

Alexandra Academy Trust



Uniform Policy

Date policy last reviewed: Spring 2026
Date policy due for review: Spring 2029

Signed:

P.Simpson (CEO)
K. McBurnie (Chair of Audit and Finance Committee)
Date 17.3.2026

Uniform Policy

Trust Mission Statement

‘Working together to create better futures’

Introduction

At the Alexandra Academy Trust, we pride ourselves in being smart, well presented and ready for learning. It is our Trust policy that all children wear school uniform when attending school.

This policy outlines the purpose, nature and management of the Uniform Policy at the Alexandra Academy Trust.

The Academy Trust policy for uniform reflects the consensus of opinion of the whole teaching staff and has the support of the Board of Trustees.

The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of all staff.

Aims

The Alexandra Academy Trust aims to:

- Promote a sense of pride and identification in our schools
- Ensure clarity of what can and cannot be worn at school
- Contribute to creating a sense of community and belonging towards the schools
- Reduce competition amongst children and removes pressure on families to provide “fashionable” items for daily wear
- Support our commitment to inclusion and equality
- Assist with pupil identification and safety in public places
- Ensure pupils’ uniforms are practical, smart, affordable and are suitable, with health and safety in mind
- Ensure uniforms are considered to be good value for money

Our Uniform

Details of the uniform including PE kit can be found on Academy websites:

Cledford Primary and Nursery Academy:

<https://www.cledford.cheshire.sch.uk/>

Gainsborough Primary and Nursery Academy:

<https://www.gainsboroughschool.co.uk/>

Haslington Primary Academy and Nursery:

<https://www.haslington.cheshire.sch.uk/>

Monks Coppenhall Academy and Nursery:

<https://monkscoppenhall.cheshire.sch.uk/>

Footwear

For health and safety reasons, pupils are **not** permitted to wear shoes with platform soles, Heelys or high heels. All pupils are required to wear flat, plain black shoes without logos. These should be closed in with no toes visible.

If boots are worn these should also be flat and plain black. If boots are large and prevent children from sitting comfortably on the floor, they may be asked to change into their PE shoes whilst inside the school building.

Sandals and flip-flops are not permitted due to health and safety reasons.

Children may wear pumps or go barefoot in the hall for P.E. lessons or activities.

Adaptations for Weather

In the cold weather, particularly in the winter months, children are expected to wear coats and are permitted to wear a hat/ear-muffs, scarf and gloves. Please ensure that all items are clearly named. On hot days, all children will not be expected to wear jumpers. Items such as polo-shirts, tailored shorts and summer dresses are all appropriate in the hot weather. Children are encouraged to wear summer hats to protect skin and eyes from harsh sunlight in the summer months. Sunglasses should not be worn unless they are prescription sunglasses.

Jewellery, Hair Ornaments, Make-up and Nail Varnish

For health and safety reasons, children are not permitted to wear jewellery with the exception of a watch and one pair of small stud earrings. The watch should be analogue or digital. Pupils should not come to school wearing a Smart watch that connects to a mobile phone and the internet. Children are required to remove stud earrings during Physical Education (P.E.) lessons and sporting activities. These items represent a potential hazard not only to the wearer but also to other children.

The local swimming baths do not allow the wearing of any earrings when children are swimming and we ask children remove the stud earrings prior to the lesson.

An exception to this rule is when a child's ears have been newly pierced. Medical advice confirms that a maximum of 6 weeks is needed for newly

pierced ears to heal. Thereafter, in order for earrings to be removed for Physical Education/swimming/sporting activities lessons, we request that any ear piercings take place at the **start** of the summer holidays to allow time for them to heal. If earrings cannot be removed, then taping of the earrings is allowed.

Please note: Staff are **not** permitted to remove earrings or apply tape to cover a child's earrings. Therefore, children should come to school ready for the lesson, preferably with earrings removed or adequately taped.

Your child's class teacher will advise you when P.E. and swimming lessons are to take place.

Make up and nail varnish should not be worn to school. Children should not wear false nails under any circumstances.

For safety and health reasons it is recommended that children with shoulder length or longer hair, have it tied back. Hair bands, ribbons/bows or 'scrunchies' should be plain to match our uniforms. Hair bands should not have large flowers or other decorations attached.

Extreme hairstyles are not appropriate for school. The use of styling products should be kept to a minimum and children should not have decorative patterns cut into their hair or have hair coloured or dyed.

Role of 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 visits that are organised by the school, or where they are representing the school, (if required).

The Role of Parents/Carers/Guardians

We believe that one of the responsibilities of parents/carers/guardians is to ensure that their child has the correct uniform and P.E. kit, and that it is clean, in good condition and that the **child's name is visibly labelled** on all items.

If a parent/carer/guardian has difficulties for any reason with fulfilling this request, they are asked to speak confidentially to a senior member of staff

to discuss the issues. Parents/carers/guardians should be assured that the school will do everything they can to assist.

Parents/carers/guardians are asked to contact the Principal and then the Board of Trustees if they wish to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to:

- Their child's protected characteristics (which include sex, race, religion or belief, disability and gender reassignment.) under the Equalities Act 2010
- Their child's medical condition
- Economic hardship

Parents/carers/guardians 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
- Managed in accordance with the Alexandra Academy Trust's Complaints Policy

The school will work closely with parents/carers/guardians to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

Children who arrive at school wearing non-school uniform clothing may be loaned an appropriate item to wear for that day if possible. The same system will apply for children who do not have a PE kit. Parents/carers/guardians will be contacted to discuss the matter.

The Role of Staff

Staff are expected to support the Senior Leadership Team in maintaining high standards of uniform dress.

Where pupils fail to wear the correct uniform, staff should make discreet and sympathetic enquiries and discuss with parents/carers/guardians.

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 inform the Senior Leadership Team.

The Role of Trustees

The Board of Trustees supports the Trust's schools in implementing the Uniform Policy. It is the responsibility of the Trustees to ensure that the

school uniform meets all regulations concerning equal opportunities and is appropriate for our schools' context.

It considers all representations from parents/carers/guardians regarding the Uniform Policy and liaises with the Principals of the schools to ensure that the policy is implemented fairly and with sensitivity.

It is the Board of Trustees responsibility to ensure that the Trust's Uniform Policy enables children to dress sensibly, in clothing that is hardwearing, safe, affordable and practical.

The Board of Trustees 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. Whilst logoed items are available, it is not compulsory to purchase these items and appropriately coloured items can be purchased from local supermarkets and other suppliers.

The Board of Trustees will review this policy to ensure that the policy not only meets the requirements of the statutory guidance and the law (for example, the school's duties under the Equalities Act), but also reflects the Trust's values and culture.

Entitlement

Alexandra Academy Trust uses part of the Pupil Premium funding to provide a free piece of uniform (a sweatshirt or cardigan) to eligible pupils.

Parents/carers/guardians can check on their child's eligibility for Pupil Premium funding by visiting the school website under the Pupil Premium section or contacting the school.

Parents/carers/guardians can apply for Free School Meals and when the school receives confirmation, a free piece of uniform will be provided.

You can read more about applying for Free School Meals here: https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/school-meals/free_school_meals.aspx

Special Circumstances

Special dispensation can be requested for temporary exception from the prescribed school uniform or elements of it. This will usually be on medical grounds or for other exceptional circumstances. The Principal and/or Deputy Headteacher will have the ultimate decision on granting or refusing this request.

Lost Property

Any unidentified items of school uniform will be taken to the lost property cupboard. Children and families are encouraged to ask in the school office to reclaim lost property, on the understanding that the found item will be clearly named.

Children can become upset as a result of lost clothing. Lost items of clothing are more likely to be reunited with their owners when they are correctly named.

Pre-loved (Second-Hand) Uniforms

Throughout the school year, there are opportunities for parents/carers/guardians to purchase an item of pre-loved uniform which is in good condition. Please contact your child's school office for further information.

Outcomes

This policy will promote the excellent ethos of the Alexandra Academy Trust. It will underpin excellent teaching, learning and progress. It will promote the high standards and expectations set out in the Trust's Aims and Code of Conduct.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies:

- Anti-Bullying Policies
- Cared-For-Children Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policies
- Trust Complaints Policy
- Trust Educational Visits and Overnight Stays Policy
- Trust Equality Policy
- Trust Health and Safety Policy
- Inclusion Policy
- Trust Pedagogy document
- Positive Behaviour Policy
- Trust Special Educational Needs Policy
- Trust Supporting Children with Medical Needs Policy
- Trust Whistle-Blowing Policy