



WEST VALE
ACADEMY

Uniform Policy

Approved by:	LGB		
Responsible department:	West Vale Academy		
Last review date:	Sept 23	Last reviewed by:	LGB
Last updated:	Sept 24	Last updated by:	C. Akroyd
Next review due :	Sept 24		

School Aims and Implementation

It is the primary aim of our school that every member of the school community feels valued, respected and that each person is treated fairly. We are a caring community, whose values are built on mutual respect for all in line with our equality policy.

West Vale Academy aims to provide children the opportunity to develop towards their full potential; academically, emotionally and socially:

- Providing the highest standard of education to enable children to acquire the skills, knowledge and concepts relevant to their future.
- Promoting an ethos of care, mutual respect and support, where effort is valued and success celebrated.
- Enabling children to become active, responsible and caring members of the school and wider community.

The school works towards these aims by:

- Promoting high quality learning and attainment.
- Providing a high quality learning entitlement and environment.
- Valuing each other and ourselves.
- Working in partnership with parents and the community.

Introduction to the uniform policy:

Uniform is an important part of our school's identity. It reinforces who we are as a community, helps allow students to feel pride in their school and creates a readiness to learn. It also helps prepare students for life after school where many will have to dress smartly for work.

Policy aims:

- 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

Our school'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, our school 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
- Allow all pupils to have long hair (though we reserve the right to ask for this to be tied back)
- Allow pupils to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons
- Allow pupils to wear headscarves and other religious symbols
- Allow for adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents to get in touch with Miss Horsfall who can answer any questions about the policy and respond to any requests

Limiting the cost of school uniform

Our school 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 best value for money for parents/carers

We will do this by:

- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary
- Making the wearing of items with the school logo on non-compulsory
- Allowing the wearing of cheaper alternatives to school-branded items
- 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
- No difference in uniform requirements for different years
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- 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

- Images of our school's uniform can be found on the school's website.
- No child has to wear any branded items but these are available at a low cost.

Trousers plain grey school trousers

Skirts plain, grey knee length school skirts or blue and white check summer dresses

Polo shirt white with school logo or plain Sweatshirt navy, either with school logo or plain

Socks/Tights plain black or white

Footwear plain, black school-type shoes. No stripes, coloured flashes or heels. No trainers. Boots may be worn to travel to school and then shoes worn for the day. (If children come to school in inappropriate footwear they may be given school pumps to change into for the rest of the day)

PE navy shorts, t-shirt in team colour (either with school logo or plain), pumps (for indoor PE) or trainers (for outside PE). Navy tracksuit (for outdoors in cooler weather). Hoodies, football tops and other sports wear is not permitted.

Swimming conventional swimwear (no long shorts for boys) and towel. Swimming caps are encouraged. Children wearing earrings will not be allowed to swim (CMBC policy)

Jewellery is not permitted apart from stud earrings. Children must be able to tape up or remove their own earrings for PE for health and safety reasons.

Make-up is not permitted.

Where uniform can be purchased from

- School office
- Any local supermarket for non-branded items
- <https://www.schooltrends.co.uk/pages/find-my-school> search for our school using the school postcode HX4 8LS.
- You can also purchase our uniform from Windsors and Shaw Hardcastles in Halifax
- Information about second-hand uniform, for example: second-hand uniform sale will be sent out on our monthly newsletters

PE and swimming kit

- Children are to come in to school in their regular school uniform every day and will change into their PE kit on the two days that they have a PE lesson.

The PE kit is -

- Plain black or white trainers
- Team house coloured t-shirt
- Shorts- black (no logos)
- Jogging pants or leggings – black (no logos)

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)
- Pupils are also expected to contact Mrs Akroyd 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 Mrs Akroyd 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.

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 Head of School 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.

Governors

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

- Is appropriate for our school's context
- Is implemented fairly across the school
- Considers 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 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

Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by Mrs Akroyd, Head of School. At every review, it will be approved by the full Governing Board.