



**Aston Community
Education Trust**

ACET Uniform Policy – Primary Academies

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POLICY LEAD: Cathryn Keeton

APPROVED BY: Trust Board



Excellence



Equity



Empowerment



Esteem

DOCUMENT CONTROL

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This policy remains valid until it is reviewed and replaced; it does not expire by date alone. Policies are reviewed annually, or sooner if required by statutory or legislative changes, in line with best practice			
Business Lead	Executive Principal	Author	C Keeton
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Contents

Contents.....	1
Introduction	2
Aims and Objectives.....	2
Legal Duties under the Equality Act 2010.....	2
Limiting the Cost of School Uniform	3
The Role of Parents/Carers	3
The Role of the Trust.....	3
Staff.....	4
Monitoring and Review.....	4
Jewellery	5
Non-Compliance with the Trust Uniform Policy	6
Second-Hand Uniform	6
Complaints and Challenges to the School Uniform Policy.....	7
Other Policies.....	7

Introduction

ACET believes that all pupils in primary academies should wear their academy uniform when attending the academy or when participating in any academy organised events outside of normal school hours (unless advised differently).

We strongly believe that uniform creates a sense of identity, equity, and unity for our pupils. It helps to make pupils feel part of our community and by wearing the academy uniform it demonstrates that our young people are proud to be ACET pupils, adhering to our core values and high standards.

It is an expectation that all pupils should wear their uniform every day and adhere to this policy.

We appreciate that it can be difficult process buying school uniform, so we offer this as a guide. With this in mind, we expect that our parents/carers support our Uniform Policy and work with us in partnership to ensure that uniform and appearance adheres to the following guidelines.

We understand that at times, there may be issues with uniform. If this is the case, we ask parents / carers to contact the academy, either via a phone call, email, or letter. All pupils will be given an agreed time frame in which to rectify any uniform infringements.

Aims and Objectives

Our policy on academy uniform is based on the notion that it:

- Promotes a sense of pride in the academy
- Engenders a sense of community and belonging towards the academy
- Is practical and smart
- Identifies the pupils within the academy
- Prevents pupils from coming to the academy in fashion clothes that could be distracting / expensive
- Makes pupils feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance
- Is regarded as suitable wear for school and good value for money
- Is promoted with health and safety and safeguarding in mind.

Legal Duties under the Equality Act 2010

The [Equality Act 2010](#) prohibits discrimination against an individual based on the protected characteristics, which include age, sex, disability, race, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity, and gender reassignment.

To avoid discrimination, our trust 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 uniform costs the same for all pupils
- Allow all pupils to style their hair in a way that is appropriate for school and 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/or other religious garments
- Allow pupils with sensory or physical needs to make reasonable adaptations to their uniform depending on their specific needs.

Allow for reasonable adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents/carers to get in touch with their child's academy who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests. These will be considered by the principal on a case-by-case basis.

Limiting the Cost of School Uniform

ACET has a duty to make sure the uniform required 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 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:

- Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics
- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost or long-lasting items
- 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.

The Role of Parents/Carers

We ask all parents/carers who send their children to our academies to support the trust wide uniform policy. We believe that parents/carers can support us by sending their children to school in the correct uniform, to arrive on time and with the correct equipment and attitude to maximise their learning opportunities. Working in partnership is key to pupil progress and success.

If any parent/carer would like to discuss with the academy any modifications to this policy for their individual child, they should make representation, in the first instance, to the principal. We may ask for medical, SEND supporting documentation to support such requests.

The trust always welcomes pupils from all backgrounds and faith communities. If there are reasons, for example, on religious grounds, why parents/carers want their child to wear clothes that differ from the academy uniform, the academy will look sympathetically at any requests made.

The Role of the Trust

This is a trust policy for our primary academies. Trustees will support and expect the principal to implement this uniform policy. They will also track and monitor its consistent application. They will receive information regarding this via reports to the 'Curriculum and Standards' sub-group. This CEO will liaise with the principal to ensure that the policy is implemented fairly and with sensitivity.

It is the responsibility of the trust to ensure that the academy uniform meets all regulations concerning equal opportunities.

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 principal if the situation does not improve.

Monitoring and Review

The trust will monitor and review the academy uniform policy through its committee by:

- Seeking the views of parents/carers, to ensure that they are aware of the policy, its importance and how they can support the policy.
- Requiring the principal to report to the governors on the way the academy uniform policy is implemented.

In response to the parent/carer consultation in the spring term of 2025, the primary academy uniform items were amended. Changes are reflected in the table below:

No blazer	The blazer will be removed as a required uniform item from September 2025 .
PE top	The long-sleeved, rugby-style PE top will be removed as a required uniform item from September 2025 . Parents are asked to provide their child with either a black long-sleeved top or hoodie for outdoor PE in the colder months (non-branded).
Tie	There will be no requirement for pupils to wear a tie from September 2025 .
PE	Children should wear a white t-shirt for indoor PE with black shorts.
White shirt (Rotherham/Sheffield)	Children will also be able to wear a yellow polo shirt in Key Stage 2 from September 2025 .
Blue shirt (Derbyshire)	Children will also be able to wear a blue polo shirt in Key Stage 2 from September 2025 .
Jumper	From September 2026 , we will change the jumper to an unbranded, grey, V-neck jumper.
Grey cardigan	Children can wear a grey cardigan instead of a jumper from September 2025 .
Grey Trousers/skirt/Pinafore/shorts	Children should wear any of the following items in grey: tailored shorts, trousers, knee-length skirt or knee-length pinafore.
Gingham dress or playsuit	During warmer weather children may wear a yellow (Rotherham / Sheffield) / blue (Derbyshire) gingham dress or playsuit.

All other items of the academy uniform remain unchanged.

We acknowledge and understand that some children will have current uniform items that are in good condition and could be used next year. For this reason, children can continue to wear existing branded uniform items until September 2026. We appreciate that next year 2025-26, the uniform will appear to be a mismatch in the academies however, in our duty to support parents with the cost of school uniform, we do not wish to create any additional financial burden by asking that all uniform items are bought new/changed for September 2025.

With the exception of the branded jumper, from September 2025, ACET will not be expecting parents of primary-aged children to purchase any other branded items of uniform. From September 2026, parents will be able to purchase all uniform items from supermarkets or high street stores. To ensure children can be identified whilst on school visits, from September 2025, when on a visit, children will be provided with a neon wristband which has the name of the academy and emergency contact details visible.

The following style / type of trousers will not be allowed:

Jeans, lycra, tight-fitting leggings/jeggings, cords, chinos, combat trousers, tracksuit bottoms, flares, decorated trousers, ski pants.

Religious headwear must be black.

Baseball caps, bandanas and balaclavas must not be worn or brought into the academy. A woolly hat may be worn to travel to and from the academy in cold weather, but NO HATS are to be worn inside the academy. Caps for outdoor play are permitted in warm weather.

Outdoor coats must be removed once inside the school building and hung on the coat pegs in class or the cloakrooms.

Footwear

We expect pupils to wear sensible plain black footwear. Shoes or trainers should be completely black including the trim around the edge of the soles. Pupils are permitted to wear plain black boots.

The following are NOT acceptable:

- Shoes or trainers with flashings
- Sandals, open-toed, sling back or backless shoes including Crocs and sliders

Jewellery

On health and safety grounds, we do not allow pupils to wear jewellery in the academy.

The exceptions to this rule are:

- Earring studs in pierced ears; one small, plain stud in each ear, lower ear lobe only – nose, tongue and other facial piercings are NOT allowed. Clear facial piercings are not allowed as an alternative.
- Wristwatch
- Medical identification bracelets may be worn by pupils who have significant medical problems e.g., diabetes or epilepsy. We ask pupils to remove these objects during PE, for health and safety reasons.

We also advise parents/carers who wish their children to have piercings to do so at the beginning of the school summer holidays. These piercings must, however, be removed before pupils return to the academy except for the single stud in the lobe.

Extreme haircuts

The following is not acceptable for the academy:

- Hairstyles and haircuts which are deemed too extreme such as tramlines, shaved heads (no shorter than a number 2), extreme patterns or Mohican cuts

- Hair dyed in bright, non-natural colours (for example pink, red, blue, green etc. or any colour that is not a natural colour).

The following is not acceptable for the academy:

- Non-uniform jumpers, sweatshirts or hoodies **MUST NOT BE WORN** inside the academy
- Coloured nail varnish/false nails
- Excessive make-up, false eyelashes and gel/acrylic/false nails and coloured nail polish is not allowed. Additionally, nail length should be appropriate and safe for learning.

Non-Compliance with the Trust Uniform Policy

Reasonable adjustments to this uniform policy may be made following discussions with, and with the agreement of the principal (e.g. for medical reasons/disability). The principal's decision is final.

At all times we would like to work with parents/carers to ensure that our pupils are wearing the correct uniform and that any uniform concerns are quickly addressed. Uniform in our academies is an important part of our standards and expectations and all pupils should arrive each day to our academy wearing full uniform.

Non-compliance with the academy policy could lead to the following sanctions being implemented:

- If a pupil is not following the uniform policy, they will be reminded of uniform expectations.
- If non-compliance continues, parents will be informed, with an expectation that full uniform will be worn from the following day.
- Any sanctions for non-compliance will be in line with the academy Behaviour and Rewards Policy.

Please note that in extreme heat, during the summer term, the academy may make the following announcement: 'Pupils may, if they wish to, choose to wear the academy PE kit to school instead of their standard academy uniform. There should be no deviations from this'.

The academy will make the announcement on a day-to-day basis. Pupils should only attend in their PE kit if this announcement has been officially made to parents/carers. The decision will be made by the principal and communicated as soon as possible prior to the day.

All clothing should be clearly labelled with your child's name, as it is difficult to distinguish the ownership of items of clothing which all look the same.

Second-Hand Uniform

The Department of Education has asked that:

'Schools should make sure that arrangements are in place so that second-hand school uniforms are available for all parents.'

As a Trust, we welcome and have some good quality second hand uniform available for any parent who requires it. Please contact the school reception to find out more.

Complaints and Challenges to the School Uniform Policy

Complaints or objections to this policy will be dealt with via the Trust Complaints policy which can be found on academy websites.

Other Policies

This policy is linked to the Trust's policies:

Behaviour Policy

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy

Anti-Bullying Policy

Complaints Policy