

**Uniform and Appearance Policy 2025/6**

**"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 sent home to correct the issue and issued a one-hour detention to make up for missed learning,
* 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: All uniform decisions are made at the discretion of the Headteacher, 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

# Legal and Statutory Considerations for Uniform Policy

**Compliance and Legal Considerations**

This uniform policy is part of the Academy’s wider Behaviour and Attendance Policy. In accordance with Department for Education (DfE) guidance (2024), students may be sent home to correct breaches of the uniform policy where appropriate, provided parents/carers are informed and the absence is treated as authorised. This is not a formal exclusion.

Where a student fails to return promptly after being sent home to address a uniform breach, the continued absence will be recorded as unauthorised. The DfE states:

*“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.”*

**— Department for Education, Behaviour in Schools: Advice for Headteachers and School Staff (2024)**

Aspire Academy is committed to ensuring that its Uniform and Appearance Policy is legally compliant, inclusive, and equitable for all students. The following principles underpin our approach:

**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 Support and Affordability**

This policy aligns with Department for Education (DfE) guidance, which advises schools to minimise uniform costs and support families in financial difficulty to ensure equitable access to education. The Academy operates a Standards Room, where essential uniform items may be provided or loaned on a temporary basis. We keep a stock of both new and second-hand items.

**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 Bill (2025), 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 Guidance on the Cost of School Uniforms (2021)**

* 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.

# 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)**

**Rolling Up Skirts**

* Rolling up skirts to shorten them is not permitted.
* If a skirt is too big for a student, hence the student rolling it up, the Academy will temporarily provide an appropriate fitting skirt.
* This is viewed as a deliberate breach of uniform expectations and will be treated as an act of defiance.
* Students who repeatedly roll their skirts up after being instructed not to will face consequences in line with our Behaviour Policy.
* In cases of repeated defiance, students may be directed to wear trousers instead. This is a permitted and enforceable uniform adjustment.

# 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****

Students are not permitted to wear additional layers such as hoodies, light jackets, tracksuit tops under their school shirts or blazers. 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.

# ****Warm Weather Expectations****

During warm weather, all students are still expected to wear their blazer as part of the compulsory school 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. Only in exceptional circumstances—such as during a hot weather—and when explicitly directed by the Headteacher or members of the SLT students be permitted to remove their blazers throughout the day.

As stated in this policy, the school jumper is an optional item. Students must not wear the school jumper without also wearing the blazer, as the blazer is the compulsory element of the uniform.

**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 only 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

We recognise that cost can sometimes be a barrier. In accordance with statutory guidance:

*“Schools must ensure that uniform policies do not place an unreasonable financial burden on parents.”*  
**— DfE Statutory Guidance (2021)**

*“Schools are expected to provide access to second-hand uniform and reduce reliance on branded items.”***— Children’s Wellbeing and Schools Bill (2025)**

This policy aligns with Department for Education (DfE) guidance, which advises schools to minimise uniform costs and support families in financial difficulty to ensure equitable access to education. The Academy operates a Standards Room, where essential uniform items may be provided or loaned on a temporary basis. We keep a stock of both new and second-hand items.

# 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

**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.
* Decorative hair pieces, such as beads and bows, are not permitted.

**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.

# Expectations for school uniform

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| **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. |

## Boys

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| **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. |

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| **Compulsory PE Items** | **Additional Information** |
| Aspire polo shirt |  |
| Aspire shorts **OR** Aspire tracksuit pants | No black shorts are permitted.  **(Year 8 – 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. |

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| **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

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| **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. |

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| **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. |

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| **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 8-11 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.**

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| **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 |

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| **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.** |

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| **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 |

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| **Facial Piercings** | **Additional Information** |
| **No facial piercings**, 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 |

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

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| **Hair** | **Additional Information** |
| Natural hair colour | No extreme dyed hair or unnatural hair colour. E.g., bright red. |
| Bows, headbands, bobbles, clips or scrunchies | These are acceptable in academy colours. E.g., purple, black or white. |
| 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. |

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| **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

**By enrolling your child at Aspire, 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 at knee length. 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.