

Woodside Academy



School Uniform Policy

Approved by the Principal: February 2025
(to be reviewed February 2027)

Introduction

It is our academy trust policy that all pupils wear school uniform when attending school, or when participating in school-organised events outside normal school hours. Some items of uniform can be bought via the supplier information on the academy website, whilst others are easily available, at very competitive prices, at local shops and supermarkets. A complete list of the items needed for school uniform including those for Physical Education, can be found in this policy.

Aims

This policy aims to:

- Set out our approach to requiring a uniform that is of reasonable cost and offers the best value for money for parents and carers
- Explain how we will avoid discrimination in line with our legal duties under the Equality Act 2010
- Clarify our expectations for school uniform
- Help to create a sense of community and belonging to the academy
- Identify the pupils with the academy
- Support our commitment to inclusion

Legal duties under the Equality Act 2010

The Equality Act 2010 prohibits discrimination against an individual based on the protected characteristics, which include sex, race, religion, belief or disability and gender reassignment.

To avoid discrimination, our school will:

- Avoid listing uniforms based on sex, to give all pupils the opportunity to wear the uniform they feel most comfortable in or that most reflects their self-identified gender
- Make sure that our uniform costs the same for all pupils
- Allow all pupils to have long hair (though we reserve the right to ask for this to be tied back)

- Allow all pupils to style their hair in the way that is appropriate for school yet makes them feel most comfortable
- Allow pupils to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons
- Allow pupils to wear headscarves and other religious or cultural symbols
- Allow for adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents to get in touch with Ms Ryder, Principal, who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests

Limiting the cost of school uniform

Our academy trust has a duty to make sure that the uniform we require is affordable, in line with statutory guidance from the Department for Education on the cost of school uniform.

We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that have to have a school logo or a unique fabric/colour/design) cannot be purchased from a wide range of retailers and that requiring many such items limits parents' ability to 'shop around' for a low price.

We make sure our uniform:

- Is available at a reasonable cost
- Provides the best value for money for parents/carers

We will do this by:

- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary
- Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics where possible for example, by only asking that the jumper or cardigan features the school logo
- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost or long-lasting items, such as ties
- Avoiding specific requirements for items pupils could wear on non-school days, such as coats, bags and shoes
- Keeping the number of optional branded items to a minimum, so that the school's uniform can act as a social leveler
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- Providing alternative methods for signalling differences in groups for interschool competitions, such as creating posters or labels
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents to acquire second-hand uniform items
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents of any changes
- Consulting with parents and pupils on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy

Expectations for school uniform

Our academy's uniform

- Branded burgundy sweatshirt, cardigan or zoodie (navy blue for Year 6)
- White polo shirt / shirt or blouse
- Grey or black trousers, plain joggers (no logo), skirt, shorts or culottes
- Grey pinafore dress
- Pink and white gingham dress for summer (navy blue and white for Year 6)
- Black shoes or plain black trainers (no coloured logo or outer trainer sole)
- For PE children need a t-shirt in their house colour (red, yellow, green or blue) with the Woodside logo, black shorts and trainers. For outdoor PE children will need a plain black tracksuit (non-branded)
- For swimming all pupils require a swimming hat, and girls are to wear a one piece costume. Boys swim shorts must be above the knee
- Woodside hats and bags are available but optional
- Blue fluorescent hi-vis jackets are available for trips but optional
- Jewellery: small studs or sleepers can be worn but must be taken out for PE. Analogue watches can be worn (no smart watches). No other jewellery items (necklaces, bracelets, etc.) should be worn to school

Where to purchase uniform

All of the above, together with Woodside hats and bags, are available from the below suppliers:

- Uniforms By Niki by either placing your order online via www.uniformsbyniki.com or by visiting their shop at Walton Hall Farm, Walton Hall Road, Linford, SS17 0RH
- UniformWise School Wear, by either placing your order online via www.uniformwise.co.uk or by visiting their shop at Stanford Le Hope High Street, SS17 0HQ
- second hand uniform is also available through The Community Church <https://mycommunitychurch.org.uk/>

Expectations for our school community

Pupils

Pupils are expected to wear the correct uniform at all times (other than specified non-school uniform days) while:

- On the school premises
- Travelling to and from school
- At out-of-school events or on trips that are organised by the school, or where they are representing the school (if required), unless otherwise instructed by the academy.

Pupils are also expected to contact Ms Ryder if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics.

Parents and carers

Parents and carers are expected to make sure their child has the correct uniform and PE kit, and that every item is:

- Clean
- Clearly labelled with the child's name
- In good condition

Parents are also expected to contact Ms Ryder if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to:

- Their child's protected characteristics
- The cost of the uniform

Parents are expected to lodge any complaints or objections relating to the school uniform in a timely and reasonable manner.

Disputes about the cost of the school uniform will be:

- Resolved locally
- Dealt with in accordance with our school's complaints policy

The academy will work closely with parents to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

Staff

Staff will closely monitor pupils to make sure they are in correct uniform. They will give any pupils and families breaching the uniform policy the opportunity to comply but will follow up with the headteacher if the situation does not improve.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with by Ms Ryder, Mrs Joiner or Mr Radford.

In cases where it is suspected that financial hardship has resulted in a pupil not complying with this uniform policy, staff will take a mindful and considerate approach to resolving the situation.

Principal

The Principal will review this policy and make sure that it:

- Is appropriate for our school's context
- Is implemented fairly across the school
- Takes into account the views of parents and pupils
- Offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all pupils

The Principal will also make sure that the school's uniform supplier arrangements give the highest priority to cost and value for money.