

**Long Stratton High School**

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**Headteacher**

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**Achievement For All**

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

School Bags – Change for September 2018

From September, we are introducing a change to school equipment – the school bag is to be a rucksack or messenger bag rather than a handbag. A school bag should convey the clear message that school is a place to learn. Our students should look and feel ready to study not ready to shop, therefore we are asking that school bags be either a rucksack or messenger bag style and not a handbag, shopping bag or tote bag style.

The major reason for this change is to reinforce the ethos of the school as a learning community. We do, however, foresee other benefits including bags being carried on pupil's backs instead of arms or one shoulder, making it easier to pass through our narrow corridors and items staying in the bag, as items are less likely to fall out.

The school bag should be large enough to carry all the books, files, equipment, etc needed for the school day, be able to be carried on the shoulders not just hooked over the arm or one shoulder, be strong and sturdy, be able to be completely fastened up (i.e. can be fully zipped closed) but the exact design and colour is then personal choice. As further guidance, some pictures are included:

School Bags



Not School Bags



I hope that you will support our continuing efforts to raise the academic philosophy, expectations and aspirations of our school and our pupils.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Claire Gallant  
Assistant Headteacher