

HORIZONS EDUCATION TRUST

Uniform Policy
 July 2026

POLICY ISSUE CONTROL

POLICY TYPE:	Statutory, (HEdT Template), Mandatory
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TRUST BOARD APPROVAL:	Finance, People & Premises
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	Document Control
June 2026	This update revises the Trust Uniform Policy to clarify that academy-branded uniform items are not compulsory across all sections. Key changes include: Section 2.2 (Additional Bullet point): Allow all pupils to choose from the full range of uniform options (e.g., trousers, skirts, shorts) regardless of gender. Section 3.6 (New subsection – Branded Items): Added explicit statement that no branded/logo items are required; parents/carers may purchase branded items optionally. Section 4.1 (Jumpers & Introductory Statement): Rewording to specify colour requirements only, removing implication that branded items are the default; added introductory paragraph confirming all items can be purchased plain from any retailer. Section 4.2 (New subsection – PE Kit): Expanded from a single line to a detailed list of PE kit requirements, confirming no branding is required. Section 4.3 (Where to Purchase Uniform): Reordered to lead with plain/unbranded purchasing options; branded supplier options repositioned as clearly optional. Section 5.2 (Parents/Carers): Minor addition clarifying that uniform obligations are met by plain items in the correct colours; branded items are not required. Reason for change: To ensure the policy is fully compliant with DfE uniform cost guidance, reducing financial burden on families by making clear that low-cost, unbranded uniform satisfies all requirements.
July 2025	Re-write of policy in full.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This policy aims to:

- Set the Trust's approach to requiring a uniform that is of reasonable cost and offers the best value for money for parent/carers.
- Explain how the academies within the Trust will avoid discrimination in line with its legal duties under the Equality Act 2010.
- Clarify the expectations for academy uniform.

2.0 LEGAL DUTIES UNDER THE EQUALITY ACT 2010

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

2.2 To avoid discrimination, the Trust will:

- Make sure that uniform costs the same for all pupils.
- Allow all pupils to have long hair (whilst reserving the right to ask for this to be tied back).
- Allow all pupils to style their hair in the way that is appropriate for academy 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 all pupils to choose from the full range of uniform options (e.g., trousers, skirts, shorts) regardless of gender.
- Allow for adaptations to the policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents to get in touch with their respective headteacher, who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests.

3.0 LIMITING THE COST OF UNIFORM

3.1 Our Trust has a duty to make sure that each of its academy uniforms is affordable, in line with statutory guidance from the Department for Education.

No uniform items **with an academy logo** are compulsory. Parents/carers may choose to purchase branded items if they wish, but all uniform requirements can be met by purchasing plain, unbranded items in the specified colours from any retailer. This approach ensures full compliance with statutory guidance, which from September 2026 limits compulsory branded items to 3 or fewer. By requiring zero compulsory branded items, we provide maximum flexibility and value for money for families.

3.2 All uniform items can be purchased as plain, unbranded items from high street and supermarket retailers.

Parents/carers may also choose to purchase optional branded items (with the academy logo) from our supplier:

- [Prestley Wood Academy](#)
- [Riverside Meadows Academy](#)
- [Spring Common Academy](#)

3.3 We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded clothing, or items that have to have a academy logo or a unique fabric/colour/design) cannot be purchased from a wide range of retailers and that requiring many such items limits parent/carers' ability to 'shop around' for a low price. Therefore, we will make sure that our uniform:

- Is available at a reasonable cost.
- Provides the best value for money for parents/carers.

3.4 We will ensure this by:

- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary.
- Considering cheaper alternatives to academy-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-academy days, such as coats, bags and shoes.
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parent/carers to acquire second-hand uniform items.
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents of any changes.
- Consulting with parent/carers on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy.

3.5 We recognise that some families may have already purchased branded uniform items. **Pupils may continue to wear any existing branded items they already own** – there is no requirement to replace these with plain alternatives. However, when purchasing new or replacement uniform, families should be aware that plain, unbranded items are sufficient to meet our policy requirements.

4.0 EXPECTATIONS FOR ACADEMY UNIFORM

Important: Branded uniform is optional

All uniform items listed can be purchased as plain, unbranded items in the specified colours from any retailer. No items with the academy logo are compulsory. Parents/carers may choose to purchase branded items if they wish, but this is not a requirement of our uniform policy.

The uniform requirements for each of the academies can be found in the appendices section of this policy.

4.1 Reasonable Adjustments

We recognise that some pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) may find aspects of the uniform policy challenging due to sensory, physical, or emotional needs.

In line with our commitment to inclusion and the Equality Act 2010, we make reasonable adjustments where required to support individual pupils. This may include adaptations to fabrics, styles, or specific uniform items, made in

consultation with families and relevant professionals. Our aim is to ensure all pupils feel comfortable, confident, and able to fully participate in academy life.

If parents or carers have concerns or believe their child may require adjustments, they are encouraged to discuss this with their academy's leadership team.

4.2 Where to Purchase Uniform

All uniform items can be purchased as plain, unbranded items from any retailer, including supermarkets and high street stores, provided they meet the colour and style requirements set out in section 4.1.

Optional branded items (with the academy logo) are available from:

- Our uniform supplier: Links in [section 3.2](#) of this policy
- The academy office
- The second-hand uniform shop (contact your academy for further details)

Please note that purchasing branded items is a personal choice and is not required to meet our uniform policy.

5.0 EXPECTATIONS FOR THE ACADEMY COMMUNITY

5.1 Pupils

Pupils are expected to wear the correct uniform at all times (other than specified non-academy uniform days) whilst:

- On academy premises.
- Travelling to and from the academy.
- At off-site events or on trips that are organised by the academy, or where they are representing the academy (if required).

5.2 Parents/Carers

Parent/carers are expected to make sure their child has the correct uniform and PE kit **in the specified colours and styles. Branded items are not required** – all uniform can be purchased as plain items from any retailer. Every item must be:

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

Parents are also expected to contact their 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

Parent/carers are expected to lodge any complaints or objections relating to the academy uniform in a timely and reasonable manner.

Disputes about the cost of the academy uniform will be:

- Resolved locally.
- Dealt with in accordance with our Complaints Policy.
- The academy will work closely with parents to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

5.3 Staff

The uniform policy will be enforced with sensitivity and understanding, particularly for pupils with additional needs. If a pupil is unable to adhere to the policy due to individual needs, parents/carers are encouraged to contact the academy to discuss appropriate adaptations.

Staff will work closely with families to support compliance in a manner that respects each child's needs.

5.4 Governance & Oversight

The Trust Board will monitor the implementation of this policy to ensure it:

- Is appropriate for each academy's context.
- Is implemented fairly across all academies.
- Takes into account the views of parents/carers and pupils.
- Offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all pupils.

The Trust Board will also ensure that uniform supplier arrangements across the trust give the highest priority to cost and value for money.



Appendix A - Academy Uniform Expectations

Prestley Wood Academy Uniform Guidelines

Jumpers	Pupils must wear a sweatshirt or jumper at all times but may be removed in cases of warm weather or for sensory need at the students' discretion. Branding is not required. Plain, unbranded sweatshirts/jumpers in the correct colour can be purchased from any retailer, such as supermarkets and high street stores. Parents/carers may choose to purchase items with the academy logo from the academy's supplier (link in section 3.2) or the academy office, but this is entirely optional.
Polo Shirts	Forest green or white. These may be purchased at any retailer, please ensure a comfortable fit when purchasing.
Shoes	Footwear should be black and sensible for walking. For health & safety purposes we do not permit pupils to wear high heels. If pupils require splints or supportive boots they should wear appropriate footwear as recommended by the physiotherapist. Black trainers are permitted.
Skirts/ Trousers:	We ask that students wear dark grey or black plain, unbranded academy uniform trousers. These may also be purchased from a variety of retailers, such as supermarket and high street stores. Dark grey or black plain, unbranded academy uniform skirts are also permitted. They must be knee-length. During the warmer months pupils may wear a green check, academy summer dress or knee-length grey or black shorts
Belts	Black belts with plain buckles are allowed.
Jewellery	Due to health & safety reasons we ask parents not to allow pupils to wear jewellery of any kind (or body piercings), except small stud earrings.
Make Up	Pupils are not allowed to wear make-up, except in Key Stage 4, where we encourage age-appropriate development of personal appearance. In these cases, make-up should be minimal and natural in appearance. Only natural nails are permitted (no extensions). We recognise that, for some pupils, cultural or religious practices may influence aspects of appearance; where this is the case, we ask that families discuss these with the academy to ensure a shared understanding and alignment with our expectations.
Hair	Hairstyles should be neat and tidy. Hair accessories should be small and in academy or natural colours. We recognise and respect cultural and religious expressions of identity; where this includes specific hairstyles or accessories, we ask that families discuss these with the academy in advance to ensure they align with our shared expectations.
PE Kit	For hygiene reasons pupils should have a separate PE kit to change into for any sporting activities. No PE kit items require academy branding. All items can be purchased from any retailer. Optional branded PE kit is available from the academy's supplier but is not compulsory.

Riverside Meadows Academy Uniform Guidelines

Jumpers	Sweatshirts/Hoodies must be worn at all times, but may be removed in cases of warm weather at the students' discretion. KS3 – Black or navy sweatshirt or hoodie KS4 – Black or navy sweatshirt or hoodie Branding is not required. Plain, unbranded sweatshirts/jumpers in the correct colour can be purchased from any retailer, such as supermarkets and high street stores. Parents/carers may choose to purchase items with the academy logo from the academy's supplier (<i>link in section 3.2</i>) or the academy office, but this is entirely optional. Branded sweatshirts/hoodies can be purchased from Price & Buckland - Riverside Meadows Academy.
Polo / T Shirts	Black, blue or white polos/tshirts (unbranded). These may be purchased at any retailer, so please ensure a comfortable fit when purchasing.
Shoes	Footwear should be black and sensible for walking. For health & safety purposes we do not permit pupils to wear high heels. If pupils require splints or supportive boots they should wear appropriate footwear as recommended by the physiotherapist. Black trainers are permitted.
Skirts/ Trousers:	We ask that students wear black or grey, plain, unbranded academy uniform trousers (leggings, tracksuit bottoms and joggers are accepted). These may also be purchased from a variety of retailers, such as supermarket and high street stores. Black plain, unbranded academy uniform skirts are also permitted. They must be knee- length.
Belts	Black belts with plain buckles are allowed.
Jewellery	Due to health & safety reasons we ask parents not to allow pupils to wear jewellery of any kind (or body piercings), except small stud earrings.
Make Up	Pupils are not allowed to wear make-up, except in Key Stage 4, where we encourage age-appropriate development of personal appearance. In these cases, make-up should be minimal and natural in appearance. Only natural nails are permitted (no extensions). We recognise that, for some pupils, cultural or religious practices may influence aspects of appearance; where this is the case, we ask that families discuss these with the academy to ensure a shared understanding and alignment with our expectations.
Hair	Hairstyles should be neat and tidy. Hair accessories should be small and in academy or natural colours. We recognise and respect cultural and religious expressions of identity; where this includes specific hairstyles or accessories, we ask that families discuss these with the academy in advance to ensure they align with our shared expectations.
PE Kit	For hygiene reasons pupils should have a separate PE kit to change into for any sporting activities. No PE kit items require academy branding. All items can be purchased from any retailer. Optional branded PE kit is available from the academy's supplier but is not compulsory.

Spring Common Academy Uniform Guidelines

Jumpers	Sweatshirt, cardigan/ fleece: Pupils must wear a sweatshirt, cardigan or fleece at all times, but may be removed in cases of warm weather or for sensory need at the students' discretion. EYS, KS1, KS2, KS3 – Royal Blue KS3, KS4 – Black Branding is not required. Plain, unbranded sweatshirts/jumpers in the correct colour can be purchased from any retailer, such as supermarkets and high street stores. Parents/carers may choose to purchase items with the academy logo from the academy's supplier (<i>link in section 3.2</i>) or the academy office, but this is entirely optional.
Polo Shirts	White, royal blue or sky blue. These may be purchased at any retailer, so please ensure a comfortable fit when purchasing.
Shoes	Footwear should be black and sensible for walking. For health & safety purposes we do not permit pupils to wear high heels. If pupils require splints or supportive boots they should wear appropriate footwear as recommended by the physiotherapist. Black trainers are permitted.
Skirts/ Trousers:	We ask that students wear dark grey or black plain, unbranded academy uniform trousers. These may also be purchased from a variety of retailers, such as supermarket and high street stores. Dark grey or black plain, unbranded academy uniform skirts are also permitted. They must be knee-length. During the warmer months pupils may wear a blue check, academy summer dress or knee-length grey or black shorts
Belts	Black belts with plain buckles are allowed.
Jewellery	Due to health & safety reasons we ask parents not to allow pupils to wear jewellery of any kind (or body piercings), except small stud earrings.
Make Up	Pupils are not allowed to wear make-up, except in Key Stage 4, where we encourage age-appropriate development of personal appearance. In these cases, make-up should be minimal and natural in appearance. Only natural nails are permitted (no extensions). We recognise that, for some pupils, cultural or religious practices may influence aspects of appearance; where this is the case, we ask that families discuss these with the academy to ensure a shared understanding and alignment with our expectations.
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