



King's Academy College Park

Uniform 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

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 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 or if they are experiencing discomfort related to their sex, gender or gender reassignment
- 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 a member of the senior leadership team, who can answer 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
- Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics where possible
- 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 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

Expectations for school uniform

It is incredibly important to us for the uniform to act as a social leveller, which is why we are asking for **no branding/logos** (e.g. Nike, Adidas etc) on items of clothing worn into school. These items should be reserved for wearing outside the school.

As you can imagine, for a school of our size, **labelling of all clothing is vital.**

Uniform:

- Branded navy blue jumper or cardigan
- Additional navy blue jumper or cardigans can also be purchased
- Gold or yellow polo shirt
- Black trousers, shorts, skirt or pinafore dress
- Gold or yellow gingham dress
- Smart black footwear without obvious/coloured logos
- Plain navy blue book bag

PE Kit:

- Plain gold or yellow t-shirt
- Black shorts without obvious/coloured logos
- Black jogging bottoms without obvious/coloured logos (for colder weather)
- Black jumper or hooded jumper without obvious/coloured logos (for colder weather)
- Black trainers without obvious/coloured logos
- Plain navy blue PE bag

Please note: Cycling shorts and leggings are not part of our school uniform but are acceptable for PE Kits.

All pupils are expected to only use a navy blue book bag or small navy blue backpack to transport key items to and from school (i.e. homework, reading books, and letters), a navy blue PE bag and use an appropriate lunch box.



Where to purchase it:

- Branded items can be purchased online from Price & Buckland or Hargreaves Promotions
- Non-branded items can be purchased from high street retailers
- Second hand uniform is available from Hive Portsmouth and through school second hand sales

Jewellery, Watches & Make-Up

As a general principle, children should not wear any jewellery in school. A watch is permissible as long as it does not enable children to access the internet or take photographs.

Earrings

- Small, plain, stud earrings can be worn to school on days where children are not taking part in PE lessons.
- On PE days, children should not wear earrings to school unless they are able to remove the earrings themselves. Staff will not be permitted to remove earrings for the children.
- If children are wearing earrings to school and they cannot remove them themselves for PE lessons, they will be allowed to cover them in medical tape. Children will need to apply this tape themselves and school staff will not be permitted to help.
- It is recommended that parents have their children's ears pierced for the first time at the beginning of the summer holidays, thus allowing time for the ears to heal properly.

Watches and other jewellery

- No bracelets, brooches or necklaces to be worn in school at any time. This includes jewellery worn under school uniform
- Watches must be a simple analogue or digital watch and must not have the capacity to take pictures or photographs.
- If a child wears any other jewellery to school, they will be asked to remove it and put it somewhere safe until the end of the day.

Please note - the school will not take responsibility for any items of jewellery worn to school, whether they are allowed by this policy or not. All jewellery remains the responsibility of the child whilst they are in school.

Make-Up

- Nail varnish and makeup should not be worn to school under any circumstances.

Expectations for our school community

Pupils

Pupils are expected to adhere to our expectations for 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 the headteacher 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 the 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

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 the 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 doesn't improve.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with by the headteacher on a case by case basis.

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
- 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 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 every two years by the headteacher. At every review, it will be approved by the governing body.



Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

- Behaviour policy
- Equality information and objectives statement
- Anti-bullying policy
- Complaints policy

