

Ormiston Academies Trust

Cowes Enterprise College Uniform policy

Policy version control

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Description of changes	Updated policy Sections 2, 3 and 4 have been updated in response to updated government guidance. The most significant change is to the maximum number of branded items. All additional changes are minor word changes.

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1. Aims

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

2. 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: age, sex, sexual orientation, disability, race, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity, and gender reassignment.

2.2. To avoid discrimination, the academy will:

- Avoid listing uniform items based on sex, to give all pupils the opportunity to wear the uniform they feel most comfortable in
- Make sure that our uniform costs the same for all pupils
- Allow all pupils to have long hair, although we reserve the right to ask that long hair be tied back
- Allow all pupils to style their hair in a way that is appropriate for school, and makes them feel most comfortable
- Allow pupils to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons, or if they are experiencing discomfort
- Allow pupils to wear headscarves and/or other religious garments
- Allow pupils with sensory or physical needs to make reasonable adaptations to their uniform, depending on their specific needs
- Allow for reasonable adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents/carers to get in touch with Claire Slade-Carter, Vice Principal, who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis

3. Limiting the cost of school uniform

3.1. 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 (DfE) on the cost of school uniforms.

3.2. We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that need to have a school logo attached or be in a unique fabric or style) cannot be purchased from a wide range of retailers, and that requiring many such items limits parents/carers' ability to shop around for the best price.

3.3. We will make sure our uniform:

- Is available at a reasonable cost
 - Provides the best value for money for parents/carers
- 3.4. We will ensure this by:
- 3.4.1. Following the statutory limits for compulsory branded items of uniform and PE kit to a maximum of:
 - 3.4.2. Carefully considering whether any item with distinctive characteristics are necessary, and limiting these items where possible
 - 3.4.3. Limiting compulsory branded items to low-cost and/or long-lasting items
 - 3.4.4. Considering cheaper alternatives to school-branded items, such as logos that can be ironed on, as long as this doesn't compromise quality and durability
 - 3.4.5. Avoiding specific requirements for items such as coats, bags and shoes/trainers that pupils could also wear on non-school days. See more information in section 4.1
 - 3.4.6. Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups
 - 3.4.7. Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities including (but not limited to) sport, music and drama
 - 3.4.8. Avoiding requiring different branded items for particular times of the year, such as a branded dress in summer and a branded skirt in winter
 - 3.4.9. Considering alternative methods for signalling differences in groups for inter-school competitions, such as creating posters
 - 3.4.10. Considering alternative approaches, including loaning compulsory branded items such as sports kit for competitions
 - 3.4.11. Making sure that opportunities to acquire second-hand items in a timely manner are accessible to parents and carers of both current and prospective pupils, and publishing this information on our website
 - 3.4.12. Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications, and minimising the financial impact on parents/carers of any changes
 - 3.4.13. Consulting with parents/carers and pupils on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy, and carefully considering any complaints about uniform in line with the school's complaints policy
 - 3.4.14. Avoiding single-supplier contracts, to make sure generic items can be purchased from a range of retailers
 - 3.4.15. Continuing to review this policy, to ensure the cost of our uniform is reasonable and provides the best value for money

4. Expectations for academy uniform

4.1. The academy uniform

4.1.1. Essential CEC Uniform and Optional Alternatives:

- CEC logo polo shirt
- CEC logo black jumper (a plain white polo shirt may be worn under the jumper)
- Smart black trousers which must be loose-fitting and about the same width from knee to ankle, not skinny fit or cropped length. Alternatively, students can wear a black pleated skirt or smart, tailored black shorts which must be worn at knee length or below unless worn with plain black tights or plain black leggings underneath
- Plain black or white knee or ankle socks or tights or plain tan tights (trainer socks are not allowed).
- Plain black school shoes or trainers (absolutely no logos). Boots, heels, open toes, sling-backs etc. are not acceptable.
- Students in Year 9 and above from September 2026 can wear items from both the new and old uniform. Further details available <https://cowesec.org/key-info/uniform>

4.1.2. Hairstyles

- Hairstyles should be moderate and appropriate for school. Hair dye is not recommended for children at secondary school age. However, if used, hair colour should remain natural and not undermine our high standards of appearance. Haircuts which are less than grade 1, markings, tramlines or symbols are not allowed.
- Notwithstanding the above, Cowes Enterprise College explicitly protects students and staff who come to school with natural hair and protected hairstyles associated with their racial, ethnic and cultural identities. Please contact the Academy if you think that this might apply to your child.

4.1.3. Jewellery and makeup

- Jewellery must not be worn. One simple stud or sleeper may be worn in the lobe of each ear.
- No facial piercings.
- A wristwatch may be worn. Smart watches are not allowed.
- Make-up must not be visible.
- Nail varnish must only be clear in colour and no false nails of any description is permitted.

4.1.4. Essential PE Uniform and Optional Alternatives

- Academy black and red polo shirt
- Plain black shorts. As an alternative to black shorts, students may wear either academy leggings with the CEC logo, or plain black jogging bottoms
- Plain red or plain black sports socks
- White or black ankle socks for indoor or outdoor for summer activities
- Non-marking trainers (separated from school shoes)
- Football or rugby boots for the 3G pitch (please see the Academy website – Essential footwear for the 3G Pitch)
- Shin pads, Hair tie and Earing tape (if earrings can't be removed)
- For colder month an academy track top with CEC logo is available from The School Shop. Alternatively, a plain black crew neck jumper or school V neck black jumper can be worn for PE.
- Gum shield (for contact sports) – optional
- Hoodies and sports-branded items of clothing are not accepted as PE kit.

The only item of branded PE kit is the Academy black and red polo shirt which is only available from The School Shop <https://iwuniform.co.uk/>

Plain black track bottoms, black or red socks, non-marked trainers, football boots and shin pads are available from The School Shop. However, these items can also be purchased more widely, such as from supermarkets and independent retailers.

4.1.5. Availability:

- Black trousers, smart black shorts, black pleated skirts and plain white polo shirts can be purchased more widely, such as from supermarkets, independent retailers and second-hand shops (subject to availability).
- Plain white polo shirts may be worn beneath the CEC logo jumper.
 - If students do not intend to wear their jumper, such as in the warmer months, they must be wearing a CEC logo polo shirt.

4.2. Where to purchase uniform

- The academy logo black jumper and academy logo polo shirt are branded and only available from The School Shop <https://iwuniform.co.uk/>.

- Good condition second-hand branded academy uniform can be purchased from Mountbatten Charity Shop, 115 High St, Cowes, PO31 7AX. Tel: 01983- 217285, subject to availability.

5. Expectations for the academy community

5.1. Pupils

- 5.1.1. Pupils are expected to wear the correct uniform at all times (other than specified non-school uniform days) while:
 - 5.1.1.1. On the school premises
 - 5.1.1.2. Travelling to and from school
 - 5.1.1.3. At off-site events or on trips that are organised by the school, or where they are representing the school (if required)
- 5.1.2. Pupils are also expected to contact Claire Slade-Carter, Vice Principal, if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics.

5.2. Parents and carers

- 5.2.1. 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
- 5.2.2. Parents are also expected to contact Claire Slade-Carter, Vice Principal, if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to:
 - Their child's protected characteristics
 - The cost of the uniform
- 5.2.3. Parents are expected to lodge any complaints or objections relating to the school uniform in a timely and reasonable manner in accordance with the school's complaints policy.
- 5.2.4. 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

- 5.3.1. 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 principal if the situation doesn't improve.
- 5.3.2. Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with by Adam Brown, Assistant Principal
- 5.3.3. 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 the pupil will not miss classroom teaching because of a sanction. This is in line with the statutory [guidance](#).

5.4. Governors

- 5.4.1. The governing body will review this policy to ensure it:
- Is appropriate for the academy'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
- 5.4.2. The governing body will also ensure that the school's uniform supplier arrangements give the highest priority to cost and value for money by avoiding single supplier contracts and by re-tendering contracts at least every 5 years.

6. Monitoring arrangements

- 6.1. This policy will be reviewed bi-annually by Claire Slade-Carter, Vice Principal. At every review, it will be approved by the local governing body.

7. Links to other policies

- 7.1. This policy is linked to our:
- Behaviour policy
 - Equality information and objectives statement
 - Anti-bullying policy
 - Complaints policy
 - Charging and remissions policy (for any references to charging)

Approved uniform items - Year 7 and 8 September 2026		Not approved	
Shirts			
- CEC logo polo shirt - Plain white polo shirt worn under CEC logo jumper 	Plain white polo with no CEC logo IF worn without a CEC logo jumper 		
Jumpers			
CEC logo black jumper 	- Black jumpers with ANY logo EXCEPT the CEC logo - Jumpers which are not black - Hoodies or coats worn indoors 		
Trousers/Skirts/Shorts			
- Smart black trousers, must be loose-fitting and about the same width from knee to ankle, not skinny fit or cropped length - A black pleated skirt or smart black shorts which MUST worn at knee length or below, unless worn with plain black tights or plain black leggings underneath 	'Skinny' fit trousers - Jeans, tracksuit bottoms or leggings (worn without a skirt) - Tight 'body-con' skirt - Any skirt or shorts worn above knee length UNLESS worn with plain black tights or leggings - Cargo-style shorts with pockets 		
Shoes			
Plain black school shoes or trainers (absolutely no logos). 	- School shoes or trainers in any other colour than plain black, or with logos - Boots - Heels - Open toes, sling-backs, etc. 		
Accessories, hair and make-up			
- One simply stud or sleeper worn in the lobe of each ear - Non-visible make up - Hairstyles should be moderate and appropriate for school, including natural hair and protected hairstyles associated with their racial, ethnic and cultural identities - A wristwatch (not a smart watch)	- Any jewellery other than one simple stud or sleeper in the lobe of each ear - Facial piercings - Smart watches - Visible make-up including false eyelashes - Nail varnish unless clear in colour including false nails - Hairstyles which are less than grade 1, markings, tramlines or symbols - Hair dye is not recommended for children at secondary school age. However, if used, hair colour should remain natural and not undermine our high standards of appearance		

Approved uniform items - Years 9 to 11 September 2026	Not approved
Shirts	
- White shirt or revere collared blouse (MUST be worn tucked in, WITH one item with CEC Logo/Tartan such as: blazer, logo black jumper or tie) - CEC logo polo shirt - Plain white polo shirt worn under CEC logo jumper 	- White shirt or blouse worn untucked - White shirt or blouse worn without either a blazer, tie or CEC logo jumper - Plain white polo with no CEC logo IF worn without a CEC logo jumper 
Jumpers	
- CEC logo black jumper - Plain black v-neck jumper IF worn with tie/blazer 	- Black jumpers with ANY logo EXCEPT the CEC logo - Jumpers which are not black - Hoodies or coats worn indoors 
Trousers/Skirts/Shorts	
- Smart black trousers, must be loose-fitting and about the same width from knee to ankle, not skinny fit or cropped length - A black pleated skirt or academy tartan kilt or smart black shorts which MUST worn at knee length or below, unless worn with plain black tights or plain black leggings underneath 	'Skinny' fit trousers - Jeans, tracksuit bottoms or leggings (worn without a skirt) - Tight 'body-con' skirt - Any skirt or shorts worn above knee length UNLESS worn with plain black tights or leggings 
Shoes	
Plain black school shoes or trainers (absolutely no logos). 	- School shoes or trainers in any other colour than plain black, or with logos - Boots - Heels - Open toes, sling-backs, etc. 
Accessories, hair and make-up	
- One simply stud or sleeper worn in the lobe of each ear - Non-visible make up - Hairstyles should be moderate and appropriate for school, including natural hair and protected hairstyles associated with their racial, ethnic and cultural identities - A wristwatch (not a smart watch)	- Any jewellery other than one simple stud or sleeper in the lobe of each ear - Facial piercings - Smart watches - Visible make-up including false eyelashes - Nail varnish unless clear in colour including false nails - Haircuts which are less than grade 1, markings, tramlines or symbols - Hair dye is not recommended for children at secondary school age. However, if used, hair colour should remain natural and not undermine our high standards of appearance