loved uniform sale at school. This is intended for families with household income below £38,000, no proof will be asked for. Further details will follow.

UNIFORM A	ITEM	NOTES
<b>MANDATORY</b>	Trousers	Trousers - Plain black full-length school trousers. No corduroy, denim, jeans style or "fashion" trousers.
	Blazer (specific design)	Available from the school shop only.
	Shoes	Plain black leather type (not fabric/canvas or leather 'Vans'). No high heels or stilettos, or backless shoes or strappy sandals, no boots and absolutely no trainers and no easily visible logos, must have black soles. No large rubber band around the bottom.
	Tie	In House colour and available from school shop or school.
	Shirt	Plain white school shirt with collar buttoned to top. No sports or casual shirts.
	Socks	Plain black, grey or white socks.
<b>OPTIONAL</b>	Belt	Must be plain black, no logo.
	Jumper	V neck, plain black, standard length and only to be worn under blazer.
<b>MANDATORY</b>	Black polo top	With school logo - only available from school shop.
	Shorts	Embroidered with school logo and only available from the school shop.
	Trainers	Non-marking sole. No board shoes, converse style, plimsolls or black soles.
	Sports socks (indoor use)	White.
	Black & yellow rugby shirt	Embroidered with school logo and only available from the school shop.
	Gum shield	
Safety equipment	Padding/helmets if playing contact games/sports.	



	Football socks (outdoor use)	Black or black/yellow.
	Shin pads	
	Football boots	With screw in studs so that rugby studs can also be fitted.
<b>OPTIONAL</b>	Tracksuit trousers	Embroidered with school logo and only available from the school shop - can be worn for Trampolining or over the usual PE kit if the weather is bad.
	Black PE overtop	Embroidered with school logo and only available from the school shop.
<b>UNIFORM B</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>NOTES</b>
<b>MANDATORY</b>	Trousers (or skirt)	<b>Trousers</b> - Plain black tailored full-length school trousers which must not be skin tight (not 5 pocket jeans or jean style, calf length, tight fitting, low cut at the waist, or with any visible badges, motifs, zips or fasteners, 'fashion' trousers, leggings, lycra based fabrics, hipster style or skinny jeans). The test we use in school is whether the trouser clings to the knee or just below the knee. If it does cling to the knee or just below these trousers will not be accepted.
	Skirt	Specific design available from the school shop only.
	Blazer (specific design)	Available from the school shop only.
	Shoes	Plain black leather type (not fabric/canvas or leather 'Vans'). No high heels or stilettos, or backless shoes or strap sandals, no boots and absolutely no trainers and no easily visible logos, must have black soles. No large rubber band around the bottom.
	Blouse (specific design)	Embroidered with school house logo and available from the school shop only.
	Socks or tights	Plain black socks. Natural or black tights. Sports socks are not to be worn.
<b>OPTIONAL</b>	Belt	Must be plain black with no logo.
	Jumper/cardigan	V neck, plain black, standard length and only to be worn under blazer.
<b>GENERAL</b>	Make-up	Discreet natural make-up. Excessive make-up will be asked to be removed. No false nails (health and safety risk). Only neutral shades of nail polish are acceptable.
	Black T shirt	With school logo - only available from school shop.
	Shorts	Embroidered with school logo and only available from the school shop.
<b>MANDATORY</b>	Football socks (outdoor use)	Black or black/yellow.
	Sports socks (indoor use)	White.
	Shin pads	
	Trainers	Non-marking sole. No board shoes, converse style, plimsolls or black soles.
	Football boots	With screw in studs so that rugby studs can also be fitted.
<b>OPTIONAL</b>	Sports leggings	Specific Leggings available from the school shop.
	Tracksuit trousers	Embroidered with school logo and only available from the school shop.
	Black PE overtop	Embroidered with school logo and only available from the school shop.

Our uniform is found on our website at <https://fernup.dorset.sch.uk/information/uniform/> - here you will find details of our Uniform A and Uniform B. **Students can wear one or the other, not a mixture of both.**

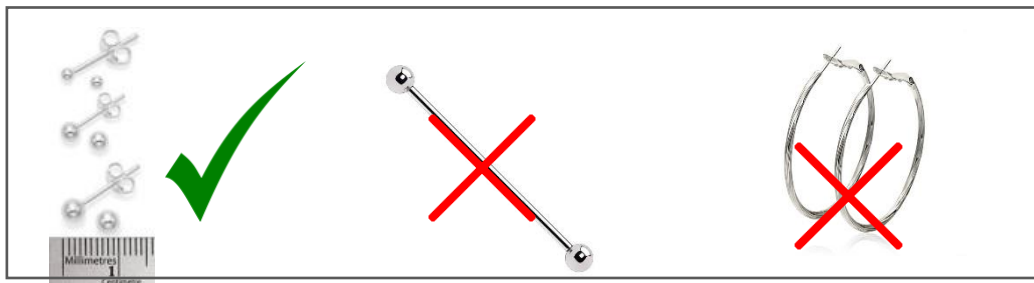
Items in yellow above must only be purchased from the School Shop (Park Way, West Moors, BH22 0HL, (01202 893040) in our specific FUS design. Items not in yellow are also available at The School shop, although parents may choose to buy them elsewhere. In this case, parents must please ensure that items conform to the guidelines given or they will not be allowed.

### General uniform guidance

Please note the following, which relate to all students:-

- No scarves
- No denim jackets or coats, sports or tracksuit tops, 'hoodies' etc.
- No baseball caps or other head gear
- No inappropriate hair accessories/designs, no unnatural hair colours
- No less than Grade 2 haircuts - no shaven heads, markings or hair tattoos
- Where hair is dyed an unnatural colour growing it out to a natural colour is acceptable in the short term. Students grow the colour out (and support this with haircuts where/when possible or they will re-dye it to be a natural colour. Students should not choose to dye their hair an un-natural colour or have two-tone hair
- No other jewellery than – 1 fine neck chain, 1 ring, 1 watch, 1 plain gold/silver stud in each ear, one plain nose stud (less than 1mm), one small bracelet, one charity wrist-band
- No other visible pierced jewellery and definitely no spacers or nose bars
- Coats (suitable for bad weather) are worn on top of blazers, not instead of and not to be worn inside school.
- Shoes - plain black leather not fabric/canvas or leather Vans, no high heels or stilettos or backless shoes or strappy sandals. No boots and absolutely no trainers, no visible logos. The shoes must have black soles. Shoes with a rubber band around the bottom are considered trainers.

**NB Inappropriate items of clothing (especially 'hoodies', scarves and jewellery) will be confiscated if worn in school.**



## Student Progress

What are the new GCSE grades?

Below the table shows, the new 9-1 GCSE grade system compared to the old A-G system.

### How the new grades compare with the old ones

Old grades	New grades
A*	9
A	8
B	7
C	6 5 STRONG PASS 4 STANDARD PASS
D	3
E	2
F	1
G	1
U	U

Source: Ofqual

BBC

What are targets?

- Every student will have targets to be reached by the end of GCSEs in Year 11. These are based on a combination of their cognitive assessment test results and teacher assessments taken during their first half here at Ferndown Upper School.
- As part of the first spring progress report you will see your child's targets for end of Year 9 under 'Year Target'.
- In the first term we focus on how your child is settling into the school and therefore during the autumn term we will only be reporting on their 'attitude to learning'. (details outlined below in the 'What is Attitude to Learning?' section).

How good is my child's progress?

- Progress at FUS is compared to their end of year target. If students are meeting their end of year target in Year 9 and 10 we are confident they are likely to hit their final GCSE target.
- The Current Grade is highlighted in a colour to indicate progress (see table).

Progress	Colour
Excellent progress	Green
Good Progress	Yellow
On Track	Blue
Concern	Red

Why are end of year targets different between subjects?

- As targets are based on cognitive assessment and teacher assessments and judgement it is possible the end of Year 11 target is different between subjects.
- Even with the same GCSE target some end of year targets are different. This is because we find students' progress at different rates in different subjects.

### What is Attitude to Learning?

At FUS we grade your child's attitude towards their learning inside and outside the classroom. We want year 9s to focus on this throughout their subjects as this will prepare them best for their future learning at GCSE and beyond. See the grid below which explains the different attitude to learning grades.

Attitude to Learning	Description
Excellent	Exemplary learner, they engage with all their learning in their lesson, try their best and hand in all their homework.
Engaged	Generally good learning, engage with most learning in lessons and rarely miss homework.
Coasting	Could improve their learning. Missing homework could be common, maximum effort is not put into work in some lessons.
Concern	Their attitude to learning is having a severe impact on their progress. They may be regularly missing homework or not engaging with the learning in lessons.

**Please note: Even if a student is meeting their Year Target, they may have a poor Attitude to Learning - this is still an issue and shows that your child could be doing even better.**

### What is good attendance?

We expect students to attend school 95% + as a minimum. Students who have attendance of 90-95% will start to be of concern and be spoken to by their tutor. Less than 90% will result in intervention by Head of Year, below 85% may result in further action taken by the school.

We work closely with Dorset Attendance Team and low attendance is referred to County.

### What are behaviour points?

Students are given positive behaviour points in school for various aspects of engaging with school life. These are generally P1s, P2s and P3s. Higher awards are given for exceptional achievement and taking part in activities beyond the classroom. Students can receive negative points for negative behaviours. Further details of points being granted can be seen on your child's Bromcom account.

The posters that show our rewards and consequence system can be found here <https://fernup.dorset.sch.uk/information/behaviour-and-rewards/>

## Mobile Phone and Smart Watch Use

We do encourage our students to learn how to use their mobile phone responsibly. Students are allowed to carry mobile phones on them and from time-to-time teachers will ask students to use the phone to enhance their learning. For example, they may take a photo of key notes, record themselves or use the internet to complete some research. Since we have adopted this approach, we do have very strict rules to ensure that phones are not a distraction in the classroom. Our website has our mobile phone policy on it, however, these are the key points.

- *Students are allowed to carry their personal mobile phones in school.*
- *Use of the mobile phone during lesson time will only be allowed with the agreement of the teacher and for the explicit purpose of supporting learning.*
- *Phones are not to be seen in school between 8.25am and 2.40pm, unless they are asked to by a staff member for learning. Misuse of this privilege (using the phone for a non-curriculum purpose or any unacceptable use) will result in the immediate confiscation of the phone. The student will be able to collect the phone from the pastoral office at the end of the day – following the first confiscation.*
- *If the phone has been confiscated more than once in a term or for serious misuse (see policy) the phone will have to be collected by the parent or guardian of the student.*
- *If a phone goes off in class, the student is to be instructed to turn it off and is likely to be confiscated.*
- *Students are not to use the school's ICT facilities or sockets to charge their phones.*
- *At all other times the mobile phone will be switched off or put on silent.*
- *No student may take a mobile phone or smart watch into a room or other area where examinations are being held.*
- *The security of phones will remain the student's responsibility in all lessons including PE lessons.*
- *If asked to do so, content on the phone (e.g. messages, emails, pictures, videos, sound files) will be shown to a safeguarding lead.*

**Smart watches** are now a prohibited item. Any device with Bluetooth or a SIM card enabled is considered a smart watch and must not be worn.

If a member of staff sees a student using a mobile phone or smart watch it will be confiscated and securely stored by the Pastoral team.

## Headphones

The same rules apply to headphones as phones, we only expect to see headphones at times that phones are allowed to be used (unless there is a SEND need where reasonable adjustment is agreed through a EHCP and the SENDCo).

## Unacceptable use

The school will consider any of the following to be unacceptable use of the mobile phone and a serious breach of the school's Behaviour Policy resulting in sanctions being taken.

- Photographing or filming staff or other students without their knowledge or permission.
- Photographing or filming in toilets, swimming pool and changing rooms and similar areas.
- Using their phone to access inappropriate or offensive sites.
- Bullying, harassing or intimidating staff or students by the use of text, email or multimedia messaging, sending inappropriate messages or posts to social networking or blogging sites
- Refusing to switch a phone off or handing over the phone at the request of a member of staff.

- Using the mobile phone outside school hours to intimidate or upset staff and students will be considered a breach of these guidelines in the same way as unacceptable use which takes place in school time.

## **Safeguarding – key information**

The safeguarding lead for the school is Jo Taylor (Deputy Head) who can be emailed on [safeguarding@fernup.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:safeguarding@fernup.dorset.sch.uk) or if in relation to a Year 9 student please email on [HeadofYear9@fernup.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:HeadofYear9@fernup.dorset.sch.uk) as this will come through to the Year 9 Team. If you have any concerns about your own children or other children in the school please do call or email to report it.

Mrs Taylor is supported by a safeguarding team. If you, or your child has a concern, we would recommend the following approach.

### **Step 1 – Read/Research**

On our school website we have a bank of websites you can go to for reliable information on a range of topics (anxiety, online behaviours, self-harm, stress, eating disorders, domestic abuse etc.):  
<https://fernup.dorset.sch.uk/information/safeguarding/> or  
<https://fernup.dorset.sch.uk/information/pastoral/>

### **Step 2 – Look to talk**

You might like to encourage your child to have online counselling. They can access this free of charge at: <https://www.kooth.com/>

### **Step 3 – Agency support**

If you still have a concern after step 1 and 2. Ask for a meeting with the pastoral manager or Head of Year to consider referrals for support if needed. Please use the [HeadofYear9@fernup.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:HeadofYear9@fernup.dorset.sch.uk) to contact us.

This email address is only valid once students start at Ferndown Upper School – please use the transfer email address until then.



## Music Lessons

At Ferndown Upper School, we encourage all students to play an instrument or sing and we are able to offer a wide variety of instrument tuition, delivered by highly experienced professionals.

Our current offer includes:

- Piano and Keyboard (popular and classical)
- Guitar (electric and bass)
- Voice
- Strings (violin, viola and cello)
- Woodwind (flute, clarinet and saxophone)
- Brass (trumpet, French horn and trombone)
- Drumkit and Percussion (snare, timpani and xylophone)

Should your son/daughter be interested in pursuing lessons in any of the above instruments, please collect a form for music lessons at the school reception. We will then supply your contact details to one of our professional (DBS checked) tutors who will contact you directly to organise suitable times and dates for lessons. Payment is to be made directly to the music tutor (not through FUS). All lessons will be based in our music rooms on site at school. Instrumental lessons for Pupil Premium students are 100% subsidised for up to one instrument. Please contact the School Office to complete the required forms.

Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact our Director of Music, Mr. Roberto Gallo [robertogallo@fernup.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:robertogallo@fernup.dorset.sch.uk)

## Rewarding students

There are a number of ways in which students are rewarded at FUS.

House Points	House points are used by staff throughout the school to reward positive behaviour. Students receive P points which are recorded on Bromcom and can be seen by parents on MCAS. Points 1-10 can be awarded dependent on the positive behaviour being recognised. Our FUS core values are promoted through the use of P1-3 for students, challenging themselves, being a <b>collaborative</b> learner, a <b>curious</b> learner, a <b>reflective</b> learner, a <b>resilient</b> learner and a <b>responsible</b> learner. House points are also awarded to those students who participate in PE events and whole school events such as a P5 for assisting with an open evening.
Student of the Term	Each term, Head of Subjects nominate a 'Student of the Term' for their subject. These nominations can be based on progress or effort. Students are given their award in the house celebration assemblies by the Headteacher and receive P10 'Headteacher's Award'. Their picture is displayed on a success noticeboard in school along with a short explanation of why they are being rewarded.
Celebration Assemblies	Each half term, the Heads of House organise and deliver a celebration assembly for students in Years 9-13 in their house group. These are very well received by students and are a celebration of the successes of the students across a range of activities such as academic success, sporting successes, creative and expressive arts successes along with recognising those students who have 100% attendance, the most house points in their tutor groups and year groups. Students are also awarded if they have no negative sanctions across the half term. In the final assembly of the year, the house cup is awarded which honours the ethos of the house system.
Year/House legends	Students can also achieve House points by being nominated a tutee of the week or as a house or year legend by their HOH/ HOY. These students' achievements are recognised with a slide in the student bulletin each week which is shown during tutor times on Mondays and shared on students Team pages. In addition, this information is published through all our social media channels. At the end of the year, each HOH awards a legend of the year, the recipients of this prestigious award are given an engraved house shield.
Standards Cards	Students carry a standards card with them at all times, Following feedback from students, these recently became double sided with one side dedicated to recognising those behaviours which we encourage as a school. Students are encouraged to collect signatures from staff to recognise positive behaviours. Standards cards are checked weekly by tutors and students with no negative behaviours recorded are awarded a P5.
Inter-house Competitions	Students receive additional house points for participating in events such as house challenges (in tutor groups), sports day and inter-house sports fixtures.

Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum Awards and reward trips	House points accumulate throughout the year and students are awarded when they reach certain milestones. Bronze- 100 points- a certificate Silver- 200 points- a free cake and drink from the cafe Gold- 300 points- a reward event in school off timetable Platinum- 400 points- a free visit to Mr Mulligans, indoor crazy golf in Bournemouth with pizza.
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## Parent/Guardian Support

As Parents and Guardians, your involvement and support for your son or daughter’s learning and education is even more important at this significant stage.

At Ferndown Upper School we want to have a very positive two way communication between home, school and students, so we can achieve our aim of happy, successful students learning well and achieving their best, so do keep in close contact with us.

Bromcom is a key tool in informing you and students of their progress, rewards and any discipline sanctions and we welcome emails, calls and parental meetings to discuss individual students.

Key ways you can help your son/daughter to achieve their best are:

- Ensure they have a quiet place to work at home.
- Encourage them to stay after school to make use of the Study Centre and to use their school email.
- Remove distractions while they do homework e.g their phone, TV, X-Box. Maybe use it as a reward for working well.
- Establish early evening routines of settling to do homework as soon as possible. Then they just become the habit.
- But most importantly build their belief in themselves and their ability to learn and work hard. Your faith in them and encouragement is key and very powerful. Mistakes are the key to learning and resilience will help them learn to persevere and do well in life.