UNIFORM POLICY

2026/2027
2027/2028

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1. Introduction

At Unified Academy, we place great importance on the role of school uniform in creating a positive, inclusive and purposeful learning environment. Our uniform is designed to promote a strong sense of identity, belonging and pride in the Academy, ensuring that all students feel part of a shared community.

A consistent uniform supports high expectations by encouraging students to present themselves appropriately for learning and to take pride in their appearance. It also removes unnecessary distinctions between students, helping to foster an environment based on equality, respect and inclusion.

As an SEMH provision, we recognise the importance of balancing high standards with flexibility to support emotional regulation, comfort and engagement.

We are committed to ensuring that our uniform is simple, practical and affordable, while remaining responsive to the needs of our students.

2. Rationale and Aims

At Unified Academy, we believe that school uniform is a key part of establishing a strong and positive school culture. A consistent uniform supports:

- A shared sense of identity and belonging
- Pride in the Academy and in personal presentation
- High expectations around standards, behaviour and readiness to learn
- A calm, focused and purposeful learning environment

Uniform ensures that all students feel part of the Academy community and removes unnecessary distinctions between individuals.

3. Principles

This policy is built on the following principles:

- Uniform requirements are clear, consistent and easy to follow
- Costs are kept low through simple design and minimal branding
- Families have flexibility to purchase items from any retailer
- Expectations promote inclusion, dignity and equality
- The uniform reflects and reinforces the identity of the Academy
- Appropriate flexibility is applied where needed to support SEMH needs

4. Uniform Requirements

Unified Academy has adopted a simple, practical and affordable uniform.

4.1 Core Uniform (Compulsory)

Students must wear:

- Black sweatshirt
- White polo shirt or T-shirt
- Black trousers, which may include:
    - School trousers
    - Smart jogging bottoms
    - Tracksuit trousers
- Black shoes or trainers

4.2 Optional Clothing (Weather Appropriate)

Students may also wear:

- Black shorts, which must be:
    - Fully black
    - Plain, or
    - Include only a small, discreet logo

5. General Expectations

To ensure clarity, consistency and a strong Academy identity, the following rules apply:

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Sweatshirts

- Must be plain black with no logos or designs, or
- Black with the official Unified Academy logo only

Polo Shirts / T-Shirts

- Must be plain white with no logos or designs, or
- White with the official Unified Academy logo only

No other branded versions are permitted.

Trousers and Shorts

- Must be plain black, or
- Black with a small, discreet logo only
- Must not include:
    - Coloured panels
    - Stripes
    - Large logos or designs

Headwear (Including Caps)

- Students may wear caps or appropriate headwear outdoors
- Caps must be removed during lessons and teaching time
- Headwear must not:
    - Contain inappropriate logos or messaging
    - Be worn in a way that obscures identity
- Religious or cultural headwear is permitted and respected

Footwear

- Must be fully black shoes or trainers, including soles and branding
- Must be suitable for a school environment and safe for all activities
- The following are not permitted:
- Sliders
- Flip-flops
- Open-toe footwear

Purchasing

- Uniform items may be purchased from any retailer, provided they meet these requirements

Clarity Statement

The purpose of these expectations is to ensure a consistent and recognisable Academy identity, while maintaining affordability through widely available plain alternatives, alongside flexibility to support student needs.

6. Branded Uniform Supplier

For families who wish to purchase school-branded items, the Academy's supplier is:

Love Your Logo Schoolwear
https://loveyourlogoschoolwear.com/

Parents may choose to purchase branded items from this supplier, but this is optional. Plain items that meet the uniform requirements can be purchased from any retailer.

7. School-Provided Uniform

To support families and ensure all students begin with a strong sense of belonging and identity, Unified Academy provides:

One Free School-Branded Uniform Set for New Students

This includes:

- One black sweatshirt with the official Unified Academy logo
- One white polo shirt or T-shirt with the official Unified Academy logo

Purpose

This ensures:

- Reduced financial pressure at the point of entry
- Immediate inclusion within the Academy community
- A clear and consistent school identity from the first day
- Equal access for all students

Additional Information

- Families may choose to accept this offer at the point of admission
- Additional or replacement items may be purchased (plain or branded) in line with this policy
- Further support is available for families who may need it

8. Affordability and Support

Unified Academy is committed to keeping uniform affordable by:

- Allowing generic, widely available items
- Limiting branded requirements
- Providing access to second-hand (pre-loved) uniform
- Offering additional support to families where needed

No student will be disadvantaged due to uniform costs.

9. Equality and Inclusion

The Academy ensures that uniform expectations:

- Respect religious and cultural needs
- Allow reasonable adjustments for disability or medical requirements
- Are applied fairly and consistently

10. Flexibility and Individual Adjustments (SEMH Context)

As an SEMH provision, Unified Academy recognises that some students may require flexibility in uniform expectations to support their emotional wellbeing, sensory needs or engagement.

- Adjustments may be made on an individual basis
- This may include adaptations to clothing or footwear where there is a clear need

- All adjustments will be agreed through the school's pastoral, SEND or safeguarding processes

This approach ensures that:

- Students are supported effectively
- Expectations remain clear and fair for all
- Health and safety standards are maintained

11. Health, Safety and Wellbeing

Uniform requirements support:

- Safe participation in school activities
- Appropriate dress for the school environment
- Adaptations where required for individual students

12. Implementation

The Academy will take a firm but supportive approach:

- Students are expected to meet uniform requirements
- Staff will work constructively with families where issues arise
- No student will be prevented from accessing education due to uniform difficulties

13. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be:

- Reviewed regularly by Academy leaders and the governing board
- Updated where necessary
- Informed by feedback from families, students and staff