

Parkstone Grammar School



UNIFORM POLICY

DATE APPROVED	July 2024
APPROVED BY	Curriculum and Student Matters Committee
NEXT REVIEW	2024-25
TYPE OF POLICY	Non-Statutory



AIMS

- 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 we will avoid discrimination in line with our legal duties under the Equality Act 2010.
- Clarify our expectations for school uniform.

WHY WE HAVE A SCHOOL UNIFORM

Uniform plays a key role in:

- promoting the ethos of a school
- providing a sense of belonging and identity
- setting an appropriate tone for education

By creating a common identity amongst all students, regardless of background, a school uniform can act as a social leveller. It can reduce bullying and peer pressure to wear the latest fashions or other expensive clothes.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

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 school will:

- Avoid listing uniform items based on sex, to give all students the opportunity to wear the uniform they feel most comfortable in or that most reflects their self-identified gender.
- Allow students to wear headscarves and other religious or cultural symbols.
- Allow for adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking students or their parents to get in touch with the Deputy Headteacher who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests.

SAFEGUARDING

There is provision made in the policy to ensure that the uniform is safe for students to walk or cycle to school.

The school PE kit is practical, comfortable and appropriate to the activity involved.

LIMITING THE COST OF SCHOOL UNIFORM

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 on the cost of school uniform.

We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that must 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 (including the quality & durability of the garment).

We will do this by:

- Review our suppliers at least every 5 years with a retendering process to ensure they are providing the best value for parents.
- Ensuring that items with distinctive characteristics are long lasting and good quality.
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents of any changes.
- Ensuring any major changes to uniform have a suitable and supportive transition period for parents.
- Limit specific requirements for items 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 that must be purchased for extra-curricular activities.
- Using alternative methods for signaling differences in groups for interschool competitions rather than by uniform changes.
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents to acquire second-hand uniform items.
- Ensuring there is additional financial support available for parents/carers of Pupil Premium students to purchase uniform.
- Consulting with parents and students on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy.
- A restrictive dress code is not in place for Sixth Form students.
- Limited restrictions for non-school uniform days, day trips and residential.

EXPECTATIONS FOR SCHOOL UNIFORM

OUR SCHOOL'S UNIFORM

Our school uniform is worn by students in Years 7 -11.

Full details on our school's uniform can be found here including contact details for our suppliers:

<https://www.parkstone.poole.sch.uk/parents/uniform/#1464168154843-fec010cd-0da7>

- The following items can be purchased from alternative suppliers and are not branded/school specific:
 - Blouse/shirt
 - White lab coat
 - Socks & tights for main school uniform and PE.
 - Studded footwear for PE
 - Shin Pads
 - Gum Shield
 - School & PE bags



- Shoes should be plain black, and of a smart and sensible design with enclosed heels and toes. High heels, stilettos or platforms are not allowed. Boots of any type are also not allowed.
- Socks should be white, black or grey/navy (depending on which uniform is worn) with no other colours allowed and worn at the ankle or below the knee.
- Tights must be plain and not patterned, with no footless tights or leggings. They may be black, grey or natural if wearing the old uniform; or black, navy or natural if wearing the new uniform. It is a good idea for students to have a spare pair in case tights ladder during the day.
- Hair should be neat and tidy and of one natural colour. We do not allow extreme styles or colours. For Health and Safety, hair must be tied back for practical lessons: Science, Drama, Design and Technology, Art and PE.
- For years 7-11 one small stud per ear in each ear lobe is allowed, but no other piercings. No other visible jewellery is allowed other than a watch and a discreet religious symbol on a chain, worn inside the shirt.
- Discreet makeup is allowed. Students will be asked to remove excessive makeup.
- Students should not wear coloured nail varnish. This includes "Shellac", gel nails or any other trade names. Students should not wear nail extensions.
- Students have no specific restrictions on their choice of school bag, but it should be a sensible choice to carry their books/folders around school and should not display any offensive language or imagery.
- Students have no specific restrictions on their choice of school coat, other than it should be a coat worn over the blazer (not a hooded jumper or jacket worn under their blazer), should not display any offensive language or imagery and must not be worn inside school buildings.
- During hot weather students will be notified that they do not need to wear their blazer around school.
- Students have their own lockers should they wish to store a change of clothes should they have cycled in, or a change of shoes should they have walked in in bad weather. Students are also able to store their coat in their locker.

SECOND-HAND UNIFORM

Second-hand uniform is available through the school's PFSA, the 'New to You' uniform is on display at some school events and by emailing them directly: pgspfsa@gmail.com

DRESS CODE FOR YEARS 12 AND 13

Should include a combination of:

- Blouse / top that covers shoulders / smart t-shirt / polo shirt
- Trousers, dress or skirt
- Jumper or cardigan (optional)



- Jacket or blazer (optional)
- Leather (or leather style) shoes or boots, laced canvas shoes – all without excess heels or platform soles
- Outside coat
- Plain or patterned tights

Items that are NOT appropriate:

- Unprofessional dress - items such as low-cut tops or mini skirts
- Bare midriffs and off the shoulder tops
- Blue denim of any description
- Combat trousers or camouflage wear
- No visible bras/bra straps
- Dresses, shirts or trousers with holes or tears
- Tracksuit tops or bottoms
- Leather or similar trousers
- Leather or similar skirts
- Jogging bottoms
- Beach wear
- Shorts
- Tops displaying large logos, lettering, or slogans
- Leggings, jeggings, Lycra trousers or any skin-tight type trousers
- Playsuits
- Vest tops, shoestring tops, strapless tops
- Bover style boots – with heavy studs/buckles/thick platforms
- Flip flops, open toed shoes, or shoes without a strap to support the heel
- Excessive jewellery

This list is not exhaustive and may be added to as deemed appropriate by the Leadership Group.

ALSO:

- Students may wear a pair of earrings in their earlobes and in the top of their ears. There should be no other visible piercings
- Hair should be neat and tidy. Extreme styles and colours are not allowed
- No visible tattoos are allowed
- No hats or caps are to be worn around the school
- No earphones or headphones to be worn around school

EXPECTATIONS FOR OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

STUDENTS

Students are expected to always wear the correct uniform (other than specified non-school uniform days) while:

- On the school premises
- Travelling to and from school (except for students who may wish to wear alternative items to cycle in and change at school, and students who may wear alternative footwear whilst walking in bad weather that they change when arriving at school).
- At out-of-school events/trips or where they are representing the school (if required)



For non-school uniform days, trips and residential trips where school uniform is not required students must follow the dress code for this outlined in the school's Behaviour Policy.

Sanctions issued to students not complying with uniform expectations are set out in the school's behaviour policy.

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

PARENTS & 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 expected to support the school's approach to jewellery and accept that any additional piercings will need to be removed immediately regardless of when the piercing was completed.

Parents are also expected to contact the Deputy 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.

STAFF

Staff will closely monitor students to make sure they are in correct uniform and follow the school's behaviour policy.

Where any student infringes the dress code staff will firstly ask for the item to be removed and if relevant try to use the store of centrally held uniform items at school to rectify the issue. If the item cannot be changed/removed in school parents will be contacted to collect their child to rectify the situation.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with by a student's Head of Key Stage.

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 supply a student with the correct uniform to borrow if possible.

GOVERNORS

The governing board will review this policy and make sure that it:

- Helps create a shared identity and common sense of purpose
- Is appropriate for our school's context
- Is implemented fairly across the school and meets the obligations of the Equality act 2010
- Considers the views of parents/carers and students



- Offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all students

The board will also make sure 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.

MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

This policy will be reviewed yearly by the Leadership Group and Curriculum & Student Matters Committee and approved by the Full Governing Body.

LINKED POLICIES

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

CONTACT

Deputy Headteacher responsible for Uniform.
Parkstone Grammar School
Sopers Lane
Poole BH17 7EP