

York High School

Resilience ~ Aspiration ~ Success

School Uniform Policy

Adopted by Governors: September 2024

Review timetable: 1 year



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1. 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
- Make a commitment to avoid discrimination in line with our legal duties under the Equality Act 2010
- Clarify our expectations for school uniform

2. 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.
- The school's uniform policy reflects its legal duties under the Equality Act 2010.

3. 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.

We also recognise that our school serves a community which includes wards with high indices of multiple deprivation.

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



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- Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics where possible
- Ensuring that items with distinctive characteristics are either low-cost or of superior quality to help keep them long-lasting
- 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 leveller
- Limiting the requirements for different uniform for different year and house groups
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities.
- Making financial support available to families with pupils eligible for Free School Meals.
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents to acquire second-hand uniform items
- 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

4. Expectations for school uniform

4.1 Our school's uniform

Branded items

- York High School only requires 4 distinctive items to be purchased; jumper, tie, PE t-shirt and PE jumper. All other items can be purchased from any appropriate retailer to support keeping costs low.

Optional branded items

- York High School does not offer optional branded items to avoid placing pressure on parents to buy any additional items.

Generic items

- York High School provides guidance to parents on the type of generic, non-branded items which are acceptable to meet our school standards. All items, except for the 4 listed as branded items above can be purchased from any appropriate retailer.

Expectations for PE kit

- York High School requires 2 branded items of PE kit to be purchased; PE t-shirt and PE jumper.
- Other items of PE kit; plain black tracksuit bottoms or shorts and trainers, can be purchased from any appropriate retailer.

Expectations regarding footwear

- York High School allows a wide range of footwear options to enable parents to buy cheaper alternatives. Acceptable items are clearly displayed on the school website.

Expectations for shoes, bags and coats

- York High School does not set specific expectations regarding bags and coats

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Extracurricular activities

- These activities can be undertaken wearing standard York High School Uniform or PE kit.

4.2 Where to purchase it

- York High School's branded uniform items are available to purchase from SchoolShop (<https://school-shop.co.uk/school/york-high-school/>)
- SchoolShop also supply non-branded uniform items, but these can be purchase from any other appropriate retailer as well, in order to provide choice and value for money
- York High School is proud to provide its Community Cupboard which offers a wide range of uniform items to anyone in our school community free of charge. This includes branded and non-brand items, PE kit, footwear and sports footwear, coats and other such items.
- York High School provides financial support to families with children joining the school in years 7-10 in the following September, who are eligible for Free School Meals. The value of financial support is reviewed by the school each year.

5. Expectations for our school 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 their Head of House 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 their child's Head of House 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.

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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, using all available support channels, but will follow up with the headteacher if the situation fails to improve.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with by following the school Positive Behaviour Policy.

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.

5.4 Governors

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

- Is appropriate for our school's context
- Is implemented fairly across the school
- Takes into account the views of parents and pupils
- Offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all pupils

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, or where these exist, by benchmarking the cost against other suppliers to ensure best value and by re-tendering contracts at least every 5 years.

6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the school's Senior Leadership Team. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

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