

School Uniform Policy

Monitoring and review	
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Owner	Joolz Scarlett, CEO
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Version History Log

Version	Description of Change	Amended By	Date
1	Initial issue		July 2025
2	Contacts consulted listed for Brookfields Appendices P5 change of wording	CBE	October 2025
3	Reviewed – legislative changes made	APT	February 2026
4	Reviewed and updated by Brookfields	SMR/CBE	April 2026

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School specific sections are in Appendices

1. Aims

This policy sets out Ascendancy Partnership Trust's approach to a uniform that is of a reasonable cost and offers the best value for money for parents/carers. The policy explains how the Trust will avoid discrimination in line with our legal duties under the Equality Act 2010. This policy will clarify our expectations for school uniform, which is set by the Local Governing Board (LGB) of individual schools under Trust umbrella policy. The Trust has a legal duty to have regard for the Department for Education's statutory guidance on the cost of school uniforms.

2. Our Trust's 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 or belief, and gender reassignment.

To avoid discrimination, schools in our Trust will:

- Avoid listing uniform items 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 of similar size
- 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 parents to get in touch with the individual school who can answer any questions about the policy and respond to any requests.

We appreciate that for pupils with sensory issues, uniform is not always an option.

Schools must also comply with the Human Rights Act 1998 when implementing uniform expectations.

3. Limiting the Cost of School Uniform

The 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 will make sure our uniform:

- Is available at a reasonable cost
- Provides the good 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
- Limiting branded items to no more than 3 or 4 where a tie is included
- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost or long-lasting items, such as ties
- Considering cheaper alternatives to school-branded items, such as logos that can be ironed on, as long as this doesn't compromise quality and durability
- 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 leveller
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- Considering alternative methods for signalling differences in groups for interschool competitions, such as creating posters or labels
- Publishing information on school websites informing parents how to obtain second-hand uniforms
- Publishing uniform policies on school websites
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents of any changes
- Formally consulting with parents and pupils on any proposed significant changes and the development and review of the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy

4. Expectations of School Uniform [\(See Appendix A\)](#)

5. Expectations for the School Community [\(See Appendix B\)](#)

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 the school 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 school will work closely with parents to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome. 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. Any consequences for non-compliance must be applied in line with the school's published behaviour policy. Schools must publish their complaints process on their website, including how uniform-related complaints can be raised.

The Trust Board will review this policy and make sure that it:

- Is appropriate for the context of the schools within the Trust
- Is implemented appropriately across the schools
- Takes into account the views of parents and pupils
- Offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all pupils

The board will also make sure that the uniform supplier arrangements give the highest priority to cost and value for money, for example by avoiding single supplier contracts and by re-tendering any contracts at least every 5 years.

6. Monitoring Arrangements

This policy will be reviewed every year by the Board of Trustees for Ascendancy Partnership Trust.

7. Links to Other Policies

This policy is linked to:

- Individual school's behaviour policies
- Equality information and objectives statement
- Anti-bullying policy
- Complaints policy

Appendix A: Expectations of School Uniform

WHAT IS THE SCHOOL UNIFORM?

The school uniform consists of:

Primary School



- Blue sweatshirt (either including the school logo, or a plain blue)
- White polo shirt
- Smart trousers in black / grey
- Pinafore dress or knee-length skirt in black / grey
- Check dress in blue / white (please consider appropriate weather)
- Shorts in black / grey (please consider appropriate weather)
- Grey / black tights (optional)
- Black shoes / trainers (acceptable if smart)

Secondary School



- Black sweatshirt (either including the school logo, or a plain black)
- White polo shirt
- Smart trousers in black / grey
- Pinafore dress or knee-length skirt in black / grey
- Check dress in blue / white (please consider appropriate weather)
- Shorts in black / grey (please consider appropriate weather)
- Grey / black tights (optional)
- Black shoes / trainers (acceptable if smart)

PE Uniform (applies to primary and secondary pupils)

- shorts in blue / black
- t-shirt in blue / black / white or a sports top
- tracksuit bottoms in blue / black
- trainers or plimsols (for outside use as well as activities in the halls)

Swimming Kit

- swimming trunks/shorts or swimming costume
- towel

As pupils grow older it may be appropriate for them to wear a t-shirt in the swimming pool for their modesty.

Necessary items

- All-weather coat
- Sun hat
- Gloves and scarf
- Wellington boots / mud suit / all in one (Early Years only, unless specific pupil need is identified)

There may be some specific clothing items that will be requested depending on pupil need. These could include:

- Spare sets of uniform
- Pads, nappies, personal care clothing or equipment
- Preventative clothing such as all-in-one suits, mud suits etc. for pupils who like to get messy

The pupil's class team will discuss these needs with you as necessary, and depending on the needs of the young person.

GUIDANCE ON COST OF SCHOOL UNIFORMS

We try to make sure our uniform is as accessible and reasonably costed as possible.

It is parents/guardians responsibility to ensure that young people attending Brookfields School are appropriately dressed for school, and that measures are taken to ensure uniform or agreed appropriate clothing is available at all times. In some instances, some pupils may need to bring in changes of clothing or spare clothing. This will be discussed on a case-by-case basis with families and their class teams.

Uniform with the school logo can be ordered directly from a recommended supplier. Please see 'Useful Links' appendix B for further information. We ensure that the supplier delivers the best quality (particularly durability) at the most reasonable cost, and regularly do cross-comparative checks to ensure the supplier remains the most business for our community.

All non-logo uniform can also be purchased at reasonable prices from large supermarkets or department stores, for example plain white polo shirts and smart trousers.

Footwear can be the choice of the family / pupil as long as it remains smart, sensible, and practical and meets the everyday needs of the student.

Second hand uniform

Second-hand uniform is available on request from the school office – please enquire as to what is available and identify what you need so a pack can be set up for you.

Appendix B: Expectations for the School Community

COMMON REGULATIONS

Inappropriate clothing choices (Post 16 non-uniform)

Pupils may be asked to change their clothing if it is deemed inappropriate. In this instance parents / guardians will be informed on the same day and requested to assist in making sure clothing choices are appropriate for school. Please refer to this policy for guidance.

Jewellery

No pupils should wear jewellery to school as it could pose significant risk (for example, no effective choke-release mechanism if it were to be pulled).

If pupils have pierced ears, they are able to wear a small stud but will be asked to remove it during PE sessions. Earrings and piercings will also be considered on a case-by-case basis depending on the needs of the class group the pupil is placed with, risk assessment and appropriateness. In these instances, the school will contact parents / guardians for discussion.

If a pupil chooses to wear jewellery to school, they will be reminded of the therapeutic thinking school policy, section 10. They may be asked to keep the jewellery locked away in order to ensure it's safety, and then they will be returned it at the end of the school day

Spare clothing

If pupils require spare clothing but do not have it with them, they may be given spare clothing from school stocks. In this instance, please ensure the spare clothing is cleaned and returned to the school as quickly as possible so it can benefit other pupils.

Pupils are expected to wear the correct uniform at all times (other than on specified non-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)