



Park Vale Academy

Approved by:	Local Academy Board	Date: 16/11/2024
Last reviewed on:	02/07/2026	
Next review due by:	02/07/2027	

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1. 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
- Clarify our expectations for school uniform

2. Limiting the cost of school uniform

Our school aims to make sure that the uniform we require is affordable.

Our uniform is

- Is available at a reasonable cost
- Provides the best value for money for parents in relation to quality and academy ethos

We will do this by:

- Working with suppliers to keep costs to a minimum and reviewing costs annually
- Avoiding specific requirements for items pupils could wear on non-school days, such as coats and bags
- 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 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 students on any proposed major changes to the uniform policy

3. Expectations for school uniform

3.1 Our school's uniform

We feel that the wearing of a smart and presentable uniform plays an important role in making students take pride in their appearance, their work and their school. It creates a strong identity, of which we should all be proud. Uniform consistency helps support the ethos of the academy and removes potential issues in respect of bullying or stigmatising young people. Our uniform was consulted upon in 2016 and has been warmly welcomed and supported by parents who value clarity as supported by the parent view survey in autumn 2022.

Daily Uniform:

- **Blazer:** Navy school blazer with House badge in House colour (you will be informed of your child's House during the transition process and the first badge is provided free of charge. Replacements are charged at £1 each available from reception or via the Class Charts rewards store).
- **Trousers:** Grey school trousers with the Academy logo embroidered and purchased from our uniform suppliers. These are available for everyone. Black belt for trousers is recommended.
- **Skirt:** Grey school skirt with the Academy logo embroidered, purchased from our uniform suppliers.
- **Shirt:** Plain white with a collar and top button, appropriate for use with a school tie. Soft collared sports shirts are not acceptable i.e. polo shirts. No T-shirts are to be worn. There should be no badges or motifs on shirts. Shirts must be tucked in at all times.
- **School Tie:** All students in Years 7 to 11 are required to wear a school tie in their house colours (you will be informed of your child's House during the transition process). School ties need to be in immaculate condition; ties that have threads pulled or ink marks on it will need to be replaced.
- **Jumper:** Only the official school jumper may be worn. This is an optional uniform item. Jumpers should only be worn in addition to the blazer and not in place of it.
- **Socks or Tights:** Plain black socks or tights – socks can be ankle or below knee length only. Sports and fashion socks are not permitted.
- **Shoes:** Plain black shoes. The wearing of fashion shoes, particularly those without backs or with high/stiletto heels is not permitted. Boots, trainers or trainer-like shoes should not be worn. Canvas/suede is not permitted. We suggest shoes which can be easily polished and which are leather/leather look are most suitable (for example Nike Air Force trainers or similar are not permitted).

- **School Coat:** Students may wear plain water-resistant coats or jackets. Hoodies, bomber jackets, tracksuit tops or sports coats with large logos are not allowed. Fashion coats such as leather/denim jackets or body warmers are not permitted.

General requirements:

Jewellery: Jewellery can be a safety hazard; it also gets lost easily. Students may wear one stud in each lower earlobe and only a single small nose stud. Any other piercing is not permitted. Students are also not allowed to wear rings, bracelets or necklaces in school. In PE lessons, studs should be removed for practical lessons.

Hairstyles: We expect hair styles to be neat and tidy and not extreme in any way. This includes tramlines, shaved images/writing or unnatural dyes and brightly coloured braiding/decoration. In the interest of student safety, long hair must be tied back in PE and other practical lessons and headbands are not permitted.

Headwear: Any headwear worn due to religious belief should be plain black. All other headwear, except those worn for religious reasons, isn't permitted inside the building. Baseball caps are banned entirely. Students are free to wear appropriate head-coverings outside during inclement weather.

Make Up: Make-up should not be seen. False nails, nail varnish and false eyelashes are not permitted at any time and are considered a health and safety issue.

PE Kit: Academy PE top with Academy logo. Black bottoms should also be worn, leggings must not be see-through and preferably sports material, shorts must be mid-thigh length or longer. Students in years 7-9 should also have the jumper with the Academy logo — all items can be purchased from our uniform suppliers. Plain black sports socks. Footwear should include appropriate trainers for indoor and outdoor activities, football boots are required for some activities. Converse and Nike Air Force trainers are not considered appropriate footwear for PE. Optional items include shin pads, gum shield and a thin rain coat.

Except in the case of serious injury, such as a broken bone, all pupils are expected to come to PE lessons with full kit and get changed so that they are prepared to take part in physical activity. If pupils have minor ailments they should bring a note from home explaining this, which should be presented to their class teacher once they are changed. PE staff are First Aid trained and are therefore able to provide suitable levels of activity for a range of injuries. Students may be asked to take part in adapted versions of the tasks performed by the class, refereeing games, coaching other students and setting out equipment and it is therefore imperative that they are dressed appropriately. They could be outside, or on the grass, and in those cases, we do not want students' uniform to become wet or muddy. Please note that menstruation or

illness are not acceptable reasons for not taking part in physical activity. It is our view that if your child is well enough to be in school, then they are capable of taking part in some physical activity. Piercings need to be removed for all PE lessons. We advise that students do not have piercings done during times when this will cause issues for them missing PE. Students who do not remove piercings will be asked to wear PE kit and take on different roles within the lesson as well as putting tape over their piercings.

3.2 Where to purchase it

- The Park Vale Academy Uniform is available from either Just Schoolwear in Arnold or Schoolwear Solutions. School shirts, socks, shoes, trainers and non-branded school wear can be purchased from a range of high street retailers.

Support for uniform

- The academy supports families who are in genuine need of support for the cost of uniform. Families who are currently in receipt of free school meals and who wish to ask for more support due to financial hardship, can make a request for support through our hardship fund. Any requests should be made to the Operations Manager via the school office
- The academy provides a first full set of uniform for families in receipt of free school meals when their child starts at the school. This can then be swapped with the organized swap service at the school
- Parents are able to make use of a savings scheme with our suppliers that enables them to save money over time to cover uniform costs

Preloved uniform service

- We have a supply of preloved uniform available from house support if needed.

4. Expectations for our school community

4.1 Students

Students 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

4.2 Parents

Parents are asked to make sure their child has the correct uniform and PE kit, and that items are clean, labelled with the child's name in case items are lost or found and are in good condition.

4.3 Staff

All staff will closely monitor students to make sure they are in correct uniform. They will give any students and families breaching the uniform policy the opportunity to resolve issues, but will follow up with the House SLT link if the situation doesn't improve. Items will be loaned to students from school stock where possible, in order to support the ethos and maintaining classroom attendance whilst parents resolve issues.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with by Heads of House and members of the leadership team linked to the House.

In cases where it is suspected that financial hardship has resulted in a student not complying with this uniform policy, staff will take a mindful and considerate approach to resolving the situation.

4.4 Governors

The Local Academy Board will review this policy every two years 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 students
- Offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all students

The board will also make sure that the school's uniform supplier arrangements gives priority to cost and value for money.