

Uniform Policy



Alcester
Academy

TO BE THE BEST THAT WE CAN BE

Author	Leadership Team	
Approved by:	Sub-Committee	Date: 3rd September 2026
Reviewed by	Behaviour, Attendance & Safeguarding Sub-Committee	
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Contents:	Uniform; PE Kit List; Jewellery; Make up; Hair; Supply of Uniform	

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

Introduction

Standards of dress are important and we believe that a distinctive school uniform is of great benefit to the pupils and to the reputation of the Academy. It is practical and economical. We ask that parents support our uniform policy and children wear Alcester Academy school uniform.

We strongly encourage schools to have a uniform as it can play 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 pupils, 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. If, however, the uniform is too expensive it can place an unreasonable burden on families. Furthermore, if a distinction can be made between those who can afford it and those who cannot, this can reduce the benefits of a uniform and has the potential to negatively impact attendance, access and participation, and lead to bullying.

Our school'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 school 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 pupils to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons
- Allow pupils to wear headscarves and other religious or cultural symbols

We have also considered our uniform in relation to the DFE guidance "*Cost of School Uniforms*" (November 2021.) We are able to offer financial support for eligible students and our "Pre-loved" uniform is available all year. Parents should contact the school should they require assistance with uniform costs, this should be done before they purchase uniform as the school will not reimburse with cash once this has been purchased.

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 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.

For this we have two uniform suppliers and some items shirts, PE socks, trousers, and shorts can be purchased from supermarkets and other clothes outlets. By allowing black polishable trainers to be worn, these can also be worn for PE.

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 and keeping these to a minimum. We feel that our blazers, ties, jumpers, skirts and PE kits enable us to portray a smart image within the local community and act as a social leveller amongst students. They report that they are proud to wear the Alcester Academy uniform.
- We have audited the cost of uniforms against other school and have found that the cost is inline with other local schools.
- Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics where possible. Blazers, jumpers, and PE kit does not have to be bought every year.
- Avoiding specific requirements for items pupils could wear on non-school days, such as coats, bags and shoes
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups, the school provides each student with a "House" badge to be worn on their blazer.
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents to acquire second-hand uniform items. We have many uniform items available through our "Pre-loved uniform" on the school website and this is available for parents to access all year. We also hold regular pre-uniform sales throughout the year & for those parents unable to afford uniform we will support financially replacing uniform at no cost.
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and 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

In line with the new DFE statutory guidance on the cost of school uniforms that comes into effect from 1st September 2026. Please find the 4 compulsory branded items of uniform and PE kit for Alcester Academy.

Compulsory Items:

- Tie
- Black Blazer with silver/grey piping displaying school badge and logo
- PE kit - Branded V necked or rounded neck short sleeve PE top
- Branded PE skirt or shorts

Non branded uniform items required:

- Mid grey tailored trousers (these can be worn as an alternative to the branded Academy skirt)
- Mid grey tailored shorts can be worn as an alternative to trousers/skirts for the summer term. Shorts must be of a "tailored" fit. They must not have "combat/cargo" style external pockets. They must be of the same material and colour (mid-grey) as the regular school trousers.

- Light blue shirt
- Dark grey / black socks to be worn under trousers or with skirts (years 7 & 8 only)
- PE kit - Black unbranded long football socks

Optional items:

- Mid grey skirt (drop please) displaying school badge
- Black V-neck jumper (to be worn under the blazer) with silver/grey piping displaying school badge and logo. Worn Autumn and Spring terms, if required.

PE kit (optional)

- Branded reversible long sleeve top
- Branded tracksuit bottoms
- Branded leggings
- Branded quarter zip top
- Black PE socks with the sky-blue panel at the top

Expectations for uniform

Other information to note:

- Socks may be worn with skirts in years 7 & 8 only, unless agreed by Assistant Headteacher (Pastoral), they must be black or dark grey without logos – these must be above the ankle and below the knee - white socks and trainer socks are not allowed
- Socks worn under trousers must be black or dark grey without logos – white socks and trainer socks are not allowed
- In years 9, 10 & 11 tights must be worn with skirts - plain (not patterned) in black 60 denier+, (if your child is unable to wear tights for any reason, please contact LSU)
- Hoodies are NOT allowed to be worn under blazers, and outdoor coats are NOT allowed to be worn in school and should be placed in a locker or school bag during the school day.
- Polished black shoes/all black trainers as pictured below, suede shoes are NOT allowed.
- Trousers must be mid-grey NOT black or charcoal in colour
- If a skirt is to be worn, it must be the branded Alcester Academy skirt. Unbranded trousers can be worn as an alternative to the branded skirt.
- If a V-neck jumper is to be worn it must be the Alcester Academy version

Please note we have these items often available throughout the year in our "pre-loved uniform sales".

See website for images of acceptable uniform

Skirt Expectations:

From September 2026, all skirts must be worn at or below the length of the student's middle finger, as shown. If girls have skirts that are considered inappropriate, then we will expect them to purchase a new standard academy skirt or wear acceptable trousers.

Skirts that are considered inappropriate e.g. too short, then we will expect them to purchase a new standard academy skirt or wear acceptable trousers. If skirts are worn short, then it is expected that tights will be worn. Please see below for the minimum length required.



Summer Uniform

From after Easter to the end of the summer term, each academic year, all students have an option to wear tailored, mid grey, knee length shorts (no cargo pockets) and sky blue polo shirts that can be worn with a school skirt, trousers or shorts. These are not branded items and can be purchased from suitable supermarket chains or retail outlets.

During the summer term each year, students can therefore opt to:

- Wear full school uniform; blazer, tie and shirt with school trousers, skirt or shorts or,
- School trousers, skirt or shorts with a polo shirt. This second option is likely to be reserved for the much hotter weather so that students feel more comfortable.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION KIT LIST

PE Kit List (Years 9 - 11) September 2026

(The old style PE kit is still able to be worn)

COMPULSORY

- Alcester Academy Blue/Black and Silver Polo Shirt
- Alcester Academy Shorts or Skort
- Sky Blue or black football socks (unbranded)

Optional

- Black/Blue and Silver Rugby Shirt
- Black/Blue and Silver Hoody
- Alcester Academy tracksuit bottoms or leggings

Compulsory PE wear for year 7 and 8 from September 2026 will be

All year 7s and 8s will be expected to be in the new PE wear which will be available online through Price & Buckland as follows:

Compulsory PE wear for year 7s and 8s is:

- Alcester Academy Branded round necked, or v necked short sleeve PE top
- Alcester Academy Branded Shorts or Skort
- Unbranded plain black football socks

Optional items will be:

- Branded reversible long sleeve top
- Branded tracksuit bottoms
- Branded leggings
- Branded quarter zip top
- Black football socks with sky blue panel at the top (available from Price & Buckland)

Students in years 8-11 are able to purchase any of these items.

PLEASE NOTE - ALL ITEMS OF KIT MUST BE NAMED

All jewellery (including earrings) must be removed for PE lessons.

For all PE lessons students will also require:

- Trainers - school shoes are not to be worn in PE.
- Shin pads.
- Football boots - it is advised that football boots are worn for PE lessons taught on the field.

Performing Arts Practical Kit (KS4)

Students in Key Stage 4 Performing Arts are required to bring a Practical Kit to every lesson. This kit will be used for practical work and for recordings during moderation tasks.

Kit Components:

- An optional Alcester Academy Performing Arts T-shirt, or a plain black T-shirt with no logo. School PE leggings, school PE joggers, or plain black joggers (with no logo).
- Expectations:
- The full practical kit must be brought to every lesson. It must be worn during practical activities as well as when your work is being videoed for moderation.

Other information:**Jewellery**

One pair of small plain gold or plain silver earrings (one in each ear) and a small wristwatch are allowed.

Nose studs, body piercings and related jewellery are not allowed.

Rings, bracelets and necklaces are not to be worn whilst at the Academy for Health and Safety reasons.

All jewellery must be removed for PE lessons and students should be able to do this themselves independently.

Make Up

A moderate amount of make-up is permitted at the Academy. This is permitted to support self-confidence and must be as natural as possible. Nail varnish of a natural colour is allowed but no bright colours are allowed. Nails should be of an appropriate length. False eye lashes are not permitted

Hair

Hair must be natural in colour and not of extreme style; shaved, undercutting or semi shaved patterns are not allowed. Hair accessories must be of school colour. No holiday hair braids to be worn. We expect very long hair to be tied back in line with health & safety requirements.

The school will support hair exceptions in line with the document from the Equality and Human Rights Commission "Preventing Hair Discrimination in Schools" (November 2022) such as:

- disability (for example, pupils undergoing cancer treatment who wear wigs, scarves or hats)
- religion or belief (for example, for Muslim pupils who cover their hair or Sikh pupils who wear a turban)
- race (for example, for Black pupils or pupils with a mixed ethnic background who wear African heritage head wraps or braids.)

SUPPLY OF UNIFORM

The Academy offers two suppliers:

- Price & Buckland Tel: 0115 759 0888 Email: sales@price-buckland.co.uk
Website: <https://price-buckland.co.uk/>
- **From October 2026 we will have an additional supplier:**
- Clive Mark School Wear - Available online and at their Warwick Store. [School Uniforms & Accessories | Clive Mark](#) [0121 433 2559](tel:01214332559)
Address: Unit 2-3
Westgate House
Market Street
Warwick, CV34 4DH
- [View on maps](#)

Support with uniform:

For parents/carers in need of financial support with uniform, please refer to the Hardship Policy.

The school also has "Pre-loved" uniform for sale. Please see the website to submit any requirements or contact the LSU at the school. Throughout the year the school will have "pre-loved" uniform sales. Parents/carers will be contacted by the Academy if a students' uniform does not comply with the expected standard outlined. Any breach of the policy will be given the opportunity to correct their mistake, failure to do so will be dealt with in line with the academy Behaviour and Discipline Policy.

Phones:

Students are responsible for the safety and security of their telephones. They must not be used for any purpose on the Academy site and kept in bags not in pockets or blazers.

Mobile telephones confiscated during lessons will be returned to students once and then to parents thereafter. During confiscation, mobile phones will be kept securely in LSU.

'The Academy cannot be held responsible if these items are lost or stolen or damaged in any way'.

Students are responsible for their own belongings and PE kit. The school does offer all students the opportunity to purchase a locker.

Expectations for our school community

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)

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 school 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.

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/SLT if the situation doesn't improve.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with through the school's behaviour policy.

The Governing Body will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the Academy.

Signed: _____

Chair of Governors
Mr M Dean

Signed: _____

Headteacher
Mrs S Mellors

Date: _____

(ratified by the Full Governing Body on 3rd September 2026)