

Ormiston Academies Trust

Sandymoor Ormiston Academy

Uniform policy

Policy version control

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1. Aims

1.1. 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 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: age, sex, sexual orientation, disability, race, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity, and gender reassignment.

2.2. To avoid discrimination, the academy will:

- Avoid listing uniform items based on sex, to give all pupils the opportunity to wear the uniform they feel most comfortable in
- Make sure that our uniform costs the same for all pupils
- Allow all pupils to have long hair, although we reserve the right to ask that long hair be tied back
- 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
- 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 Mr McGuckin (mcguckinn@sandymooroa.co.uk), who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis

3. Limiting the cost of school uniform

3.1. Our uniform policy

Our uniform policy is designed with the needs, circumstances and values of the Sandymoor Ormiston Academy community at its core. We recognise that affordability is essential to support our community in its fullest terms. To support this, our uniform requirements prioritise:

- Multiple cost-effective items that are widely available from multiple retailers
- Minimising branded or bespoke pieces to reduce cost
- Access to pre-loved uniform through academy/community run schemes

- 3.2. 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 (DfE) on the cost of school uniforms.
- 3.3. We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that need to have a school logo attached or be in a unique fabric or style) cannot be purchased from a wide range of retailers, and that requiring many such items limits parents/carers' ability to shop around for the best price.
- 3.4. We will make sure our uniform:
 - Is available at a reasonable cost
 - Provides the best value for money for parents/carers
- 3.5. We will ensure this by:
 - 3.5.1. Following the statutory limits for compulsory branded items of uniform and PE kit to a maximum of:
 - 3.5.2. 3 branded items, one of which is the academy tie.
 - 3.5.3. Carefully considering whether any item with distinctive characteristics are necessary, and limiting these items where possible
 - 3.5.4. Limiting compulsory branded items to low-cost and/or long-lasting items such as ties.
 - 3.5.5. 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
 - 3.5.6. Avoiding specific requirements for items such as coats, bags and shoes/trainers that pupils could also wear on non-school days. See more information in section 4.1
 - 3.5.7. Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups.
 - 3.5.8. Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities including (but not limited to) sport, music and drama
 - 3.5.9. Avoiding requiring different branded items for particular times of the year, such as a branded dress in summer and a branded skirt in winter
 - 3.5.10. Considering alternative methods for signalling differences in groups for inter-school competitions, such as creating posters
 - 3.5.11. Considering alternative approaches, including loaning compulsory branded items such as sports kit for competitions
 - 3.5.12. Making sure that opportunities to acquire second-hand items in a timely manner are accessible to parents and carers of both current and prospective pupils, and publishing this information on our website
 - 3.5.13. Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications, and minimising the financial impact on parents/carers of any changes

- 3.5.14. Consulting with parents/carers and pupils on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy, and carefully considering any complaints about uniform in line with the school's complaints policy
- 3.5.15. Avoiding single-supplier contracts, to make sure generic items can be purchased from a range of retailers
- 3.5.16. Continuing to review this policy, to ensure the cost of our uniform is reasonable and provides the best value for money

4. Expectations for Academy uniform

4.1. The academy uniform

4.1.1. Academy Blazer – Academy regulation navy blazer, with Academy badge

Academy tie, with Academy badge

Shirt/blouse – formal white with stiff collar

Skirt, Academy regulation, tartan design, to be worn at an appropriate length, just above the knee

Trousers – Dark grey trousers

Tailored shorts – grey, knee length shorts

Socks/tights – plain navy socks or tights (non-branded). Over the knee socks are not permitted

Shoes – Plain black laced or slip on shoes, with low heels (no more than 1 inch in height). Please note that boots or trainers are not permitted

Jumpers – no hooded tops. Plain, navy V neck jumpers may be worn under a blazer which allow our Academy tie to remain clearly visible. Cardigans are not permitted as an alternative.

Coats – We recommend that all students have a coat which will keep them warm and dry during periods of cold/wet weather. Coats are not to be worn inside the school building.

School bags –All students should have a school bag to allow for the transport and safekeeping of Academy books, school equipment and mobile phone pouches. It is an expectation that all students bring a bag appropriate for school use. Small shoulder bags are not appropriate.

- 4.1.2. Students may wear a watch, and a necklace that should not be visible over a shirt/ blouse. Students may also wear small, plain studded ear rings. No other jewellery is permitted due to health and safety issues and liability in case of loss. Nose piercings or any other facial piercings are not permitted.
- 4.1.3. Hairstyles should not be extreme. Parents should consult, in advance, with the Head of Year if they are unsure as to the suitability of a change of style or colour. The Academy shall be the arbiter of the term 'extreme'.
- 4.1.4. Make-up, if worn at all, should be natural and discrete. Only natural colours and short, naturally shaped nails are permitted. Acrylic nails are not permitted. The Academy shall be the arbiter of the terms used here to

describe acceptable colours and acceptable nail lengths. Any false eyelashes or extensions or any kind are not permitted.

- 4.1.5. At times of extreme heat, students will be informed by the Principal regarding implementations of heat protocols, which include the non-requirement of school blazers and ties.

- 4.1.6. P.E Uniform

Academy regulation PE T-shirt with Academy badge

Pain navy sport shorts or black skort (optional branded items are available)

¼ zip PE top with Academy badge (non- compulsory)

Plain navy tracksuit bottoms or leggings

Navy or white sports socks

- 4.1.7. Trainers can be any colour, we accept a wide range of trainers but ask that they are suitable for sport. We recommend a trainer which has a cushioned sole and suitable grip for health and safety. Students are not permitted to wear any jewellery for PE, this is due to health and safety. Hair which is longer than Jaw length or obscures the eyes needs to be tied back. This can be done using a hair band or bobble and will need to be supplied by the student. A Football boot with a round, moulded stud is required for any P.E activity that is undertook on our 3G or grass field and should be purchased as part of required P.E equipment.

4.2. Where to purchase uniform

- 4.2.1. Touchline:

www.touchline-embroidery.com
Liverpool Rd, Warrington, WA5 1AE
Tel: 01925 413777

- 4.2.2 Office Bridge Group:

www.officebridgegroup.com
3 Beeston Court, Stuart Road, Manor Park, Runcorn, WA7 1SS
Tel: 01928 238503

- 4.2.3 Pre-loved options can also be accessed with the Academy at any time as there are stocks kept on site. Please contact the Academy if you wish to explore this option.

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 Mr McGuckin (mcguckinn@sandymooroa.co.uk) 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 Mr McGuckin (mcguckinn@sandymooroa.co.uk) 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 in accordance with the school's complaints policy.

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 the Pastoral team and in line with our Behaviour Policy.

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 and the pupil will not miss classroom teaching because of a sanction. This is in line with the statutory [guidance](#).

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 and reviews options regarding suppliers at least every 5 years.

6. Monitoring arrangements

6.1. This policy will be reviewed Ms Hand and Mr McGuckin. At every review, it will be approved by the Local Governing body.

7. Links to other policies

7.1. This policy is linked to our:

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