



Paddock Wood Primary Academy

Academy Uniform Policy

October 2023

Introduction

It is our policy that all children should wear academy uniform when attending school, or when participating in an academy-organised event outside normal school hours. We provide a complete list of the items needed for academy uniform on the school website.

Aims and objectives

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

- promotes a sense of pride in the academy;
- engenders a feeling of community and belonging;
- is practical and smart;
- identifies the children with the academy;
- is not distracting in class (as fashion clothes might be);
- makes children feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance;
- is regarded as suitable, and good value for money, by most parents;
- has been designed with health and safety in mind.
- Is accessible and affordable to parents and carers

Jewellery

“Schools have a duty of care to ensure students are able to participate actively without unnecessarily endangering themselves or those working around them. A clear and consistently applied policy for the removal of personal effects should be in place. The Association for Physical Education (afPE) strongly recommends the practice of removing all personal effects at the commencement of every lesson to establish a safe working environment. This applies to all ear and body piercings, including retainer and expander earrings.”

On health and safety grounds we do not allow children to wear jewellery in our academy. Parents are respectfully requested to support this requirement to prevent loss and/or injury. Small earring studs may be worn in pierced ears, but these must be removed for physical activity (PE, swimming etc). We ask that the children remove these studs themselves, prior to the lesson. If ears have been newly pierced they can be covered with micropore tape (to be provided by the parent) to prevent injury. If children are unable to cover them themselves then parents must do this in the morning before coming to school. Once the piercings have healed (no more than 10 weeks), earrings must be removed for all physical activity. We please ask that if your child has had their ears pierced, that you inform the office so we are aware that these will be covered.

Extreme Haircuts & Appearance

We like our children to have a smart appearance. The academy does not permit children to have haircuts that could serve as a distraction to other children or draw attention to a child in an unhelpful way. This includes shaved heads or patterns shaved into the hair or the use of bright hair dye sprays. Long hair should be tied back with a plain band or tie for reasons of hygiene and safety.

Parents should also be aware that transfers or tattoos are not permitted.

Children should not wear make-up or nail varnish as part of their school uniform and will be asked to remove this by the following day.

Footwear

The academy wants all children to grow into healthy adults. We believe that it is dangerous for children to wear shoes with platform soles, high heels or 'strappy' open toed sandals, so we do not allow them. Neither do we allow children to wear trainers; these are appropriate for PE, sport or as leisurewear, but are not in keeping with the smart appearance of an academy uniform.

Outdoor Wear

As part of the curriculum children are encouraged to use the outdoor environment. It is essential that the children have appropriate, named outdoor coats and shoes suitable for the weather.

Wellington boots may be worn on children's inward journey, during inclement weather but children must bring suitable shoes to change into.

The role of parents

We ask all parents who send their children to our academy for their support of the uniform policy. We believe that parents have a duty to send their children to school correctly dressed and ready for their daily schoolwork. Parents should ensure that their child has the correct uniform, and that it is clean and in good repair.

If any parent would like the academy to modify the uniform policy, they should make representation, in the first instance, to the Principal. The academy welcomes children from all backgrounds and faith communities. If there are serious reasons, for example religious objections, why parents want their child to wear clothes that differ from the academy uniform, the academy will look sympathetically at such requests. Similarly, should an item of academy uniform prove problematic for a pupil with disabilities then parents are invited to draw this to the attention of the Principal. The academy will not treat pupils with disabilities unfavourably.

Winter Uniform

- A navy blue V Neck Jumper **with academy logo**
- A plain white shirt or blouse with buttons (with collar buttoned to the neck suitable for tie wearing)
- A house coloured tie
- Black shoes – must be an appropriate safe style without large heels (trainers should not be worn)
- Grey long or short school trousers for boys and optional for girls – no jogging bottoms, jeans or track suit bottoms
- Grey pinafore dress or grey skirt with white socks or grey tights
- Children must have appropriate named outdoor wear that can protect them from both cold and damp weather conditions.
- Plain dark socks with shorts or trousers.

- White socks or grey tights with skirts or pinafores

Summer Uniform

- Summer dress in blue and white checks with white socks
- A plain white shirt with buttons together with a house tie, grey skirt and white socks.
- Grey long or short trousers for boys and optional for girls – no jogging bottoms, jeans or track suit bottoms with white buttoned shirt
- Children may wear suitable sunglasses and hats for playtimes.

To encourage the children to take pride in their appearance we ask them to tuck their shirts in when they are around the academy and on visits and to have their top buttons fastened.

Shirts should be long enough so that they remain tucked in and collars wide enough to allow children to feel comfortable once their top button is fastened.

PE/Sports Kit

- Navy/Black shorts
- House coloured tee shirt with academy logo
- Trainers
- Tracksuits may be worn in colder weather for outdoor PE and games, plain navy/black.

Academy Uniform

Academy jumpers and ties should be ordered through the academy uniform supplier.

Plain plastic wallets and water bottles are available to be purchased from the academy office.

Money and Valuables

Children are discouraged from bringing money or valuables to school other than when requested by the academy. Where this is unavoidable, money and valuables should never be left in cloakrooms or children's trays but given to the class teacher or academy office for safekeeping until the end of the day.

Naming Clothing and Property

VERY IMPORTANT – Please ensure all clothing and property is clearly marked so that lost articles may be easily traced and returned. The academy cannot accept responsibility for loss or damage of pupils' property and valuables.

Lost Property

Items mislaid by children are kept in year group areas.

We endeavour to return all named property.

Second-hand Uniform

Any unwanted items of uniform may be given to the academy office for the second-hand uniform sale.

Review of Policy

The Academy will ensure the policy is reviewed every two years.

The policy may be revised at other times if necessary to take account of any statutory regulation or associated guidance or changes in policy by Kent County Council's policy.

Issue Date: October 2023

Review Date: October 2025