

Ormiston Academies Trust

Ormiston Forge Academy Uniform policy

Policy version control

Policy type	OAT Mandatory
Author	Rob Pritchard, National Director of Education
In consultation with	<i>Sourced document The Key</i>
Approved by	Executive, 13 April 2023
Release date	April 2023
Review	Policies will be reviewed in line with OAT's internal policy schedule and/or updated when new legislation comes into force
Description of changes	New policy

Contents

1. Aims	3
2. Legal duties under the Equality Act 2010	3
3. Limiting the cost of school uniform	3
4. Expectations for academy uniform	4
4.1. The academy uniform	4
4.2. Where to purchase uniform	5
5. Expectations for the academy community	6
5.1. Pupils	6
5.2. Parents and carers.....	6
5.3. Staff	7
5.4. Governors.....	7
6. Monitoring arrangements	7
7. Links to other policies.....	7

1.Aims

1.1. This policy aims to:

- Set the academy's approach to requiring a uniform that is of reasonable cost and offers the best value for money for parents and carers
- Explain how the academy will avoid discrimination in line with its legal duties under the Equality Act 2010
- Clarify the expectations for school uniform

2. Legal duties under the Equality Act 2010

2.1. The Equality Act 2010 prohibits discrimination against an individual based on the protected characteristics, which include sex, race, religion or belief, and gender reassignment.

2.2. To avoid discrimination, the academy will:

2.2.1. 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

2.2.2. Make sure that the uniform costs the same for all pupils

2.2.3. Allow all pupils to have long hair (whilst reserving the right to ask for this to be tied back)

2.2.4. Allow all pupils to style their hair in the way that is appropriate for school yet makes them feel most comfortable

2.2.5. Allow pupils to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons

2.2.6. Allow pupils to wear headscarves and other religious or cultural symbols

2.2.7. Allow for adaptations to the policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents to get in touch with Mrs. S. Taylor (Assistant Principal for Behaviour), Mr. W. Grant (Senior Lead Pastoral) or Mr. S. Lodge (Vice Principal Student Services) who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests

3. Limiting the cost of school uniform

3.1. The academy has a duty to make sure that its uniform is affordable, in line with [statutory guidance](#) from the Department for Education on the cost of school uniform.

3.2. We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded clothing, 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.

3.3. We will make sure our uniform:

- 3.3.1. Is available at a reasonable cost
- 3.3.2. Provides the best value for money for parents/carers

3.4. We will ensure this by:

- 3.4.1. Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary
- 3.4.2. Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics where possible. For example, students who opt to wear a black jumper may wear one without our school logo. Our school blazer, which is compulsory for all students is the only item of clothing required to have the school logo.
- 3.4.3. Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost or long-lasting items, such as ties
- 3.4.4. 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
- 3.4.5. Avoiding specific requirements for items pupils could wear on non-school days, such as coats, bags and shoes
- 3.4.6. Keeping the number of optional branded items to a minimum, so that the school's uniform can act as a social leveler
- 3.4.7. Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups
- 3.4.8. Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- 3.4.9. Considering alternative methods for signaling differences in groups for interschool competitions, such as creating posters or labels
- 3.4.10. Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents to acquire second-hand uniform items
- 3.4.11. Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents of any changes
- 3.4.12. Consulting with parents and pupils on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy

4. Expectations for academy uniform

4.1. The academy uniform:

- Plain black blazer with Academy Logo - compulsory
- Plain black trouser (no jeans, cords or leggings)
- Black, knee length skirt (no short, tight tube skirts)

- Plain black V-necked jumper (optional) (no sweatshirts or sports tops)
- Plain white Shirt/Blouse (no casual shirts or t-shirts)
- Academy tie
- Head scarf (optional) – plain black
- Outdoor coat
- Black footwear (Plain black trainers are permissible – no colours)

4.1.1. PE Kit

- Black/burgundy polo shirt with Academy logo
- Plain black football style shorts (cycling style shorts only to be worn underneath football shorts)
- Plain black tracksuit bottoms (no stripes down the sides – a small logo is acceptable. Leggings are allowed to be worn underneath football shorts)
- Plain black football socks (outdoor)
- Plain white sport socks (indoor)
- Appropriate footwear for the activity (suitable trainers for indoors and astro turf trainers or moulded boots for the astro turf).
- Within gymnastics students are expected to perform bare footed; however they may wear canvas, thin soled, plimsolls or pumps or trampoline style grip socks. No other footwear other than that described here is allowed within gymnastics lessons for health and safety reasons.
- Within trampolining, grip socks or the student's normal sports socks are required, again for health and safety reasons.

4.1.2. Students are not allowed to wear excessive or expensive jewellery at Ormiston Forge Academy. This is not only to prevent the loss of valuable items but also to encourage neatness in dress and appearance. If studs are worn, only one pair can be worn in earlobes. All jewellery must be removed for PE due to health and safety regulations.

4.1.3. Makeup and nail varnish is not permitted in years 7, 8 and 9. Discrete make-up and nail varnish only, for years 10 and 11.

4.1.4. On Non-Uniform Days expectations about Jewellery and Make-Up remain in place. Students are still expected to maintain standards of dress which maintain dignity and are in keeping with our inclusive ethos.

4.1.5. Fashion trends cannot dictate a variance in the uniform code. If you are unsure about any aspect of the uniform code please check with the school before purchasing. The principal is the person who determines what is acceptable. Any student who arrives at college wearing incorrect uniform may be sanctioned and will be expected to change into spare uniform supplies held in college. Students who refuse may face sanctions in line with our behaviour policy until the issue is rectified.

4.2. Where to purchase uniform

4.2.1. Add details including:

- The majority of our uniform can be purchased at supermarkets and department stores. We have kept the amount of branded items to a minimum and branded uniform is available from Crested Schoolwear, Unit 14, Churchchill Shopping Centre, Dudley, DY2 7BJ [D-F – Crested School Wear](#)
- The school holds a selection of second-hand uniform which can be used in cases of hardship. Please contact the school should you wish to take a look at what we can offer.

5. Expectations for the academy community

5.1. Pupils

5.1.1. Pupils are expected to wear the correct uniform at all times (other than specified non-school uniform days) while:

5.1.1.1. On the school premises

5.1.1.2. Travelling to and from school

5.1.1.3. At off-site events or on trips that are organised by the school, or where they are representing the school (if required)

5.1.2. Pupils are also expected to contact Mrs. S. Taylor (Assistant Principal for Behaviour), Mr. W. Grant (Senior Leader Pastoral) or Mr. S. Lodge (Vice Principal Student Services) if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics.

5.2. Parents and carers

5.2.1. Parents and carers are expected to make sure their child has the correct uniform and PE kit, and that every item is:

5.2.1.1. Clean

5.2.1.2. Clearly labelled with the child's name

5.2.1.3. In good condition

5.2.2. Parents are also expected to contact Mrs. S. Taylor (Assistant Principal for Behaviour), Mr. W. Grant (Senior Leader Pastoral) or Mr. S. Lodge (Vice Principal Student Services) if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to:

5.2.2.1. Their child's protected characteristics

5.2.2.2. The cost of the uniform

5.2.3. Parents are expected to lodge any complaints or objections relating to the school uniform in a timely and reasonable manner.

5.2.4. Disputes about the cost of the school uniform will be:

5.2.4.1. Resolved locally

5.2.4.2. Dealt with in accordance with our school's complaints policy

5.2.5. The school will work closely with parents to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

5.3. Staff

5.3.1. 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 principal if the situation doesn't improve.

5.3.2. Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with by Relevant Heads of Year, Mrs. S. Taylor (Assistant Principal for Behaviour), Mr. W. Grant (Senior Leader Pastoral) or Mr. S. Lodge (Vice Principal Student Services)

5.3.3. 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.

5.4. Governors

5.4.1. The governing body will review this policy to ensure it:

5.4.1.1. Is appropriate for the academy's context

5.4.1.2. Is implemented fairly across the school

5.4.1.3. Takes into account the views of parents and pupils

5.4.1.4. Offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all pupils

5.4.2. The governing body will also ensure 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.

6. Monitoring arrangements

6.1. This policy will be reviewed every academic year by Mr. S. Lodge (Vice Principal Student Services). At every review, it will be approved by the full governing body.

7. Links to other policies

7.1. This policy is linked to our:

- Behaviour for learning policy
- Equality information and objectives statement
- Anti-bullying policy
- Complaints policy
- Charging and remissions policy (for any references to charging)