

“Together in Achievement”



UNIFORM POLICY

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Uniform Policy

1. Aims and Introduction

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
- clarify our expectations for school uniform

Aspire academies enjoy the freedom to make their own decisions on matters such as uniform. However, in the light of statutory guidance on the cost of school uniforms published by the DFE in November 2021, we have produced this policy to establish an agreed set of MAT-wide principles. These principles will be interpreted at local academy level, with details of each academy's approach set out in the appendix to this policy.

2. Limiting the cost of school uniform

Our academies have 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 that Aspire academy uniforms:

- are available at a reasonable cost
- provide good value for money for parents/carers

Each academy will do this by:

- carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary
- limiting any items with distinctive characteristics where possible
- 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 leveler
- avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups
- avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- considering alternative methods for signaling 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

3. Expectations for our school community

3.1 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

3.2 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 the academy headteacher if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to:

- their child's protected characteristics
- the cost of the uniform

Any complaints regarding school uniform will be dealt with in accordance with the Aspire Complaints Policy. The academy will work closely with parents in an attempt to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

3.3 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 defer to the headteacher if the situation doesn't improve.

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.

3.4 Governors

Each Local Governing Body will ensure that this uniform policy – including the academy-specific appendix – is implemented fairly and consistently. Governors will ensure that the academy takes into account the views of parents and pupils in offering a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all pupils. Governors will also make sure that the school's uniform supplier arrangements give the highest priority to cost and value for money; for example, by avoiding single supplier contracts and by re-tendering contracts at least every 5 years.

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years by the MAT Board in consultation with headteachers and LGBs.