



## **Uniform Policy**

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## 1. Statement of Intent

At Furze Platt Senior School, we believe the school uniform achieves three important goals:

- It encourages a sense of community identity and pride. By wearing the same badge and the same clothing, students are encouraged to think of the needs of the community as well as their own individual needs.
- It encourages our students to develop habits for life. By learning to polish their shoes, fold trousers or hang up their blazers, pupils learn the habits of discipline and personal responsibility that will stay with them for life.
- It prevents unkindness or bullying while keeping costs down. By requiring all our students to wear the same low-cost uniform, we reduce the incentive for students to ask parents for the latest (and most expensive) items of fashion. As a result, costs are kept as low as possible and no child can be seen to be poorer or wealthier than any other.

## 2. Legal Framework

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

- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Education Act 2011
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Equality Act 2010
- The UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)
- Data Protection Act 2018

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

- DfE (2021) 'Cost of school uniforms'
- DfE (2021) 'School Admissions Code'
- DfE (2021) 'School uniforms'

## 3. Expectations

3.1. We think it is important for all students to keep up a high standard of appearance so that the school's excellent reputation is maintained in the local community. Students must wear school uniform at all times while on school premises and travelling to and from school. They may also be required to do so when on school trips.

3.2. Students must be in the correct uniform at all times unless they are on the playgrounds or astro during their breaks.

3.3. Parents are requested to help us to keep to our high standard of dress by ensuring that they buy the correct uniform for their children and ensuring that they wear it to school every day.

3.4. We reserve the right to confiscate items that do not form part of the school uniform and students may be sent home to change if their uniform is unacceptable.

## 4. Uniform Suppliers

We have worked hard with our suppliers to ensure that our school uniform is practical, affordable and of a good quality, and we ask parents to support us in maintaining high standards of uniform. We hope the guidance below is clear enough so parents do not purchase inappropriate items; if you have any queries please get in contact before you make any purchases.

All items are available from Hawkinsport in Bourne End, except Furze Platt Senior School ties which are in House colours and can be purchased at School Reception.

Please visit the Hawkinsport website:

<https://www.hawkinsport.co.uk/schools-colleges/furze-platt-senior-school>

## 5. Uniform

### School Wear

Compulsory	
White Shirt	May be purchased anywhere, but must have top button that can be done up. Must be worn tucked in to skirt or trousers.
School Tie	House colours, Lower School (Years 7-8) £5, Upper School (Years 9-11) £8. <b>Available from School Reception only.</b>
School Blazer*	Blue with school crest.
School Skirt*	Must be purchased from Hawkinsport; our official school skirt is the only style that is permitted. Must reach to just above the knee.
Trousers	They should be plain black, straight leg and smartly tailored. Denim, cotton jean style, skinny leg or flared trousers are not permitted.
Shorts	These should be plain, black, straight leg and smartly tailored. They should be knee length.
Socks	Dark only.
Tights	Black or natural only.
Shoes	Black only: smart style shoes. No logos, no trainers, trainer styles, no canvas, no heels, no boots, no backless shoes. See images below for further guidance.
Optional	
V-neck sweatshirt*	Optional, but the only sweatshirt permitted and must be worn under the school blazer. Tie must be visible beneath the collar.
Coat	Coats can be of any colour. However, they should not be denim or leather. Hoodies of any sort (except the official school hoodie, which is only for use in PE lessons) are not permitted.
Scarf	Scarfs can be of any colour and should be taken off when indoors. Students who wish to wear a headscarf as part of religious dress should wear black or navy.
Hat/Cap	Hats should not be worn inside the school buildings at any times. Caps and hats should not have offensive logos.
Religious items of dress	Religious dress is welcomed. Where religious dress is worn (such as a hijab, turban, abaya etc.), it should be worn in conjunction with the compulsory uniform.

### Sports Wear

Compulsory	
Polo Shirt*	In school colours (navy with amber strip), cap or short sleeve and with school logo.
Rugby top*	In school colours, long sleeved and with school logo. Reversible.
Shorts or Skort*	In school colours (navy with amber strip).
Trainers	Non-marking soles for indoor use.
Sports Socks*	In school colours and featuring the school's name.
Hockey/Football Boots	For use on all-weather pitch and grass pitches (please note: metal studs must not be worn on the all-weather pitch – we recommend buying moulded studs that can be used on both).
Shin Pads	
Mouthguard	
Optional	
Hoodie*	Navy and amber hoodie with a front pocket and featuring the school logo
Tracksuit bottoms	Navy, no logo

### Further requirements

Jewellery	Jewellery is inappropriate for school. A wristwatch and single stud in each earlobe is the only jewellery permitted. Any other kind of jewellery will be confiscated. <b>Any other piercings are not permitted</b> and must be removed for school. Recognising that new piercings take time to 'heal', clear plastic studs will be permitted for additional piercings for the first 7 weeks after the initial piercing. After this point, nothing will be allowed during the school day.
Hair and make-up	Make-up should be discrete. Nail varnish should be clear. Nail extensions/false nails or false eyelashes are not appropriate for the school environment and indeed are dangerous in certain situations e.g. PE lessons. Hair styles should be sensible and appropriate to the working environment. No extreme styles are permitted including shaven head, shaven patterns and unnatural hair colours.

\*Only available from Hawkinsport

### Sixth Form

<b>Compulsory</b>	
Suit	A suit comprising of a suit jacket and trousers or skirt. Suits may be plain or with a subtle check or stripe. Suits should be black, grey or blue.
Shirts	All students must wear a formal, button-down shirts. These must be buttoned up to the collar and tucked in to suit trousers or skirt. All shirts may be plain or with a subtle stripe or check. Short sleeved shirts are permitted but sleeveless shirts are not permitted.
Ties	Those who choose to wear male suits must wear a tie. For those who choose to wear female suits, ties are optional. Ties may be patterned or plain.
Trousers	All trousers should be formal, match with suit jackets and fit well (i.e. not skinny fit and not baggy). Jeans, track suit trousers and jeggings are not permitted.
Skirts	All skirts must be formal, match with suit jackets and reach the knee. Skirts must not be tight, made of stretchy-lycra, leather or denim material.
Lanyards	All students must wear issued lanyards at all times when on school site. Lanyards must be worn showing students' photographs and names on the outward facing side. Missing lanyards will need replacements purchased at a cost to the student of £5.
Socks and tights	If wearing socks, these must be formal and dark-coloured. Sports socks are not permitted. If wearing tights, these must be black or natural and in good condition..
Footwear	Formal shoes or Chelsea-style ankle boots must be worn. Trainers, canvas shoes, open-toed shoes, high heels, platform shoes and casual boots (including Dr Martens boots) are not permitted.
Sportswear for REC	Students are permitted to wear their choice of sport kit for sporting REC activities. This may be branded, however it must be plain in colour and must fit well for sporting activity (i.e. not be overly baggy, not be low-cut, exposing the shoulders nor exposing the midriff).
<b>Optional</b>	
V-necked jumper	Optional item. The jumper must be v-necked and plain. Hoodies, branded sweatshirts and round-necked pullovers are not permitted.
Coats	Coats can be of any colour. However, they should not be denim or leather. Hoodies of any sort are not permitted.
Jewellery	Sixth Form students are expected to comply with the jewellery requirements for the entire school, as laid out below. Sixth Form students may, if they wish, wear: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A single stud in the nose that is plain and small. Nose rings are not permitted.</li> <li>- A maximum of one small band ring on each hand.</li> <li>- A small bracelet around the wrist. Festival bands and ankle bracelets are not permitted.</li> </ul> Students who have jewellery that breaches this guidance will have these items confiscated.
Hair and make-up	Sixth Form students are expected to comply with the hair and make-up requirements for the entire school, as laid out below. Sixth Form students may, if they wish, wear coloured nail varnish in muted, pastel shades. Bright colours are not permitted
Religious items of dress	Religious dress is welcomed in the Sixth Form. Where religious dress is worn (such as a hijab, turban, abaya etc.), it should be worn in conjunction with the dress code and maintain the formal ethic of the Sixth Form.

# ✓ Suitable Footwear

The following are examples of shoes which ARE permitted to be worn at school:

In order to maintain consistent high standards of uniform we hope that this information provides some clarity for parents, students and staff.

Shoes are deemed to be acceptable if they are plain black in colour, made of leather and not overly decorative. Essentially, shoes which can be described as flat, black, sensible school shoes.

Velcro fastenings are permitted, on shoes such as Clarks Monte Lite and Maris Fire – sports branded footwear is not permitted.



The final decision on the appropriateness of uniform rests with the Senior Leadership Team

# ✗ Unsuitable Footwear

The following are examples of shoes, trainers and brands which are NOT allowed to be worn at school:

In order to maintain consistent high standards of uniform we hope that this information provides some clarity for parents, students and staff.

Shoes are deemed to be unacceptable if they are not plain black in colour, are made of canvas, overly decorative or have white soles.

Trainers, boots and brands such as Vans, Converse, Nike and Adidas are also not permitted.



The final decision on the appropriateness of uniform rests with the Senior Leadership Team

## 6. Cost Principles

- 6.1. We understand that, for some families, finances are tight. We believe that, by doing all we can to keep items of fashion out of school, we help families to keep costs down. Nevertheless, any parents who have concerns about the cost of uniform should contact their child's Head of Progress, who will deal with their enquiry in the strictest confidence.
- 6.2. The school is committed to ensuring that its school uniform is affordable and accessible to all pupils, and does not place an unreasonable financial burden on parents.
- 6.3. In accordance with the 'School Admissions Code', the school will ensure that our uniform policy does not discourage parents from applying for a place for their child.
- 6.4. 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 due to costs.
  - LAC and PLAC.
- 6.5. The school 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.
- 6.6. The school keeps variations in school uniform for different groups of pupils, e.g. year group-specific items or house colours, to a minimum where possible to ensure that pupils can get the most wear out of their uniform possible and that parents can pass some items down to younger siblings.
- 6.7. The school keeps branded uniform items to a minimal level that is reasonable for all members of the school community. The school defines a branded uniform item as any item of clothing that cannot be purchased at a range of retailers, including by virtue of logos, colours, design and fabrics.
- 6.8. The school is committed to meeting the DfE's recommendations on costs and value for money. Every care is taken to ensure that our uniforms are affordable for all current and prospective pupils, and that the best value for money is secured through reputable suppliers.
- 6.9. The school will not amend uniform requirements regularly and will take the views of parents and pupils into account when considering any changes to school uniforms.

## 7. Equality Principles

- 7.1. The school takes its legal obligation to avoid discriminating against any protected characteristic unlawfully very seriously, and aims to ensure that the uniform policy is as inclusive as possible so that all pupils are supported to access a school uniform which is comfortable, suitable for their needs, and reflects who they are.
- 7.2. The school will work to ensure that school uniform's cost does not disproportionately affect any pupils by ensuring that uniforms for all genders are as equal in price as possible and by adhering to the cost principles laid out in Section 6.
- 7.3. The school will ensure that parents and pupils are consulted over any changes to school uniform, and that views and advice is sought specifically from pupils, and parents of pupils, who:
  - Are transgender, including non-binary pupils.
  - Have SEND and/or sensory needs.
  - Are of a religious or cultural background that has dress requirements.
- 7.4. The school implements a gender-neutral uniform, meaning that pupils are not required to wear specific items based on their gender, and may wear any of the uniform items listed

in the 'School uniform' section of this policy regardless of the legal sex recorded on the school's records. Transgender pupils are supported to access the uniform that best reflects their gender expression.

- 7.5. The school ensures that pupils who are required to follow certain dress requirements, e.g. by virtue of their membership of a particular religious or cultural group, are afforded flexibility to allow them to wear a uniform that adheres to their requirements as far as possible. The school endeavours to meet all requests for amendments to the uniform for these purposes; however, will ensure that the needs and rights of individual pupils are weighed against any health and safety concerns for the entire school community.
- 7.6. Parents' concerns and requests regarding religious clothing are dealt with on a case-by-case basis by the Headteacher and governing body, and always in accordance with the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.
- 7.7. The school ensures that the needs of pupils with SEND and/or sensory difficulties are considered in the uniform policy, e.g. ensuring soft, stretchy fabrics and avoiding intricate buttons or hard seams; however, 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.

## **8. Jewellery**

- 8.1. Permitted jewellery that may be worn is:
  - One pair of stud earrings – no other piercings are permitted.
  - A smart and sensible wrist watch.
- 8.2. Jewellery is the responsibility of the pupil and not the school. Lost or damaged items will not be refunded. All jewellery must be removed during practical lessons, including PE lessons and science experiments.

## **9. Hairstyles**

- 9.1. The school reserves the right to make a judgement on where pupils' hairstyles or hair colours are inappropriate for the school environment; however, 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.
- 9.2. Pupils with long hair must ensure that this does not impede their vision, cover their face or provide a health and safety risk. Long hair must be tied up during practical lessons, e.g. during PE.
- 9.3. The following hairstyles are not considered appropriate for school:
  - Brightly-coloured, dyed hair.
  - Headwear with bold patterns or colours.
  - Excessive hair accessories.

## **10. Makeup**

- 10.1. The school rules on makeup are as follows:
  - Only light, natural-looking makeup is permitted.
  - False nails and nail extensions are not permitted.
  - Only clear nail varnish may be worn.
  - Temporary tattoos are not permitted.
  - False eye-lashes are not permitted.
- 10.2. Pupils wearing excessive makeup are required to remove it or, if appropriate, will be sent home to remove it.

## **11. Labelling**

- 11.1. All pupils' clothing and footwear is clearly labelled with their name.
- 11.2. Any lost clothing is to be taken to the lost property box in the school office. All lost property is retained for one week and is disposed of if it is not collected within this time.



## **12. Links to other policies**

This policy complements and supports a range of other policies, including:

- Behaviour for Learning policy
- Anti-bullying policy
- Cyber-bullying policy

## **13. Monitoring & Review**

13.1. This policy is reviewed annually by the Deputy Headteacher.

13.2. Staff will be required to familiarise themselves with this policy as part of their induction programme.