Westgate Academy

Uniform Policy

Date approved by Local Committee: 22 June 2026
Date for review: June 2027

1. Introduction

1.1 Westgate Academy strongly believes that a uniform contributes to its ethos and sets an appropriate tone by:

- Instilling pride and a true sense of belonging,
- Supporting positive behaviour and discipline,
- Encouraging identity with, and support for our academy ethos and values: through instilling excellence, respect, teamwork, positivity and self-belief
- Ensuring that pupils of all races and backgrounds feel welcome
- Protecting pupils from social pressures to dress in particular ways
- Nurturing cohesion and promoting good relations between pupils
- Providing additional security, in that intruders within the academy can be identified that much easier.

2. Our school's 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, disability, race, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity, and gender reassignment.

2.2 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 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 related to their sex, gender or gender reassignment
- 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 John Beaven 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 uniform.

3.2 We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that need 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/carers' ability to 'shop around' for a low 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 do this by:

- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary
- Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics
- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost and/or long-lasting items
- Considering cheaper alternatives to school-branded items
- 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
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- Considering alternative methods for signalling differences in groups for interschool competitions, such as creating posters or labels
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents/carers to acquire second-hand uniform items
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents/carers of any changes
- Consulting with parents/carers 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

The chosen uniform for pupils attending Westgate Academy, on non-PE days, has been identified as;

- Grey or Black skirt/ trousers/shorts;
- Red polo shirt, either plain or Westgate logoed;
- Navy blue sweatshirt or jumper, either plain or Westgate logoed;
- Red and white or blue and white gingham summer dress
- White, grey, or black socks/tights
- Sensible, low heeled flat black shoes.

The chosen PE uniform for pupils attending Westgate Academy, on PE days, has been identified as;

- Navy blue hoodie/navy blue fleece;

- Navy blue crew neck T-shirt, either plain or Westgate logoed;
- Black shorts or black tracksuit bottoms;
- Trainers.

4.2 Jewellery

Having given due consideration to health and safety issues and the possible risks of bullying and harassment due to the wearing of jewellery, children may wear a single ear stud in each ear. A suitable watch may also be worn. No other jewellery may be worn. No body piercing jewellery is allowed.

Ear studs must be removed for health and safety reasons during PE lessons.

4.3 Hairstyles

Hair must be styled in an appropriate manner that is acceptable to Westgate Academy. The final decision rests with the Head teacher of Westgate Academy over what is considered to be an extreme hairstyle.

The Academy has a right to expect that long hair can be safely tied back for work in school for science lessons if appropriate, or in any other areas where health and safety considerations must take priority.

4.4 Make-Up

No 'Make Up' is allowed.

4.5 Where to purchase it

Parents and carers can obtain the logoed uniform from Uniform Direct (Uniform Direct ® - Westgate Junior Academy School Uniform). Non-logoed uniform can be bought more widely, e.g. from 'high-street' retailers or supermarkets.

We currently have a second-hand uniform scheme. Please contact the school office for more information.

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).

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/carers are also expected to contact the Headteacher, c/o School Office, if they want to request an adaptation of the uniform policy in relation to:

- Their child's protected characteristics
- The cost of the uniform
- Parents/carers 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
- Dealt with in accordance with our Complaints Policy.

The school will work closely with parents/carers 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 their parents/carers breaching the uniform policy the opportunity to comply, but will follow up with the headteacher if the situation doesn't improve.

We believe that any pupil that breaches this policy will be disciplined. Parents will be informed of any breaches of uniform policy and there will be sanctions/ consequences put in place for persistent and repeated breaches.

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 Local Committee 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/carers and pupils
- Offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all pupils.

The Local Committee 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.

6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed every year. At every review, it will be approved by the Local Committee.

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

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