

AHMAT

Uniform Policy

January
2026

Ashley
Hill Multi
Academy
Trust

Encourage one another
and build each other up
1Thessalonians 5:11

Statement of intent

Ashley Hill Multi Academy Trust believes that a consistent school uniform policy is vital for:

- Promoting the ethos of a school.
- Providing a sense of belonging and identity.
- Setting an appropriate tone for education.
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For the purposes of this policy, “uniform” includes the following elements of pupils’ appearance:

- Clothing, including the school uniform itself, variations of the school uniform such as PE kits, and other clothing worn at school, e.g. non-uniform.
- Hairstyles and headwear.
Jewellery and other accessories.
- Cosmetics such as makeup and nail polish.

This policy lays out the measures the schools and Trust have taken to ensure a consistent, fair and inclusive uniform policy, and to implement a uniform that reflects the needs of all pupils, is affordable, and provides the best value for money for both the school and pupils’ families.

We believe that pupils learn most effectively and achieve their best outcomes when they are comfortable, able to be themselves, and dressed in a way that sets an appropriate tone for education.

In writing and updating this policy, we have sought to:

- Engage with parents and pupils.
- Consider how this policy might affect groups represented in the school, especially those who share protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010.
- Consider how comfortable the uniform will be for pupils.
- Take a sensible approach to allow for exceptions to be made, e.g. during adverse weather.
- Ensure that the uniform is suitable and safe for pupils who walk or cycle to school.
- Choose a PE kit which is practical, comfortable, appropriate to the activity involved and affordable.
- Ensure the policy is easy to access and understand.

1. Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and guidance including, but not limited to the following:

- Human Rights Act 1998
- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Equality Act 2010
- Education Act 2011
- The UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)
- Data Protection Act 2018
- Education (Guidance about Costs of School Uniforms) Act 2021
- DfE (2021) 'Cost of school uniforms'
- DfE (2021) 'School Admissions Code'
- DfE (2024) 'School uniforms: guidance for schools'
- Equality and Human Rights Commission (2022) 'Preventing hair discrimination in schools'

2. Roles and responsibilities

The Local Governing Body is responsible for:

- Establishing, in consultation with the Head of School and school community, a practical and smart school uniform that accurately reflects the school's vision and values.
- Ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible, inclusive, and does not disadvantage any pupil because of their protected characteristics or socio-economic status.
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of parents, pupils and the wider school community regarding changes to the school's uniform.
- Ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible and affordable.
- Demonstrating in this policy how best value for money has been achieved.
- Ensuring compliance with the DfE's '[Cost of school uniforms](#)' guidance.

The headteacher is responsible for:

- Enforcing the school's uniform rules on a day-to-day basis.
- Ensuring that teachers understand this policy
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of the school community in regard to the school's uniform and making appropriate recommendations to the governing board.
- Providing pupils with an exemption email as appropriate, e.g. for a pupil who has a broken arm and requires a loose-fitting shirt.

Staff are responsible for:

- Ensuring that pupils dress in accordance with this policy at all times.
- Where appropriate to their role, disciplining pupils who are in breach of this policy.
- Ensuring that pupils understand why having a consistent and practical school uniform is important, e.g. school identity.

Parents are responsible for:

- Providing their children with the correct school uniform as detailed in this policy.
- Informing the headteacher if their child requires an exemption to the uniform rules for a period of time, with a reason why.
- Ensuring that their child's uniform is clean, presentable and the correct size.

Pupils are responsible for:

- Wearing the correct uniform at all times, unless the Head of School has granted an exemption.
- Looking after their uniform as appropriate.
- Understanding and respecting why a school uniform is important to the school, e.g. school identity and community.

3. Cost principles

The school will develop its uniform policy in relation to the following starting principles:

- The school will seek to ensure that the uniform is affordable. In so doing, the school will consider the total cost of school uniforms, taking into account all items of uniform or clothing parents will need to provide while their child is at the school.
- The school will seek to keep the use of branded items to a minimum.
- The school will seek to ensure that uniform supplier arrangements give the highest priority to cost and value for money, including the quality and durability of the garment.
- The school will seek to ensure that second-hand uniforms are available for parents to acquire. Information on second-hand uniforms will be published on the school's website.

Principles in practice

In accordance with the 'School Admissions Code', the Head of School will ensure that the school's uniform requirements do not discourage parents from applying for a place for their child.

The school will assess the overall cost implications of its uniform policy regularly, including prior to making any changes to the school uniform. When evaluating whether costs are reasonable and proportionate, the school will take into account the opinions and situations of:

- Economically disadvantaged parents.
- Parents with multiple children who are, or will be in the future, pupils at the school.
- Parents of younger children, as they are likely to grow quickly and require new sets of uniform more frequently.
- Parents of pupils with protected characteristics that may impact their ability to access the uniform.
- LAC and PLAC.

The school / Trust will evaluate the cost of its uniform based on the overall collection of uniform items that parents would need to purchase for a pupil, rather than on the cost effectiveness of individual items; this will include consideration of the fact that parents will need to purchase multiples of certain items, e.g. shirts and socks, to ensure their child can come to school in clean uniform every day.

The school/ Trust will keep variations in school uniform for different groups of pupils, e.g. house colours, to a minimum to ensure that pupils can get the most wear out of their uniform and that parents can pass some items down to younger siblings.

The school/ Trust will keep branded uniform items to a minimal level that is reasonable for all members of the school community. The school / Trust defines a branded uniform item as any item of clothing that cannot be purchased at a range of retailers, e.g. supermarkets, due to the item's logo, colour, design, fabric or other unique element. Where the school / Trust requires an item of branded clothing, it will assess how prices can be kept as low as possible and put measures in place to facilitate this. This may include:

- Making donated second-hand uniform available for purchase at a lower price/ free

The school/ Trust will meet the DfE's requirements and recommendations on costs and value for money. Care will be taken to ensure that school uniform is affordable for all current and prospective pupils, and that the best value for money is secured through reputable suppliers.

The school/ Trust will work with multiple suppliers to obtain the best value for money possible

The school/ Trust will not make frequent changes to uniform requirements and will take the views of parents and pupils into account when considering any changes.

4. Equality principles

The school takes its legal obligation to avoid unlawfully discriminating against any pupil very seriously.

In line with the above, the school/ Trust will aim to ensure that its uniform policy is as inclusive as possible so that all pupils can access a school uniform which is comfortable, suitable for their needs, and reflects who they are, while avoiding any direct or indirect discrimination on the basis of protected characteristics or socio-economic status.

The school will ensure that parents and pupils are consulted over any changes to school uniform, and that, where appropriate and with pupils' consent, views and advice are sought specifically from pupils, and parents of pupils, who:

- Are transgender or non-binary.
- Are of a religious or cultural background that has specific dress requirements.
- Have SEND and/or sensory needs.
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Parents' concerns and requests regarding school uniform and amendments to it are handled on a case-by-case basis by the Head of School and Local Governing Body, and always in accordance with the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.

Information on how the school ensures its uniform policy does not discriminate against pupils with specific protected characteristics is outlined below.

Gender

To avoid disproportionately impacting pupils of a certain gender, the school will ensure that the cost of uniform is as equal in price as possible across items for all genders.

This includes:

- Not directly requiring pupils of a certain gender to buy additional uniform, e.g. by requiring female pupils to buy both trousers and skirts.
- Not indirectly requiring pupils of a certain gender to buy additional uniform, e.g. by offering football in PE to only male pupils and requiring they buy football boots to participate.
- Not holding pupils of different genders to different uniform standards, e.g. by banning certain hairstyles for only one gender.

Transgender pupils are supported to access the uniform that best reflects their gender expression.

Religion and belief

To avoid disproportionately impacting pupils of a certain religion, belief or culture, the school will ensure that there is flexibility to allow pupils to present themselves in a way that adheres to their dress requirements as far as possible, within the school's uniform policy.

The school will endeavour to meet all requests for amendments to the uniform for these

purposes; however, the needs and rights of individual pupils will be weighed against any health and safety concerns appropriate to the circumstances, e.g. if safety headgear needs to be worn.

Race

To avoid disproportionately impacting pupils of a certain race, the school will ensure that its uniform policy does not constitute unlawful indirect discrimination through blanket rules. This includes:

- Not banning hairstyles related to a pupil's ethnic origin, e.g. natural Afro hairstyles.
- Not banning hairstyles worn because of cultural, family and social customs.
- Not banning head coverings related to a pupil's culture or ethnic origin.

The school will follow the good practice guidance provided by the Equality and Human Rights Commission on 'Preventing hair discrimination in schools'.

SEND and medical conditions

To avoid disproportionately impacting pupils with SEND or medical conditions, the school will ensure its uniform policy takes into account the needs of these pupils.

This includes:

- Ensuring the school uniform uses soft, stretchy fabrics and avoids intricate buttons or hard seams.
- Allowing variations to the standard uniform for pupils whose medical conditions may impact how they dress, e.g. pupils with casts who require loose-fitting clothing or pupils with hair loss-related conditions who wish to wear head coverings.

Where the needs of these pupils cannot be met in the standard uniform policy, individual adaptations to the uniform will be considered and permitted wherever possible.

The school/ Trust will ensure that it works with a supplier that acts in accordance with the school's/ Trust's values and principles on equality and inclusion.

5. Complaints and challenges

The school/ Trust will endeavour to resolve all uniform complaints and challenges locally and informally, in accordance with the Trust's Complaints Procedures Policy.

6. School uniform supplier

The school's current school uniform supplier is Goyles. Their information can be found below:

28 Bridge Street

Maidenhead

Berkshire

SL6 8BJ

Tel: 01628 639725

Email: sales@goyals.co.uk

7. Finding and consulting suppliers

If the school/ Trust is considering changing its suppliers and seeks a list of available suppliers, it will consider the following options:

- Consulting an industry body
- Researching local suppliers
- Consulting with other schools and networks
- Having informal discussions with potential suppliers to help determine the school's own needs
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If the school prepares to request bids from potential suppliers, it will consider the following elements:

- What products parents will need
- Existing contractual commitments
- Length of tender process
- The school's evaluation process

8. Template documents

When the school/ Trust changes part of their uniform, the school/ Trust will use the DfE's '[Procuring uniform supplies](#)' template documents to ensure that they undergo the procurement process correctly. The templates consist of an invitation to tender, a request for quotation, and a pricing schedule.

Schools/ Trust will use the invitation to tender template to ask questions of suppliers.

Schools/ Trust will then use the pricing schedule to ask suppliers to submit their prices.

9. Uniform assistance

The school will hold second-hand school uniforms for parents to access; access to these uniforms will be made through regular sales through the PTA.

Parents will be invited to donate their child's uniform when they no longer need it.

10. Non-compliance

Staff will be permitted to discipline pupils for breaching this policy, where relevant to their role, in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy.

Parents will be notified of pupils' breaches of school uniform in all cases.

11. School uniform

Clothing

The school uniform is as follows:

Winter Uniform (September to Easter holidays)

- White polo shirt
- Blue jumper / cardigan/fleece - our uniform stockist is Goyles
- Black trousers / skirt / pinafore
- Black shoes (not trainers / flat shoes)
- Black tights
- Black socks (boys)
- White socks (girls)

Summer Uniform (April to July)

The following may be worn as an alternative to the above uniform:

- Blue/white checked dress
- Black shorts

P.E. Kit

- House Colour T-shirt (red/green/blue/yellow)
- Black Shorts / PE Skirt
- Black tracksuit bottoms
- Black round neck jumper
- Plain black pumps or black trainers are acceptable
- Children should come to school in their PE kit on their PE days.
- Long hair must be tied back for PE lessons.
- Earrings should be covered with tape or removed.

Jewellery

Jewellery is not allowed in school with the following exceptions:

- Watches
- Stud earrings
- Children need to remove earrings for all P.E. lessons. If earrings cannot be removed for any reason, parents should supply plasters to cover them.

Please ensure that all clothing is clearly marked with your child's name.

Bags

Pupils must use an appropriately-sized school bags. The school/ Trust discourage pupils from bringing valuable bags to school. The school/ Trust will not be liable for lost or damaged school bags.

Hairstyles and headwear

The school / Trust reserves the right to make a judgement on whether a pupil's hairstyle, hair colour or headwear is inappropriate for the school environment; however, the school will ensure that any such judgements do not discriminate against any pupil by virtue of their protected characteristics.

Each individual pupil's scenario will be taken into account where any judgements on appropriateness are to be made, and parents will always have the freedom to complain via the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.

Pupils with long hair must ensure that this does not impede their vision, cover their face, or cause a health and safety risk. Long hair must be tied up if below their shoulder.

The following hairstyles, hair colours and headwear are not considered appropriate for school:

- Brightly-coloured dyed hair
- Headwear with bold patterns or colours
- Excessive hair accessories
- Headwear featuring inappropriate words or images

12. Adverse weather

All pupils will be advised to wear weather-appropriate clothing.

Pupils will be advised not to wear any jumpers during heatwaves. If outside during break times, pupils not wearing sun-safe clothing will be advised to stay in an area protected from the sun.

For cold temperatures, this includes wearing:

- Scarfs, gloves, coats and hats when outside.
- Warm coats and jumpers

13. Labelling and lost property

Parents will be advised to ensure that all pupils' clothing and footwear is clearly labelled with their name and year group.

Any lost clothing will be taken to the lost property box in the hall. All lost property will be retained for one month and will be disposed of if it is not collected within this time.

14. Monitoring and review

This policy will be monitored and reviewed on a regular basis by the Board of Directors. Next review date when changes to uniform or legislation occur.

Created or Reviewed by	Date	Changes
Isabel Cooke	16/01/2025	New policy created
Isabel Cooke	12/12/2025	No changes