



Blackpool
Aspire
Academy

Uniform and Appearance Policy 2026/27

"Uniform is not just about clothing — it is about preparation, pride, and professionalism."

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Purpose of the Policy

The aim of this policy is to:

- Maintain high standards of personal presentation and discipline
- Promote equality and reduce peer pressure
- Ensure students are dressed safely and appropriately for learning
- Eliminate distractions and maximise valuable learning time

Our uniform policy sets clear, consistent standards to ensure all students present themselves in a smart, business-like manner each day.

- Full Academy uniform must be worn correctly at all times.
- Students will be checked by staff every morning to ensure compliance with uniform expectations.
- Uniform is available from Bispham Clothing and Ragamuffins.
- Parents/carers must consult the official uniform list before purchasing to avoid costly and unacceptable mistakes. Items not listed in the policy are not permitted.
- If a student arrives in incorrect, incomplete, or unsafe uniform, they will:
 - Be sent to the Standards Room to change into uniform provided,
 - Or placed in the Impact Unit until the matter is resolved.
- Fashion items, substitutions, or handwritten notes from home will not be accepted.

Please note: Decisions are made by the Headteacher **in accordance with this policy, the Behaviour Policy, equality duties and the requirement to make reasonable adjustments**, and the school reserves the right to send a student home to address any uniform concerns.

This policy follows Department for Education statutory guidance and will be enforced consistently and fairly.

School Uniform, Appearance and Standards Policy – Introduction

At Aspire Academy, we take pride in high standards of appearance, behaviour, and conduct. Our uniform policy is a key part of this culture, and all students are expected to comply fully and consistently. This policy sets out our expectations regarding uniform, appearance, and personal presentation. It is designed to leave no room for ambiguity and to provide clarity for parents, carers, and students.

This policy is fully compliant with:

- The Department for Education (DfE) Statutory Guidance on the Cost of School Uniforms (latest edition),
- The Children’s Wellbeing and Schools Bill (2025),

- The Equality Act 2010, ensuring non-discrimination and inclusion. Legal and Statutory Considerations for Uniform Policy.

Uniform Expectations: Be Ready Every Day

Aspire Academy's uniform is a core part of our Golden Culture. Wearing the correct uniform promotes pride, belonging, equality and a purposeful atmosphere for learning.

All pupils are expected to arrive:

- wearing the correct Academy uniform;
- fully dressed and ready before entering the Academy;
- wearing the correct PE kit on timetabled PE days;
- with their tie, shirt, blazer and other required items worn correctly; and
- meeting the appearance, footwear, jewellery and outdoor-clothing requirements set out in the Academy's Uniform Policy.

Pupils must not wait until they reach the gate or Standards Room before putting on their tie, blazer or other uniform items.

Uniform expectations apply throughout the school day and when pupils are representing the Academy. The full specification of permitted uniform, PE kit, footwear, jewellery, hairstyles and appearance is contained in the **Aspire Academy Uniform Policy**.

"We expect schools to deal with pupil misbehaviour such as uniform breaches in a proportionate and fair way."

— Department for Education, *Developing School Uniform Policy*, updated July 2026.

Legal and Statutory Considerations for Uniform Policy

Aspire Academy is committed to ensuring that its Uniform and Appearance Policy is legally compliant, inclusive, equitable and consistently applied. This policy forms part of the Academy's wider Behaviour and Attendance framework and is implemented in accordance with current Department for Education guidance, the Equality Act 2010 and relevant statutory requirements.

The Academy will normally seek to resolve uniform concerns on site wherever reasonably possible. This may include providing temporary or loaned uniform, contacting parents or carers, considering whether the reason for non-compliance is outside the pupil's reasonable control, and agreeing appropriate support, exemptions or reasonable adjustments where required.

A pupil will not be sent home informally, prevented from attending the Academy, or required to remain at home for disciplinary reasons solely because they do not have the correct uniform or because suitable loan uniform is unavailable.

Where a pupil deliberately and persistently refuses to comply with reasonable uniform expectations after the expectation has been clearly explained, suitable support or alternative uniform has been

offered where available, and relevant individual circumstances have been considered, the matter may be addressed through the Academy's Behaviour Policy.

Where behaviour associated with uniform non-compliance is sufficiently serious that suspension is being considered, only the Headteacher, or a person formally appointed to act as Headteacher, may make that decision. Any decision to suspend must be lawful, reasonable, fair and proportionate and must follow the full statutory suspension process.

For the avoidance of doubt, any occasion on which a pupil is required to leave the Academy, or is prevented from attending, for disciplinary reasons constitutes a suspension, even where this is for only part of the school day. Such arrangements will not be treated as an informal or unofficial sanction.

When applying this policy, the Academy will also consider whether a pupil requires an exception, adaptation or reasonable adjustment because of SEND, disability, medical need, religion or belief, race or cultural requirements, or another relevant individual circumstance. Financial hardship or circumstances outside a pupil's reasonable control will also be considered before disciplinary action is taken.

Reference basis: Department for Education, *Developing School Uniform Policy*, 2026; Department for Education, *Cost of School Uniforms: Statutory Guidance*, 2026; Department for Education, *Behaviour in Schools: Advice for Headteachers and School Staff*, February 2024; Department for Education, *Suspension and Permanent Exclusion from Maintained Schools, Academies and Pupil Referral Units in England, Including Pupil Movement*, July 2026; and the Equality Act 2010.

1. Equality and Reasonable Adjustments

The Academy will make reasonable adjustments to the uniform policy where required to support students with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), medical conditions, or religious beliefs. Parents/carers should contact the school in advance to discuss any necessary accommodations.

This complies with the Equality Act 2010, which requires schools to avoid discriminating, directly or indirectly, on the basis of protected characteristics.

2. Financial Hardship, Availability and Family Support

Before imposing a sanction, staff will consider whether the uniform issue may be caused by circumstances outside the pupil's reasonable control, including:

- financial hardship;
- an item being unavailable or awaiting delivery;
- sudden damage or loss;
- family or housing circumstances;

- lack of access to clean uniform;
- a medical need;
- SEND or disability;
- religion or belief; or
- another significant or safeguarding circumstance.

Parents or carers experiencing difficulty providing uniform should contact the pupil's **Head of Year** or the Standards Room as soon as possible. The Academy will deal with requests sensitively and may provide:

- temporary loaned uniform;
- donated or second-hand items;
- access to available hardship support;
- a short-term agreed arrangement; or
- another appropriate solution.

Pupils who cannot comply because of financial hardship will not be denied classroom teaching, breaktime or participation in school life for that reason. The updated statutory cost guidance requires schools to take a considerate approach where financial hardship is suspected and states that affordability must not become a barrier to attendance or participation.

3. Behaviour Policy and Alignment with DfE Guidance

Sanctions related to non-compliance with the uniform policy will be proportionate, reasonable, and consistent with the Academy's Behaviour Policy. Where necessary, this may include use of the Standards Shop or placement in the Impact Unit until 4:00pm.

These procedures are in line with DfE statutory guidance on behaviour and exclusions and are designed to maintain high standards while minimising disruption to learning.

4. Parental Communication and Dispute Resolution

If a parent/carer wishes to discuss or appeal a uniform-related decision, they should contact the relevant Head of Year in the first instance. Formal concerns may be escalated through the Academy's complaints procedure, available on the school website or by request.

Uniform Compliance and the Standards Room

In line with Department for Education (DfE) Statutory Guidance (2021) and the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act (2026), we are committed to ensuring that our uniform policy is fair, affordable, and consistently applied.

"School policies should be clear and equitable, and schools must take a consistent approach to enforcing uniform requirements."

— DfE, Cost of School Uniforms; Statutory Guidance , updated 6th July (2026)

- To uphold these standards, the Academy operates a Standards Room, where students will be directed if they arrive at school without correct uniform.
- Essential uniform items (e.g., shoes, blazers, ties, trousers, shirts) may be loaned or temporarily provided to ensure students meet expectations.
- If a student is not in correct uniform and there is no approved exemption, they will be sent to the Standards Room to change.
- Handwritten notes from parents/carers will not be accepted as valid explanations. All communication regarding uniform issues must be made via phone, email, or the Academy's official communication platform.

Non-Compliance and Consequences

- Refusal to follow uniform instructions will result in the student being removed from lessons and placed in the Impact Unit until 4:00pm.
- Parents/carers will be notified if a student is removed due to uniform non-compliance.
- Repeated breaches of the uniform policy will be escalated in accordance with the Academy's Behaviour Policy.

Deliberate Uniform Defiance

An initial uniform error or missing item will be addressed through the Standards Room process and will not automatically constitute C4 behaviour.

C4 Uniform or Appearance Defiance is reserved for deliberate and sustained refusal after:

- the expectation has been explained clearly;
- suitable correct uniform has been offered where available;
- the pupil has been given an appropriate opportunity to comply; and
- relevant individual circumstances and reasonable adjustments have been considered.

Examples may include:

- refusing to change into suitable uniform provided by the Academy;
- deliberately removing or altering uniform again after correction;
- refusing to remove a coat or prohibited jewellery after a clear reasonable instruction;
- repeatedly refusing to wear uniform in the required manner; or

- serious or sustained defiance when the uniform expectation is addressed.

Where C4 Uniform Defiance is established, the pupil will normally:

- be referred to the Behaviour Team;
- have the exact instruction and response recorded;
- be placed in Impact for a defined and authorised period where appropriate; and
- serve the published C4 consequence **(3:00-4:30pm same detention)** under the Behaviour Escalation Ladder.

Any Impact placement will be supervised, time limited and educationally meaningful. It will relate to the pupil's deliberate refusal to comply, not simply to the original missing item.

Skirt Length, Appearance and Defiance

Aspire Academy expects all students to wear uniform in line with the published policy at all times. This includes wearing skirts at the correct, appropriate length (just above the knee) and not altering their appearance in a way that contradicts Academy standards.

“School policies should be clear and applied consistently to avoid unfairness and confusion.”

— **DfE Statutory Guidance on Cost of School Uniforms (2021)**

“Uniform policy must be implemented in a way that supports good behaviour and discipline.”

— **DfE Behaviour in Schools Guidance (2022)**

Skirts and Deliberate Alteration of Uniform

Skirts must be worn in accordance with the length and presentation requirements contained in the Uniform Policy. Rolling, folding or otherwise altering a skirt to shorten it is not permitted.

Where a pupil's skirt is rolled or altered:

1. the pupil will be instructed to correct it immediately;
2. the pupil will be given an opportunity to comply;
3. repeated incidents will be recorded; and
4. deliberate refusal may be addressed as Uniform Defiance.

Where a pupil repeatedly rolls or alters their skirt despite correction and support, the Academy may, following discussion with the pupil and parent or carer, direct the pupil to wear approved Academy trousers as an alternative uniform arrangement.

This will be used to secure consistent compliance with the published Uniform Policy and will not be imposed to humiliate the pupil. Any relevant medical, disability, SEND, religious or equality consideration will be reviewed before the arrangement is confirmed.

The Standards Room

The Standards Room supports pupils who occasionally arrive without the correct uniform. It is not intended to become part of a pupil's normal daily routine.

Where a pupil arrives without the correct uniform, they will:

1. report to the Standards Room;
2. explain what is missing or incorrect;
3. have the uniform concern recorded;
4. be issued with suitable temporary uniform where available;
5. change promptly and appropriately;
6. return to Form or lessons as soon as reasonably practicable; and
7. return all borrowed items at the time directed.

Pupils will not ordinarily miss extended periods of education where the issue can be corrected quickly using loaned uniform.

Standards Room Consequences

The following consequences apply where a pupil requires uniform to be issued because they have arrived without the correct uniform.

Incident within one school week	Academy response
First visit	Suitable correct uniform will be issued where available. The incident will be recorded, and the pupil will be reminded of the expectation. No detention will normally be issued.

Incident within one school week	Academy response
Second visit	Suitable correct uniform will be issued where available. The incident will be recorded, and the pupil will serve a 20-minute supervised lunchtime detention .
Third visit	Suitable correct uniform will be issued where available. The pupil will serve a 45-minute same-day after-school detention from 3.00pm to 3.45pm . The parent or carer will be informed as soon as practicable.
Further visits	The Head of Year or Behaviour Team will review the repeated pattern and contact the parent or carer. An individual uniform-support or monitoring plan may be introduced, together with a further proportionate response under the Behaviour Escalation Ladder.

One morning Standards Room visit will count as one uniform incident, regardless of the number of missing items identified during that visit. The weekly count will restart at the beginning of each school week. However, longer-term patterns will remain recorded and may result in additional support or intervention.

Borrowed Uniform

All Academy uniform issued to a pupil remains the property of the Academy and must be returned promptly, in the condition in which it was supplied, subject to reasonable wear.

Where an item is not returned at the required time:

- the pupil and parent or carer will be reminded;
- the pupil will lose their ordinary lunchtime social privileges and remain in a supervised lunchtime setting each day until the item is returned; and
- the Academy may seek the return or reasonable replacement cost of the item through its normal procedures.

The pupil will still receive reasonable time to obtain and eat their meal, drink water, use the toilet and access medication or medical assistance. Food and essential welfare provision will never be withheld as a sanction.

Shoes

Appropriate school shoes should be practical, durable, and conform to the school's uniform policy. They should be plain black, fully enclosed, and made from leather or a similar sturdy material to ensure comfort and protection throughout the school day. This includes no mesh fabric or open-toes. Shoes should provide adequate support for walking and standing during lessons and breaks. Most leather school shoes are typically acceptable, while trainers, sandals, boots, or shoes with excessive branding, embellishments, or bright colours are not permitted. Leather-look shoes will be provided if students attend with incorrect footwear. Should a student have a medical condition, then reasonable adjustments can be made for a limited time period. This must be communicated

via the relevant Head of Year and evidence provided. The focus is on maintaining a smart, consistent appearance that aligns with the school's standards.

Additional Layers

Coats and other outdoor clothing (hoodies, light jackets, tracksuit tops) must be removed when pupils enter the Academy building, unless a temporary exception or reasonable adjustment has been agreed. These items are not part of the approved uniform and undermine the school's standards of appearance. However, a base-layer or a vest that is white (and therefore not visible) is permitted. If seen, staff members will ask the student to remove the extra layer immediately. Repeated non-compliance may result in further sanctions.

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Warm Weather Expectations

During warm weather, all students are still expected to wear their blazer as part of the compulsory Academy uniform. Students may ask their classroom teacher for permission to remove their blazer while in class. However, blazers must be worn at all other times, including when moving around the Academy.

In periods of **extreme heat**, the Headteacher may temporarily adjust the Academy's uniform expectations. Where this applies, the Headteacher will communicate directly with students, parents/carers and staff that students may attend the Academy wearing their **full approved Academy PE kit** instead of their normal school uniform. This arrangement will apply only for the period specified by the Headteacher, after which normal uniform expectations will resume.

At other times, students may only remove their blazers throughout the school day when this has been explicitly authorised by the Headteacher or a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

As stated in this policy, the Academy jumper is an optional item. It must not be worn as a replacement for the blazer; where the jumper is worn, the blazer must also be worn.

Why It Matters

Our policy is designed to promote professionalism, equality, and safety. It reflects our high expectations and supports an environment focused on learning without distraction or disruption.

Morning Checks for Uniform and Appearance Standards

To support a focused and respectful learning environment, all students will be checked by staff each morning before entering the Academy to ensure they meet our basic uniform and appearance standards. These checks are carried out fairly and consistently.

Staff will look for the following:

Full Academy uniform including:

- Blazer
- Tie
- Appropriate skirt or trousers
- Skirts must be of an appropriate length.
- Students who choose to wear a skirt must also wear plain black tights, minimum 70 denier.
- Formal school shoes - Shoes must be black, polishable and not made of mesh material.
- Trainers or sports-style footwear are not permitted, except plain black Air Force 1s, which are allowed due to their durability.
- No jewellery, except a watch and one pair of small stud earrings.
- Discreet makeup only.
- False eyelashes and false nails are not allowed.
- Hair must comply with Academy expectations:
No extreme hairstyles.
No unnatural hair colours.
- A suitable school bag containing essential equipment for the day.

If a student does not meet these expectations, they may be asked to correct their appearance before being allowed into school. The students will be sent to the Standards Room to make sure they are ready for the start of the school day. Reasonable adjustments can be made where there is a formal, approved request based on medical or equality needs, supported by appropriate documentation to the Head of Year.

Enforcement of Uniform Standards

Students are expected to wear the correct uniform each day, including PE kit on timetabled days. The uniform policy supports the wider Behaviour and Attendance Policy and helps reinforce high standards across the Academy.

Where a student is not in correct uniform:

- They will be sent to the Standards Room and issued with the correct uniform.
- They could be sent home to correct the issue, provided that parents/carers are informed and the absence is recorded as authorised in line with DfE guidance. A one-hour detention will also be issued for missed learning.
- If a student fails to return within a reasonable timeframe, the absence will be marked as unauthorised.

“Where a pupil is sent home to remedy a breach of the school’s rules on uniform or appearance, the pupil’s absence should be recorded as authorised. However, if the pupil subsequently fails to return

to school, the school should change the attendance record to unauthorised.”

— DfE Behaviour in Schools Guidance (2024)

In cases of repeated or deliberate refusal to comply, this may be treated as a behavioural issue and addressed through the school’s disciplinary procedures.

Financial Support

The Academy is committed to ensuring its uniform expectations do not place an unreasonable financial burden on families, fully aligning with statutory guidance from the Department for Education (DfE, 2021) and the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026. To maintain equitable access to education and reduce reliance on costly branded attire, the Academy operates a Standards Room. This facility supports families experiencing financial difficulty by maintaining a stock of both new and second-hand items, which may be provided permanently or loaned on a temporary basis. Parents and carers seeking support or wishing to discuss their individual circumstances in confidence are invited to call the main school office and ask to speak with our Lead Caseworker, Jennifer Markham.

Cultural and Religious Considerations

We recognise and respect the rights of students to wear items of clothing that reflect cultural, religious, or spiritual beliefs. Requests for adaptations to the uniform will be considered on a case-by-case basis in line with the Equality Act 2010.

Examples may include:

- Head coverings for religious observance (e.g., hijabs, turbans, kippahs)
- Modesty adjustments to PE kit
- Cultural hairstyles

Parents/carers wishing to request adjustments should contact **[Mr Woods/Headteacher]** to discuss appropriate and respectful accommodations.

Gender Neutrality and Inclusion

Our uniform policy is fully gender inclusive. Students may choose to wear any approved uniform items regardless of gender identity. For example:

- Trousers or skirts may be worn by any student
- Hair length, style, and grooming expectations apply equally to all students

We are committed to ensuring all students feel safe, respected, and able to express themselves within the framework of the Academy’s high standards.

Jewellery, Piercings & Personal Accessories

Jewellery and appearance must meet the requirements of the Uniform Policy. Where an item is not permitted, the pupil will be instructed to remove or hand it over in accordance with the Academy's confiscation procedures. A reasonable initial correction will not automatically result in a high-level consequence. Deliberate refusal or repeated defiance will be addressed separately under the Behaviour Escalation Ladder.

Why Jewellery and Piercings (Other Than Ear Lobes) Are Not Allowed

Schools often restrict piercings to ear lobes only for several important reasons:

1. **Health and Safety** – Facial or body piercings can pose a risk of injury, especially during physical activities, sports, or practical lessons like PE and science.
2. **Professional Standards** – Schools aim to prepare students for the expectations of professional environments, where visible piercings beyond ear lobes are often not permitted.
3. **Consistency and Equality** – Limiting piercings helps maintain a consistent and distraction-free environment for all students, supporting fairness and focus on learning.

These rules are not about limiting self-expression, but about promoting safety, readiness for the workplace, and a positive, respectful school culture.

To maintain high standards of safety, professionalism, and focus within the Academy, the following rules apply to all students without exception. These expectations are non-negotiable and must be followed at all times.

What is Permitted:

- One pair of small, plain stud earrings only (maximum of one per ear lobe)
- Must be gold or silver
- Must be worn in the ear lobe only
- **Strictly Not Permitted:**
- No facial or body piercings of any kind (including tongue, eyebrow, nose, lip, septum, cartilage)
- No clear or plastic retainers in any piercings - Even if they are not immediately visible, clear retainers are still classed as piercings and are not permitted. This is to maintain consistency and avoid confusion or perceived exceptions.
- No rings
- No necklaces
- No bracelets or bangles
- No smartwatches (in line with our Personal Device Policy — phones and smart devices are not permitted to be switched on whilst on the school site.)
- No large or decorative earrings (hoops, dangly, coloured, or novelty styles are not allowed)

If a student arrives at school wearing any non-permitted items:

- They will be asked to remove them immediately
- Items may be confiscated and held until collected by a parent/carer
- Refusal to comply will be treated as a behavioural matter

Reminder to parents/carers: If your child is considering a piercing, please ensure it is done well in advance of term time so that jewellery can be removed during school hours. *Healing time is not a valid reason for breaking policy.*

These rules are in place to support learning, reduce distractions, and maintain consistency. Your cooperation is expected and appreciated.

Make-up and Fake Tan Policy

Aspire Academy expects students to maintain a natural and professional appearance that reflects our commitment to a focused learning environment.

Make-up

- Discreet make-up is permitted, provided it is reasonable, subtle, and does not draw undue attention.
- Examples of acceptable make-up include light foundation, minimal mascara, and natural lip colour.
- Heavy, theatrical, or brightly coloured make-up is not allowed.
- Staff will assess make-up on a case-by-case basis, considering whether it is appropriate for a school setting.

“Schools should have clear uniform and appearance policies which support a positive learning environment and do not discriminate.”

— DfE Statutory Guidance on School Uniforms (2021)

Fake Tan

The use of fake tan is discouraged and should be discreet if applied. Any student whose appearance is deemed by staff to be distracting or inappropriate due to fake tan may be asked to remove or reduce it.

Enforcement

- Students who do not comply with the make-up or fake tan policy will be asked to correct their appearance.
- Repeated refusal to adhere to these expectations will be managed under the Academy’s Behaviour Policy.

This policy ensures a balance between allowing reasonable self-expression and maintaining the professional standards essential for a positive educational environment.

Nails, Eyelashes, Eyebrows, Hair and Accessories

Aspire Academy expects all students to present themselves in a neat, natural, and professional manner, consistent with our high standards and focused learning environment.

Nails

- Acrylic, gel, or false nails (including press-on nails) are NOT permitted.
- Nails must be kept clean, natural, and neatly trimmed.
- No nail polish of any kind is allowed, including clear or neutral shades.
- Colourful, bright, fluorescent, or dark nail colours are not allowed.

Eyelashes

False eyelashes of any kind are strictly prohibited, including:

- Strip lashes,
- Individual lashes,
- Magnetic lashes,
- Lash extensions.
- Students must not wear eyelashes that create an unnatural or distracting appearance.

Eyebrows

- Students must not draw on, colour, or excessively shape their eyebrows to alter their natural appearance.
- Eyebrows should be maintained in a natural style, without extreme fashion trends.

Hair

- Hair should be clean, tidy, and appropriate for a professional school environment.
- Extreme hairstyles or colours (e.g., unnatural colours like bright pink, red, green, blue) are not permitted.
- Hair accessories must be simple and in school colours; large or decorative accessories are not allowed.
- Decorative hair pieces, such as beads and bows, are not permitted.
- Headwear for religious or cultural reasons is permitted but must be plain and in neutral or school colours.

“Schools should maintain clear policies on appearance which promote equality, inclusion, and support a safe learning environment.”

— DfE Statutory Guidance on School Uniforms (2021)

Glasses and Accessories

- Fashion glasses with non-prescription lenses are not permitted.
- Small, simple hair accessories in school colours (such as plain headbands, bobbles, clips, and scrunchies) are permitted, whereas large decorative bows and fashion items are prohibited; exceptions are made for culturally significant or protective hairstyles in accordance with DfE/EHRC guidance.

Enforcement

- Staff will check nails, eyelashes, eyebrows, hair, and accessories during daily uniform checks.
- Students not complying will be asked to remove or correct the issue immediately.
- Persistent non-compliance will be addressed through the Academy’s Behaviour Policy.

PE Kit

Pupils must bring and wear the correct Academy PE kit on timetabled PE days. PE kit must not be worn as an alternative to the Academy uniform on days when PE is not timetabled, unless the Academy has expressly authorised this.

Where a pupil does not have the correct PE kit:

- suitable Academy kit will be issued where available;
- the incident will be recorded;
- the pupil will still be expected to participate in the lesson, subject to any medical restriction; and
- repeated incidents will result in consequences consistent with the Standards Room escalation process.

A pupil will not be prevented from participating in PE solely because their family cannot afford the required kit. The Academy will work with the family to provide appropriate support. Current statutory guidance states that uniform costs must not become a barrier to participation in school activities.

Expectations for school uniform

Boys

*All branded items are in bold

Compulsory Uniform Items	Additional Information
Black blazer	Blazer with the Aspire logo.
White shirt	Long or short-sleeve shirt. The top button of the shirt must be fastened.
Purple tie	The length of the tie must be worn to the waist.
Plain black trousers	Tailored school trousers. No flares/bootleg, cords, cargo pants, cotton denim or skinny leg.
Black shoes	Plain black leather-look shoe (Air Force ones are permitted) No canvas trainers, boots or contrasting soles. See Wynsors approved style list.
School bag	A plain coloured rucksack or large plain black tote bag. The bag must be large enough to fit the A4 Knowledge Organiser and booklet inside.
Optional Uniform Items	Additional Information
Aspire V-neck grey jumper	The jumper must not replace the blazer. The blazer must be worn at all times.
Outdoor coat	Suitable outdoor coat. No denim or leather/leather look jackets. Outdoor coats should not be worn in the main building.

Compulsory PE Items	Additional Information
Aspire polo shirt	
Aspire shorts OR Aspire tracksuit pants	No black shorts are permitted. (Year 9 – 11 Students can wear plain black tracksuit bottoms - no logos or cargo styles); those who arrive in incorrect attire will be required to change into Aspire PE shorts.

Optional PE Items	Additional Information
Aspire PE zip-up top *IF PUPILS DO NOT HAVE THE ZIP-UP TOP, THEY MUST WEAR THEIR BLAZER	No hoody or other non-Aspire jumper.
Football boots/shin pads	
Aspire football socks	

Girls

***All branded items are in bold**

Compulsory Uniform Items	Additional Information
Black blazer	Blazer with the Aspire logo.
White shirt	Long or short-sleeve shirt. The top button of the shirt must be fastened.
Purple tie	The length of the tie must be worn to the waist.
Aspire skirt OR plain black trousers	Skirt must not be rolled up. Tailored school trousers. No flares/bootleg, cords, cargo, cotton denim or skinny leg.
Black shoes	Plain black leather-look shoe. (Air Force ones are permitted) No canvas trainers, boots or contrasting soles. See Wynsors approved style list.
Black tights	Minimum 70 denier tights. No socks. Not worn over tights.
School bag	A plain coloured rucksack or large plain black tote bag. The bag must be large enough to fit the A4 Knowledge Organiser and booklet inside.
Optional Uniform Items	Additional Information
Aspire V-neck grey jumper	The jumper must not replace the blazer. The blazer must be worn at all times.
Outdoor coat	This should be plain dark colour. No denim or leather/leather look jackets. Outdoor coats should not be worn in the main building.
Hijab/headscarves	Plain hijab in academy colours: purple, black or white.

Compulsory PE Items	Additional Information
Aspire polo shirt	
Aspire Shorts OR Aspire tracksuit pants OR Aspire leggings.	No skorts. No cycling shorts. No black shorts are permitted. (Year 9-11 Girls may wear plain black leggings or tracksuit pants; leggings must be fully black with no logos, mesh, or see-through panels, and tracksuit pants must be plain with no cargo or flared styles). If students arrive in incorrect attire, they will be required to change into Aspire track pants or leggings provided by the school.

***No tights to be worn during PE lessons.**

Optional PE Items	Additional Information
Aspire PE zip-up top *IF PUPILS DO NOT HAVE THE ZIP-UP TOP, THEY MUST WEAR THEIR BLAZER	No hoody or other non-Aspire jumper.
Football boots/shin pads	

Aspire football socks	
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Jewellery	Additional Information
One pair of small stud earrings	Plain gold or silver colour studs. No hoop earrings. Ear lobe piercing only.
One wrist watch	No smart watches (as per the personal devices policy)
	No bracelets
	No necklaces
	No rings

Makeup	Additional Information
Discreet make-up is permitted, provided it is reasonable, subtle, and does not draw undue attention. Staff will assess make-up on a case-by-case basis, considering whether it is appropriate for a school setting.	Examples of acceptable make-up include light foundation, minimal mascara, and natural lip colour. Heavy, theatrical, or brightly coloured make-up is not allowed.
The use of fake tan is discouraged and should be discreet if applied. Any student whose appearance is deemed by staff to be distracting or inappropriate due to fake tan may be asked to remove or reduce it.	Students who do not comply with the make-up or fake tan policy will be asked to correct their appearance. Repeated refusal to adhere to these expectations will be managed under the Academy's Behaviour Policy.

Eyelashes and eyebrows	Additional Information
Natural eyelashes	No false eyelashes, including strip lashes, individual lashes, magnetic lashes, and lash extensions.
Natural eyebrows	No drawn-on eyebrows

Facial Piercings	Additional Information
<u>No facial piercings</u> , including no clear plastic retainers	No clear plastic retainers
No nose piercings	No clear plastic retainers
No tongue piercings	No clear plastic retainers
No eyebrow piercings	No clear plastic retainers

Nails	Additional Information
Natural nails	No nail varnish allowed, including French polish style
	No false/acrylic nails
	No gel type polish

Hair	Additional Information
Natural hair colour	No extreme dyed hair or unnatural hair colour. E.g., bright red.
Bows, headbands, bobbles, clips or scrunchies	Small, simple hair accessories in school colours (such as plain headbands, bobbles, clips, and scrunchies) are permitted, whereas large decorative bows and fashion items are prohibited ; exceptions are made for culturally significant or protective hairstyles in accordance with DfE/EHRC guidance.
Sensible hairstyles	No extreme styles. E.g., no shaved lines or patterns. Longer hair must be tied back for safety in all practical lessons. No beaded-styled hair.

While non-essential decorative hair accessories are not permitted, the Academy fully respects and supports protective and culturally significant hairstyles. In accordance with Department for Education (DfE) guidelines and Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) guidance, reasonable exceptions are made for hairstyles and protective additions—including beaded protective styles—associated with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010, such as race, ethnicity, or religion.

Accessories	Additional Information
No non-prescription glasses	
Sensible non-drip water bottles only.	The bottle must fit into the school bag.

Policy Justification & DfE Guidance

This policy is grounded in the Department for Education's guidance on school uniforms, which empowers schools to set rules on appearance to promote safety and discipline. The DfE states:

"It is for the governing board of a school to decide: rules about appearance... These duties are placed on all governing boards by statute to ensure that school policies promote good behaviour and discipline among the pupil body."

-DfE School Uniforms Guidance

Additionally, the DfE emphasises the importance of considering health and safety in uniform policies:

"Governing boards will also need to ensure that, in developing and implementing their uniform policy, they comply with the Human Rights Act 1998 and Equality Act 2010 and take into account key considerations such as safeguarding requirements and the health and safety of their pupils."

-DfE School Uniforms Guidance

By adhering to these guidelines, our policy aims to ensure a safe and focused learning environment for all students.

Our Partnership with Parents: Working Together for Student Success

Parents/carers are expected to support the Academy's published policies and work constructively with the Academy. You agree to:

- **Support all policies and decisions**, including those on behaviour, attendance, uniform, and punctuality.
- **Attend meetings** if requested, including reintegration, behaviour, or support meetings.
- **Uphold consequences** and reinforce expectations at home.
- **Trust professional judgment** and follow communication pathways respectfully.
- **Celebrate your child's success** and work constructively if concerns arise.

We ask families to be **active partners**, not passive observers. Your words at home about school, teachers, and rules shape your child's attitude, motivation, and choices.

We understand parenting can be challenging, and we are here to **work with you, not against you**. Our team offers support, guidance, and intervention if your child is struggling — but this is only effective if families engage positively and consistently.

Our Promise to Parents:

In return, Aspire Academy will:

- Communicate openly and respectfully with you.
- Keep you informed of your child's progress and any concerns.
- Offer early help, mentoring, or referrals where needed.
- Provide a safe, inclusive, and ambitious environment for your child to thrive.

"Strong school-home partnerships help pupils develop the habits and mindset needed for success — at school and in life."

— **Aspire Academy Leadership**

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q: Why is it important for my child to wear the correct uniform?

A: Uniform is not just about appearance — it sets the tone for learning, promotes equality, and reflects our high standards. When students wear the correct uniform, it encourages pride, focus, and a sense of belonging. It also reduces distractions and creates a calm, professional environment.

Q: How does wearing uniform help with learning?

A: A consistent and correct uniform routine builds discipline and structure. When students feel part of a team and know what's expected of them, they're more likely to concentrate on their studies and take school seriously. Uniform removes peer pressure linked to fashion and allows staff to focus on teaching, not behaviour management.

Q: Can my child wear clothing or shoes with small logos like Nike, The North Face, or Monterrain?

A: No. Clothing or shoes with visible logos — even small or "subtle" ones — are not allowed. All uniform items must be completely plain with no visible branding, slogans, or symbols. This includes shorts and trousers.

Q: What if the item is the correct colour but just has a small branded logo?

A: It's still not allowed. Even if the item is black or fits the colour policy, any visible logo, tick, badge, or emblem breaches the uniform rules. We recommend purchasing plain, non-branded alternatives from approved suppliers or supermarkets.

Q: Can my child wear trainers or boots instead of shoes?

A: No. Only plain black leather-look shoes are allowed. Trainers, boots, canvas shoes, or any other styles are not permitted.

Q: What happens if my child wears incorrect footwear?

A: If a student arrives in non-uniform shoes, they will be required to change into school-issued shoes. Refusal to change will result in time spent in the Impact Unit until compliance is achieved.

Q: Can my child wear makeup?

A: Only discreet, natural makeup is allowed (light foundation, minimal mascara). No heavy or brightly coloured makeup is permitted. Heavy make-up refers to the use of excessive or very noticeable cosmetics, such as bold lipstick, thick foundation, or dramatic eye makeup, which is not appropriate for a school setting.

Q: Are acrylic or false nails allowed?

A: No. Nails must be natural and clean. Acrylic, gel, or false nails of any kind are not permitted.

Q: Can my child bring nail glue or nail products into school?

A: No. Nail products of any kind, including glue, false nails, or polish, are banned from school premises.

Q: What happens if my child refuses to remove their nails or piercings?

A: Refusal will be treated as defiance of school rules. The student will be placed in the Impact Unit until the issue is resolved.

Q: Are piercings allowed at school?

A: Only one pair of small, plain gold or silver stud earrings worn in the ear lobes is allowed. No other piercings are permitted at any time — this includes nose, eyebrow, lip, tongue, or any other visible piercings.

Q: What if my child gets a new piercing over the holidays?

A: All piercings must be removed before returning to school — including any newly done over the break. There is no exemption period to "allow healing." If your child cannot remove the piercing, they will not be allowed into lessons and will be placed in the Impact Unit.

Q: My child says they need to keep their piercing in to prevent it closing. Is this allowed?

A: No. School policy is clear: no visible piercings beyond the allowed studs. Healing or new piercings are not an acceptable reason for exemption. We strongly advise waiting until the start of the 6-week summer holiday if you plan for your child to get a new piercing.

Q: What if my child prefers skirts but rolls them up?

A: Skirts must be worn just above the knee. Rolling skirts is considered defiance. After warnings, a student may be required to wear trousers instead.

Q: What if my child has a religious head covering?

A: Plain hijabs or headscarves in academy colours are permitted and respected as part of our inclusive uniform policy.

Q: What happens if my child comes to school in incorrect uniform?

A: They may be sent home to change, directed to the Standards Room, or placed in the Impact Unit. We may also loan uniform items where possible.

Q: What if I can't get the correct uniform in time?

A: Please contact the school in advance. We may be able to support, but failure to communicate will not exempt students from uniform expectations.

Q: What if my child says "other students aren't following the rules"?

A: The Academy applies policies consistently, but we encourage parents to focus on their own child's compliance. If there are concerns, contact the school directly rather than relying on hearsay.

Q: Why is the school so strict on appearance?

A: Uniform expectations teach discipline, equality, and readiness to learn. High standards in uniform help promote high standards in behaviour and achievement.