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# Witham St Hughs Academy

# Uniform Policy

Updated September 2023

## Policy/Procedure management log

|                |                       |
|----------------|-----------------------|
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## 1. Aims

Witham St Hughs Academy is committed to:

- promoting equality
- ensuring value for money
- ensuring that no pupil is discriminated against due to their religion or belief, economic circumstances or social and cultural background.
- committed to developing our pupils sense of belonging to our school.

We believe that wearing a smart and practical uniform allows all children, regardless of their backgrounds, to feel equal to their peers and confident in their appearance. It is important for children to wear clothing that is conducive to a successful learning environment, including activity-appropriate clothing, such as sports attire.

## 2. Our Academy's Legal Duties under the Equality Act 2010

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

To avoid discrimination, our academy 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 our uniform costs the same for all pupils
- Allow all pupils to have long hair (though we reserve the right to ask for this to be tied back)
- Allow all pupils to style their hair in the way that is appropriate for school yet makes them feel most comfortable
- Allow pupils to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons
- Allow pupils to wear headscarves and other religious or cultural symbols
- Allow for adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents to get in touch with Mr Stock (Headteacher), via the school office, who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests

## 3. Limiting the Cost of School Uniform

Witham St Hughs Academy has a duty to make sure that the uniform we require 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 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.

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:

- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary
- Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics where possible
- 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

- Avoiding specific requirements for items pupils could wear on non-school days, such as coats, bags and shoes
- Keeping the number of optional branded items to a minimum, so that the school's uniform can act as a social leveler
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- Considering alternative methods for signaling differences in groups for interschool competitions, such as creating posters or labels
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents to acquire second-hand uniform items
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and thereby 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

## 4. Expectations for Academy Uniform

### 4.1 Our Academy Uniform

| Item  | Purchased From   | Other Notes  |
|---|--|--|
| Royal blue sweatshirt/jumper or cardigan          | Available from school with a school logo, or <b>plain</b> from any high street shop                        |  |
| Plain white polo shirt or shirt                   | Available from any high street shop  |  |
| Grey trousers or skirt                            | Available from any high street shop  |  |
| Black smart shoes                                 | Available from any high street shop  | No brand logos or coloured shoes   |
| Blue/white summer dresses                         | Available from any high street shop  |  |
| Grey or black tights                              | Available from any high street shop  |  |
| Y6 tie only                                       | Provided by school   |  |
| PE Kit  | We have a set (T-shirt/shorts/PE bag) available to buy from school, or available from any high street shop |  |
| Black shorts                                      | Available from any high street shop  |  |
| White plain t-shirt                               | Available from any high street shop  |  |
| Black or navy plain sweatshirt or hoodie          | Available from any high street shop  | No brand logos.<br>For when weather is colder  |
| Black or navy plain tracksuit bottoms or leggings | Available from any high street shop  |  |
| Trainers/plimsolls                                | Available from any high street shop  |  |
| Book Bag  | Available from school with a school logo, or <b>plain</b> from any high street shop                        | This is not a requirement to have, and parents may choose to only use a school bag/rucksack  |
| Extra pair of old shoes                           |  | During the winter, we try to utilise the field as much as possible. If parents' wish to send a pair of old shoes for the pupils to keep at school, and don't mind them getting dirty, then they may. |
| Swimming costume/trunks                           | Swimming costume – one piece   | Pupils go swimming usually in year 5   |

|                               |                          |  |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
|                               | Trunks                   |  |
| All in one suit               | Any colour               | If possible, we like Early Years pupils to have an all-weather suit so they can access the outdoor learning environment throughout the year. |
| Earrings- small stud earrings |                          | Metal, one per ear.<br>For health and safety reasons we cannot permit hoop, or drop earrings   |
| Jewellery                     |                          | No other jewellery is permitted  |
| Make-up                       |                          | No make-up, including nail varnish is permitted  |
| Hairstyle                     |                          | No extreme haircuts or colours are permitted.  |
| Watches                       | Provided by school in Y3 | Children are not permitted to bring in smart watches   |

## 4.2 Where to purchase uniform

- If you wish to purchase the items above from the school directly, please contact the school to make the order. There is NO expectation that the uniform is purchased from the academy or that it has to have the logo.
- Throughout the year, we will offer second hand uniform. Any uniform that is of good quality, that parents wish to donate, would be gratefully received.

## 5. Expectations for our Academy Community

### 5.1 Pupils

Pupils 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 (if required)

Pupils are also expected to contact the Headteacher, if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics.

### 5.2 Parents and carers

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

- Clean
- Clearly labelled with the child's name
- In good condition

Parents are also expected to contact the Headteacher if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to:

- Their child's protected characteristics
- The cost of the uniform

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

Disputes about the cost of the school uniform will be:

- Resolved locally
- Dealt with in accordance with our school's complaints policy

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

### 5.3 Staff

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 headteacher if the situation doesn't improve.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with by requesting the parent/carer brings in the correct uniform. If this is not followed, school will lend the pupil the correct item of clothing to wear for that day.

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.

## 6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually.

## 7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

- Behaviour policy
- Equality information and objectives statement
- Anti-bullying policy
- Complaints policy