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.

- Approved Academy uniform must be worn correctly throughout the school day. On timetabled PE days, pupils must wear the approved Academy PE kit and required outer layer in accordance with the PE-day uniform arrangements. Authorised exceptions and reasonable adjustments will apply where required.
- 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.

Responding to Incorrect or Incomplete Uniform

Where a pupil arrives in incorrect, incomplete or unsuitable uniform, they will normally be referred to the Standards Room. Staff will seek to resolve the concern promptly through correction, suitable loaned uniform, parental contact, additional support or an authorised reasonable adjustment. Pupils will return to Form or lessons as soon as reasonably practicable. An initial missing or incorrect item will not automatically constitute C4 behaviour or result in placement in Impact.

Parents and carers should normally communicate uniform concerns by telephone, email or the Academy's official communication system. A handwritten note does not automatically authorise a uniform exception, but the explanation provided will be considered and verified where appropriate.

Deliberate and sustained refusal to follow a reasonable uniform instruction may be addressed under the Academy's Behaviour Policy, following consideration of the pupil's individual circumstances.

Pupils will not be sent home informally or prevented from attending for disciplinary reasons solely because of incorrect uniform. Any decision to suspend for sufficiently serious associated misconduct may be made only by the Headteacher, or a person formally acting as Headteacher, and must follow the statutory suspension procedure.

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.

Legal and Statutory Framework

This policy has been developed with reference to:

- Education Act 1996, including sections 551A and 551ZA, as amended by the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026.
- Department for Education, *Cost of School Uniforms: Statutory Guidance*, updated 6 July 2026.
- Department for Education, *Developing School Uniform Policy*, updated 8 October 2026.
- Equality Act 2010 and Human Rights Act 1998.
- Department for Education, *Behaviour in Schools*, February 2024.
- Department for Education, *Suspension and Permanent Exclusion*, effective 26 July 2026.

The Academy will implement its uniform expectations fairly and proportionately, taking account of affordability, equality, safeguarding, SEND, medical needs and individual circumstances. This policy must be read alongside the Academy's Behaviour 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;
- wearing the correct shirt, tie and compulsory blazer on normal uniform days; or, on timetabled PE days, wearing the approved Aspire PE kit with the compulsory blazer or optional school-crested Aspire PE quarter-zip, as required by the Academy's PE-day arrangements; 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 set out in this policy and must be read alongside the Academy's Behaviour 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.

Compulsory Branded Uniform and PE Items

Years 7 and 8

The four compulsory branded requirements are:

1. Aspire Academy blazer.
2. Academy purple tie.
3. Aspire Academy PE polo shirt.
4. One approved Aspire Academy PE lower garment.

Only one approved type of PE lower garment is required; pupils are not required to purchase every available style.

Years 9, 10 and 11

The three compulsory branded requirements are:

1. Aspire Academy blazer.
2. Academy purple tie.
3. Aspire Academy PE polo shirt.

Pupils in Years 9–11 may wear the approved Aspire PE lower garments or permitted plain black, unbranded PE bottoms specified in this policy.

Other Uniform Options

The approved Aspire skirt is an option rather than a compulsory branded purchase because plain black tailored school trousers are also permitted.

The Aspire grey V-neck jumper and school-crested PE quarter-zip are optional items and are not compulsory purchases.

The Academy will review the affordability, quality, availability and supply arrangements of its uniform and PE kit and will provide clear information about second-hand uniform and financial support.

Uniform requirements will not be used to prevent pupils from attending school or participating in education because of financial hardship.

The Academy will consider individual variations to uniform requirements and make reasonable adjustments for disabled pupils where required by the Equality Act 2010. It will also consider relevant SEND, medical, sensory, religious, cultural and safeguarding circumstances when implementing this policy.

Parents/carers are encouraged to contact their child's Head of Year as early as possible where an adjustment may be needed. However, an urgent or unforeseen need will not be disregarded simply because an arrangement was not agreed in advance.

Any agreed adjustment will be recorded and communicated to relevant staff as appropriate. Medical evidence may be requested where reasonably necessary but will not automatically be required in every case.

1.Equality and Reasonable Adjustments

Compulsory Branded Uniform and PE Items

In accordance with section 551ZA of the Education Act 1996, as amended by the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026, the Academy will not require any secondary pupil to have more than four compulsory branded uniform and PE items where one of those items is a tie.

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

Uniform concerns will normally be addressed through the Standards Room, including the published weekly escalation procedures. Where a pupil deliberately and persistently refuses to follow a reasonable uniform instruction, this may constitute C4 Uniform or Appearance Defiance under the Academy's Behaviour Policy. The normal published C4 consequence is a same-day detention from 3.00pm to 4.30pm. Where necessary and proportionate, a senior leader may also authorise a supervised, time-limited placement in Impact, with meaningful education continuing.

A missing or incorrect uniform item will not automatically result in C4, removal from lessons or placement in Impact. Relevant individual circumstances and reasonable adjustments will be considered before a consequence is confirmed. These procedures reflect applicable Department for Education behaviour and suspension guidance 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

The Academy operates a Standards Room to support pupils in meeting its published uniform expectations. Staff will seek to resolve uniform concerns promptly, fairly and proportionately, taking account of affordability, SEND, disability, medical needs, safeguarding and other relevant individual circumstances.

Suitable loaned uniform will be offered where available, and pupils will normally return to lessons as soon as reasonably practicable.

- 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.

- Parents/carers should normally communicate uniform concerns through the Academy's official telephone, email or school communication systems.
- A handwritten note from home does not automatically authorise an exception to the Academy's uniform requirements. However, staff will consider the explanation provided, verify the circumstances where appropriate, and take account of relevant medical, SEND, disability, financial, safeguarding or other individual circumstances before determining any consequence.
- Any agreed temporary exception or reasonable adjustment will be recorded and communicated to relevant staff.

Non-Compliance and Consequences

- Where a pupil deliberately and persistently refuses to follow a reasonable uniform instruction, this may constitute C4 Uniform or Appearance Defiance, following appropriate explanation, an opportunity to comply, suitable support and consideration of individual circumstances.
- The pupil will normally receive the published C4 consequence of a same-day detention from 3.00pm to 4.30pm.
- Where necessary and proportionate, an authorised senior leader may also approve a supervised, time-limited placement in Impact, during which meaningful education will continue.
- An initial uniform error, missing item or financial difficulty will not automatically result in C4 or removal from mainstream lessons. Relevant SEND, disability, medical, safeguarding and other individual circumstances, including reasonable adjustments, will be considered before a consequence is confirmed.
- 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, normally a same-day detention from 3.00pm to 4.30pm, in accordance with the Behaviour Escalation Ladder and subject to individual circumstances and reasonable adjustments.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.

Where a pupil's skirt is rolled, folded or deliberately shortened, staff will instruct the pupil to correct it and provide an appropriate opportunity to comply.

Deliberate and sustained refusal to follow this instruction may constitute C4 Uniform or Appearance Defiance, following consideration of the pupil's individual circumstances and any required reasonable adjustments, in accordance with the Academy's Behaviour Policy.

Where a pupil repeatedly rolls, folds or deliberately shortens their skirt despite correction and support, the Academy may consider requiring the pupil to wear approved Academy trousers as an alternative uniform arrangement. This decision will follow discussion with the pupil and their

parent/carer, with relevant medical, SEND, disability, religious and equality considerations taken into account, as detailed in the following section.

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.

Application of Standards Room Consequences

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.

Longer-term patterns will remain recorded and may result in parental contact, additional support, monitoring or intervention.

Before confirming any sanction, staff will consider whether the uniform concern arises from financial hardship, lack of availability, SEND, disability, medical needs, safeguarding concerns or other circumstances outside the pupil's reasonable control.

All consequences will be applied reasonably, fairly and proportionately, with appropriate support and reasonable adjustments made where required. No pupil will receive a disciplinary sanction solely because their family cannot afford the required uniform.

Persistent non-compliance or deliberate refusal will be addressed in accordance with the Academy's Behaviour Policy and published Behaviour Escalation Ladder.

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.

Failure to Return Borrowed Uniform

Where borrowed Academy uniform is not returned at the agreed time, the pupil and parent/carer will be reminded and given an appropriate opportunity to return the item. Staff will consider whether the failure to return uniform is deliberate or results from loss, damage, financial hardship or circumstances outside the pupil's reasonable control.

Where a pupil deliberately and repeatedly fails to follow reasonable instructions about returning Academy property, a proportionate, time-limited consequence may be imposed in accordance with

the Academy's Behaviour Policy. Any supervised lunchtime consequence will be individually authorised and reviewed. Pupils will not automatically lose their lunchtime social privileges each day until the item is returned. The Academy may seek the return or reasonable replacement cost of missing uniform through its normal procedures, taking account of individual family circumstances.

Pupils will retain reasonable access to meals, drinking water, toilets, medication and necessary medical support. Food and essential welfare provision will never be withheld as a sanction.

Footwear Expectations

Students must wear plain black, fully enclosed, polishable school shoes made from leather or a suitable leather-look material. **Plain black Nike Air Force 1s are the Academy's only permitted trainer-style exception.** They must be entirely black, including the soles, laces and visible detailing.

Other trainers, canvas footwear, boots, sandals, mesh footwear, contrasting soles and shoes with excessive branding or decorative features are not permitted under the Academy's standard uniform requirements. Where a pupil arrives wearing incorrect footwear, suitable loaned school shoes will be provided where available. The pupil will normally return to lessons as soon as reasonably practicable. Before determining any consequence, staff will consider financial hardship, footwear availability, medical needs, SEND, disability and other relevant individual circumstances.

Parents/carers should contact the relevant Head of Year where an alternative footwear arrangement may be required. Any agreed exception or reasonable adjustment will be recorded and communicated to relevant staff. An initial footwear concern will not automatically result in C4 or removal to Impact. Deliberate and sustained refusal to follow a reasonable instruction will be addressed in accordance with the Academy's Behaviour Policy.

Additional Layers

Coats, hoodies, jackets and other outdoor clothing must be removed when pupils enter the Academy building, unless an authorised exception or reasonable adjustment applies.

A plain white/black, non-visible base layer may be worn underneath approved Academy uniform. The optional Aspire grey V-neck jumper, featuring the Academy's distinctive coloured trim, may be worn underneath the compulsory Academy blazer.

On timetabled PE days, pupils may wear the optional school-crested Aspire PE quarter-zip over their approved PE kit. Pupils who do not have the Aspire PE quarter-zip must wear their compulsory Academy blazer over their approved PE kit when arriving at school and moving around the Academy.

Unauthorised hoodies, jumpers, tracksuit tops and outdoor garments are not permitted as substitutes for the compulsory Academy blazer or approved Aspire PE quarter-zip.

Initial concerns will normally be addressed through correction and an opportunity to comply. Deliberate and sustained refusal will be managed in accordance with the Academy's Behaviour Policy, taking account of individual circumstances and reasonable adjustments.

Warm Weather Expectations

The Academy blazer remains compulsory under normal uniform arrangements, except where the approved Aspire PE quarter-zip is worn in accordance with the Academy's PE-day requirements.

During classroom lessons, students may remove their blazer with their teacher's permission. Blazers must normally be worn during transitions and in other Academy areas, subject to the approved PE-day arrangements and any authorised exceptions.

During periods of exceptional heat, the Headteacher may temporarily adjust the Academy's uniform requirements. This may include authorising students to attend in full approved Academy PE kit instead of their normal school uniform.

The Headteacher or a member of the Senior Leadership Team may also authorise the removal of blazers throughout the school day where appropriate.

Any whole-school adjustment will be communicated clearly to students, parents/carers and staff and will apply only for the specified period.

Individual medical, SEND, disability-related or sensory adjustments will be considered and implemented where required.

The optional Aspire grey V-neck jumper must not be worn as a replacement for the compulsory Academy blazer.

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 check the following expectations, as applicable to the pupil's timetable and any authorised individual adjustments:

- Compulsory Academy blazer on normal uniform days, or the approved Aspire PE quarter-zip or blazer arrangement on timetabled PE days.
- Academy purple tie, worn correctly on normal uniform days.
- Approved Aspire skirt or plain black tailored school trousers on normal uniform days; approved Aspire PE bottoms on timetabled PE days.
- Skirts must be of an appropriate length.
- Pupils wearing the Aspire skirt must wear plain black tights of at least 70 denier
- On normal uniform days, plain black, fully enclosed, polishable school shoes are required, subject to the permitted Air Force 1 exception. On PE days, pupils must wear appropriate approved sports footwear.
- 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:
  Hair must meet the Academy's published appearance requirements, including the provisions for protective and culturally significant hairstyles.
- No unnatural hair colours.
- A suitable school bag containing essential equipment for the day.

Where a pupil does not meet the Academy's published uniform or appearance requirements, staff will explain the concern and direct the pupil to the Standards Room where appropriate. The Academy will seek to resolve the issue promptly through correction, suitable loaned uniform, parental contact, additional support or an agreed reasonable adjustment.

Pupils will normally return to Form or lessons as soon as reasonably practicable. They will not be refused admission or informally sent home for disciplinary reasons solely because of a uniform concern. Any consequence, including C4 Uniform or Appearance Defiance or a supervised, time-limited placement in Impact, will be determined in accordance with the Academy's Behaviour Policy.

Relevant medical, SEND, disability, religious, safeguarding and financial circumstances will be considered before a consequence is confirmed. Reasonable adjustments will be made where required and will not be dependent solely on a formal request having been submitted in advance.

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.

Deliberate and sustained refusal to comply with reasonable uniform instructions will be managed in accordance with the Deliberate Uniform Defiance section of this policy and the Academy's published Behaviour Escalation Ladder.

Financial Support

Aspire Academy is committed to ensuring that uniform costs do not prevent pupils from attending school, accessing education or participating fully in Academy activities.

The Academy recognises that families may experience financial difficulties or unexpected circumstances that affect their ability to provide the required uniform.

Support may include:

- Temporary loaned uniform through the Standards Room.
- Donated or second-hand uniform.
- Access to available hardship support.
- An agreed temporary uniform arrangement where appropriate.

Parents and carers experiencing difficulty obtaining uniform should contact their child's Head of Year or telephone the main Academy office and ask to speak with Jennifer Markham, Lead Caseworker, to discuss available support confidentially.

The Academy will consider financial hardship, the availability of uniform and individual family circumstances before determining any consequence. Pupils will not receive a disciplinary sanction solely because their family cannot afford the required uniform.

Information about approved uniform suppliers, how to obtain second-hand uniform and available financial support will be published on the Academy website and made accessible through the school office to current and prospective families.

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 seeking a uniform adaptation or reasonable adjustment should contact their child's Head of Year in the first instance. Requests will be considered individually and referred to the SENDCo or Mr Woods where necessary.

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.

The following requirements set out the Academy's normal expectations for jewellery, piercings and personal accessories. They will be applied consistently and proportionately, with any necessary medical, disability-related, religious or other lawful exceptions and reasonable adjustments considered individually.

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
- Smartwatches are not permitted to be worn during the Academy day. At morning line-up, they must be switched off and stored securely inside the pupil's school bag in accordance with the Academy's Out, Off and Away routine. They must remain switched off and away until the pupil leaves the Academy site through the designated exit point, unless an authorised exception applies.
- No large or decorative earrings (hoops, dangly, coloured, or novelty styles are not allowed)

Responding to Non-Permitted Jewellery and Piercings

Where a pupil is wearing jewellery or a piercing that does not meet the Academy's requirements, staff will explain the concern and provide an appropriate opportunity to comply.

- Non-permitted items may be confiscated in accordance with the Academy's Behaviour Policy and confiscation procedures. Arrangements for their return will follow the relevant published procedures.
- An initial uniform or appearance concern will not automatically constitute C4 behaviour or result in removal to Impact.

- Deliberate and sustained refusal to follow a reasonable instruction may constitute C4 Uniform or Appearance Defiance, following appropriate explanation, an opportunity to comply and consideration of individual circumstances and reasonable adjustments.
- Where removal of an item raises a genuine medical, safeguarding or other relevant concern, staff will refer the matter to the appropriate senior leader for individual consideration.
- Parents/carers are advised to arrange elective piercings sufficiently in advance of term time so that prohibited jewellery can be removed safely before returning to the Academy.
- A newly fitted or healing piercing does not automatically authorise an exemption from the Academy's uniform requirements. Clear or plastic piercing retainers are not permitted under the normal uniform requirements. Any necessary medical, disability-related, religious or other lawful exception will be considered individually.
- Where removal raises a genuine medical, safeguarding or other relevant concern, the Academy will consider the circumstances individually and agree an appropriate arrangement where required

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.

Fake Tan

The use of fake tan is discouraged. Where applied, it must be discreet and consistent with the Academy's expectations for a natural and appropriate school appearance.

Where a pupil's appearance does not meet these expectations, staff will explain the concern calmly and provide a reasonable opportunity for the pupil to address it appropriately.

An initial concern will not automatically result in a high-level behaviour sanction or removal to Impact.

Deliberate and sustained refusal to follow a reasonable instruction may be addressed under the Academy's Behaviour Policy, following consideration of individual circumstances and any required reasonable adjustments.

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 Accessories and Religious Head Coverings

Aspire Academy expects pupils to maintain neat, appropriate hairstyles that reflect the Academy's high standards of personal presentation.

Hair Colour and Styles

Hair must be appropriately maintained. Unnatural dyed hair colours, such as bright pink, blue, green or artificially bright red, are not permitted under the Academy's standard appearance requirements.

Deliberately decorative shaved patterns or designs are not permitted.

Natural, textured, protective and culturally significant hairstyles, including braids, twists, locs and appropriate beaded protective styles, are permitted.

The Academy will not discriminate against pupils because of their natural hair texture or hairstyles associated with race, ethnicity, religion or other protected characteristics.

Hair Accessories

Small, simple hair accessories in Academy colours (purple, black or white) are permitted. These include plain bobbles, clips, headbands and scrunchies.

Large decorative bows, oversized headbands and non-essential fashion hair accessories are not permitted under the standard requirements.

Appropriate beads or accessories forming part of protective or culturally significant hairstyles are permitted, subject to relevant safety considerations.

Health and Safety

Long hair must be tied back or otherwise secured where necessary for safety during PE, science and other practical lessons.

Any individual adjustments needed for medical, SEND, disability-related, religious or cultural reasons will be considered appropriately.

Religious Head Coverings

Religious head coverings, including hijabs, turbans and other appropriate coverings, are permitted.

The Academy's standard colours for hijabs and headscarves are plain purple, black or white.

Requests for alternative colours, fabrics or arrangements will be considered individually, taking account of religious requirements, equality duties, safety and individual circumstances.

Application of Expectations

Where a pupil does not meet the Academy's appearance expectations, staff will explain the concern and provide an appropriate opportunity to address it.

An initial concern will not automatically result in C4 or removal to Impact. Deliberate and sustained refusal to follow a reasonable instruction may be addressed under the Academy's Behaviour Policy, following consideration of relevant individual circumstances.

Glasses and Accessories

- Fashion glasses with non-prescription lenses 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.

PE Kit Requirements and Optional Outer Layers

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.

Compulsory PE Kit

Students must wear the Aspire Academy PE polo shirt and one approved PE lower garment, according to their year group.

- **Years 7 and 8:** Students must have one approved Aspire-branded PE lower garment, selected from the Academy's permitted PE shorts, tracksuit bottoms or leggings.
- **Years 9, 10 and 11:** Students may wear approved Aspire PE bottoms or permitted plain black, unbranded tracksuit bottoms, jogging bottoms or appropriate sports leggings, as specified in the uniform tables.

Students are not required to purchase every available PE lower-garment style.

Optional Aspire PE Quarter-Zip

The school-crested Aspire Academy PE quarter-zip is an optional item and is not a compulsory purchase.

Students who choose to wear the approved Aspire PE quarter-zip may wear it over their PE kit when arriving at school and moving around the Academy on timetabled PE days.

Students who do not have the Aspire PE quarter-zip must wear their compulsory Academy blazer over their approved PE kit when arriving at school and moving around the Academy.

Plain unbranded quarter-zips, hoodies and alternative sports tops are not included in the Academy's standard approved PE uniform.

No student is required to purchase an additional PE outer layer.

Additional PE Equipment and Support

Appropriate sports footwear and activity-specific safety equipment may be required where necessary for safe participation in PE lessons.

Additional Aspire-branded sports accessories are not compulsory purchases.

Where students do not have the correct PE kit, suitable loaned items will be offered where available. Financial hardship, medical needs, SEND, disability and other relevant individual circumstances will be considered before determining any consequence.

Authorised reasonable adjustments will be respected.

Expectations for school uniform

The following tables set out the Academy's compulsory and optional uniform requirements for 2026/27. All approved uniform and PE kit options are available to pupils regardless of sex or gender identity. Where pupils have a choice of approved garments, they are only required to purchase one suitable option, not every available style. The Academy is phasing in compulsory Aspire-branded PE bottoms by year group. The requirements for each academic year are explained below. Items described as optional are not compulsory purchases.

Trousers Uniform Option

***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 - **plain black Air Force 1s are the sole permitted trainer-style exception.** 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 optional Aspire grey V-neck jumper features distinctive Academy-coloured trim around the neckline but does not have an Academy badge. It must be worn underneath the compulsory Academy blazer and must not replace it. Plain grey jumpers and other non-Aspire jumpers are not part of the Academy's approved uniform. **Purchase of the Aspire jumper is not compulsory.**
Outdoor coat	A suitable outdoor coat in a plain, dark colour may be worn when travelling to and from the Academy and when outdoors. Denim jackets, leather or leather-look fashion jackets, hoodies and unauthorised sports tops are not permitted as substitutes for the Academy blazer. Outdoor coats must be removed when pupils enter the Academy building unless an authorised exception or reasonable adjustment applies.

Compulsory PE Items	Additional Information
Aspire polo shirt	
Aspire shorts OR Aspire tracksuit pants	**PE Bottoms – 2026/27 Requirements** **Years 7 and 8:** Pupils must wear one approved Aspire-branded PE lower garment. Approved options are Aspire PE shorts, Aspire PE tracksuit bottoms or Aspire PE leggings. **Years 9, 10 and 11:** Pupils may wear approved Aspire PE shorts, tracksuit bottoms or leggings. During the phased introduction, plain black unbranded jogging bottoms, tracksuit bottoms or fully opaque sports leggings remain permitted.

	Permitted unbranded PE bottoms must be entirely black, without prominent logos, cargo pockets, mesh panels, transparent sections or flared designs. **Plain black unbranded shorts, skorts and cycling shorts are not permitted.** Pupils are required to have only one approved PE lower garment, not every available style. Where a pupil has incorrect PE kit, suitable loaned items will be offered where available. Any consequence will follow the Academy's Behaviour Policy, with relevant individual circumstances and reasonable adjustments considered.

Optional PE Items	**Additional Information**
Aspire School-Crested PE Quarter-Zip (Optional)	The school-crested Aspire PE quarter-zip is optional and is not a compulsory purchase. Pupils who have the approved Aspire PE quarter-zip may wear it over their PE kit when arriving at school and moving around the Academy on timetabled PE days. Pupils who do not have the Aspire PE quarter-zip must wear their compulsory Academy blazer over their approved PE kit when arriving at school and moving around the Academy. Plain unbranded quarter-zips, hoodies and alternative sports tops are not permitted under the Academy's standard PE uniform requirements. No pupil is required to purchase an additional PE outer layer. Authorised reasonable adjustments will apply where required.
Football boots/shin pads	
Aspire football socks	

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 - **plain black Air Force 1s are the sole permitted trainer-style exception.** No canvas trainers, boots or contrasting soles. See Wynsors approved style list.
Black tights	Pupils wearing the approved Aspire skirt must wear plain black tights of at least 70 denier. Tights are not compulsory when wearing approved plain black tailored school trousers. Visible socks must not be worn over tights. Any necessary medical, sensory or disability-related adjustment will be considered individually.
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.

Skirt or Trousers Uniform

***All branded items are in bold**

Optional Uniform Items	Additional Information
Aspire V-neck grey jumper	The optional Aspire grey V-neck jumper features distinctive Academy-coloured trim around the neckline but does not have an Academy badge. It must be worn underneath the compulsory Academy blazer and must not replace it. Plain grey jumpers and other non-Aspire jumpers are not part of the Academy's approved uniform. **Purchase of the Aspire jumper is not compulsory.**
Outdoor coat	A suitable outdoor coat in a plain, dark colour may be worn when travelling to and from the Academy and when outdoors.

	Denim jackets, leather or leather-look fashion jackets, hoodies and unauthorised sports tops are not permitted as substitutes for the Academy blazer. Outdoor coats must be removed when pupils enter the Academy building unless an authorised exception or reasonable adjustment applies.
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.	**PE Bottoms – 2026/27 Requirements** **Years 7 and 8:** Pupils must wear one approved Aspire-branded PE lower garment. Approved options are Aspire PE shorts, Aspire PE tracksuit bottoms or Aspire PE leggings. **Years 9, 10 and 11:** Pupils may wear approved Aspire PE shorts, tracksuit bottoms or leggings. During the phased introduction, plain black unbranded jogging bottoms, tracksuit bottoms or fully opaque sports leggings remain permitted. Permitted unbranded PE bottoms must be entirely black, without prominent logos, cargo pockets, mesh panels, transparent sections or flared designs. **Plain black unbranded shorts, skorts and cycling shorts are not permitted.** Pupils are required to have only one approved PE lower garment, not every available style. Where a pupil has incorrect PE kit, suitable loaned items will be offered where available. Any consequence will follow the Academy's Behaviour Policy, with relevant individual circumstances and reasonable adjustments considered.

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

Optional PE Items	**Additional Information**
Aspire School-Crested PE Quarter-Zip (Optional)	The school-crested Aspire PE quarter-zip is optional and is not a compulsory purchase. Pupils who have the approved Aspire PE quarter-zip may wear it over their PE kit when arriving at school and moving around the Academy on timetabled PE days.

	Pupils who do not have the Aspire PE quarter-zip must wear their compulsory Academy blazer over their approved PE kit when arriving at school and moving around the Academy. Plain unbranded quarter-zips, hoodies and alternative sports tops are not permitted under the Academy's standard PE uniform requirements. No pupil is required to purchase an additional PE outer layer. Authorised reasonable adjustments will apply where required.
Football boots/shin pads	
Aspire football socks	

Phased Introduction of Compulsory Aspire PE Kit

The Academy began introducing compulsory Aspire-branded PE bottoms with the Year 7 cohort in September 2025. The requirement will extend progressively through the year groups.

2026/27 – Current Requirements

Years 7 and 8 must wear the approved Aspire PE polo shirt and one approved Aspire-branded PE lower garment.

Years 9, 10 and 11 must wear the approved Aspire PE polo shirt but may continue to wear permitted plain black unbranded PE bottoms during the transition.

Planned Future Rollout

- **2027/28:** Compulsory Aspire PE bottoms for Years 7–9.
- **2028/29:** Compulsory Aspire PE bottoms for Years 7–10.
- **2029/30:** Compulsory Aspire PE bottoms for Years 7–11.

The Academy will communicate changes in advance and review affordability, availability and appropriate support before each stage. Pupils need only one approved PE lower garment. The Aspire school-crested PE quarter-zip remains optional.

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	Smartwatches must not be worn during the Academy day. At morning line-up, they must be switched off and stored securely

	inside the pupil's school bag in accordance with the Academy's Out, Off and Away routine. They must remain switched off and away until the pupil leaves the Academy site through the designated pupil exit, unless an authorised exception applies.
	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.**
Fake tan is discouraged. Where applied, it must be discreet and consistent with the Academy's expectations for a natural and appropriate school appearance.	Where makeup or fake tan does not meet Academy expectations, staff will explain the concern and provide a reasonable opportunity for the pupil to correct it. An initial concern will not automatically result in C4 or removal to Impact. Deliberate and sustained refusal to follow a reasonable instruction may be addressed under the Behaviour Policy, following consideration of individual circumstances and reasonable adjustments.

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
Not permitted under the Academy's normal uniform requirements.	Nose, eyebrow, lip, septum, tongue and other facial piercings are not permitted under the standard requirements. Clear or plastic retainers are also not permitted. A newly fitted or healing piercing does not automatically authorise an exemption. Where removal raises a genuine medical, disability-related, religious, safeguarding or other relevant concern, the Academy will consider an individual arrangement and record any agreed exception. Non-compliance will be addressed in accordance with the Academy's Behaviour Policy. C4 or Impact will not be imposed automatically for an initial concern.

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.

The Academy respects and permits natural, textured, protective and culturally significant hairstyles, including braids, twists, locs and appropriate beaded protective styles.

Pupils will not be disadvantaged because of their natural hair texture or hairstyles associated with protected characteristics, including race, ethnicity or religion.

Any specific safety requirements during practical lessons will be addressed through suitable arrangements or reasonable adjustments where required.

Accessories	Additional Information
Fashion Glasses	Fashion glasses with non-prescription lenses are not permitted under the Academy's standard appearance requirements. Any necessary medical or disability-related adjustment will be considered individually.
Sensible non-drip water bottles only.	The bottle must fit into the school bag.

Policy Rationale and Statutory Responsibilities

Aspire Academy's Uniform and Appearance Policy supports our Golden Culture and the Academy's core expectations: Be Ready, Be Respectful and Be Safe.

High standards of uniform and personal presentation promote pride, belonging, equality and a purposeful learning environment. Clear and consistent expectations help pupils arrive prepared and ready to learn.

The Academy recognises its responsibilities under the Education Act 1996, as amended, the Equality Act 2010, the Human Rights Act 1998 and relevant Department for Education guidance.

Uniform requirements will be reviewed to ensure they remain clear, affordable, proportionate and inclusive. The Academy will consider the cost and availability of uniform, the views of parents and pupils, and the need for individual adaptations and reasonable adjustments.

Uniform concerns will be addressed fairly and consistently in accordance with the Academy's Behaviour Policy. An initial uniform error will not automatically result in a high-level sanction. Deliberate and sustained refusal to follow reasonable instructions may result in consequences under the published Behaviour Escalation Ladder.

Our aim is to maintain high standards of appearance while ensuring that uniform requirements do not create unreasonable barriers to attendance, participation or learning.

Working in Partnership with Parents and Carers

At Aspire Academy, maintaining high standards of uniform and personal presentation is a shared responsibility between the Academy, pupils and parents/carers. These expectations are central to our Golden Culture and our principles of Be Ready, Be Respectful and Be Safe.

Parent and Carer Responsibilities

Parents and carers are expected to ensure their child attends school wearing the correct Academy uniform or approved PE kit, supports the Academy's published expectations and communicates promptly where difficulties arise.

We expect parents and carers to work constructively with staff, reinforce expectations at home and support appropriate interventions where concerns persist.

The Academy's Commitment

The Academy will communicate expectations clearly, apply its Uniform and Behaviour Policies consistently and respond to concerns fairly and proportionately.

Where pupils experience difficulties meeting uniform requirements, the Academy will consider financial hardship, SEND, disability, medical needs, religious requirements and other relevant

individual circumstances. Appropriate support and reasonable adjustments will be provided where required.

The Academy will seek to resolve uniform concerns promptly, minimise disruption to learning and maintain high standards without creating unnecessary barriers to attendance or participation.

Resolving Concerns

Parents/carers wishing to discuss a uniform decision or request an adjustment should contact their child's Head of Year in the first instance. Unresolved concerns may be raised through the Academy's published Complaints Policy.

By working together, we can maintain the high standards of presentation, pride and readiness for learning expected of every Aspire pupil.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. Why does Aspire Academy have high uniform expectations?

Our uniform reflects Aspire Academy's Golden Culture and our principles of **Be Ready, Be Respectful and Be Safe**. Consistent standards promote pride, belonging and readiness for learning.

2. What uniform must my child wear?

Students must wear the approved Academy uniform or, on timetabled PE days, the approved Academy PE kit. Full requirements are provided in the uniform tables within this policy. Authorised adjustments will apply where required.

3. Can my child wear trainers?

Plain black Nike Air Force 1s are the only permitted trainer-style exception to our normal school footwear requirements. They must be completely black, including the sole and laces. Otherwise, students must wear plain black, fully enclosed, polishable school shoes. Other trainers, boots, canvas footwear and contrasting soles are not permitted under the standard requirements. Appropriate sports footwear is permitted for PE activities.

4. What happens if my child arrives wearing incorrect footwear?

Students will normally be directed to the Standards Room, where suitable loaned footwear will be offered if available. An initial footwear concern does not automatically result in C4 or removal to Impact. Deliberate and sustained refusal to follow a reasonable instruction may lead to consequences under the Behaviour Policy.

5. Can my child wear a skirt or trousers?

Students may choose the approved Aspire skirt or plain black tailored school trousers, regardless of sex or gender identity. Skirts must be worn just above the knee and must not be rolled or deliberately shortened. Students wearing skirts must also wear plain black tights of at least 70 denier.

6. What happens if my child repeatedly rolls up their skirt?

Staff will initially instruct the student to correct their skirt and provide an opportunity to comply. Deliberate and sustained refusal may constitute C4 Uniform or Appearance Defiance under the Behaviour Policy. Where a student repeatedly rolls or alters their skirt despite correction and support, the Academy may consider requiring approved trousers as an alternative arrangement. This will follow discussion with the student and parent/carer and consideration of relevant individual circumstances.

7. Is the Aspire grey V-neck jumper compulsory?

No. The Aspire grey V-neck jumper with Academy-coloured trim is optional. Students who choose to wear it must wear their compulsory Academy blazer over it. Plain grey or other non-Aspire jumpers are not part of the Academy's approved uniform.

8. What PE kit must my child wear in 2026/27?

All students must wear the Aspire PE polo shirt and one approved PE lower garment.

Years 7 and 8: One approved Aspire-branded PE lower garment is compulsory. Options include Aspire PE shorts, tracksuit bottoms or leggings.

Years 9, 10 and 11: Students may wear approved Aspire PE bottoms or permitted plain black, unbranded jogging bottoms, tracksuit bottoms or fully opaque sports leggings during the phased introduction.

Plain black unbranded shorts, skorts and cycling shorts are not permitted.

9. Is the Academy introducing compulsory Aspire PE bottoms to all year groups?

Yes. This is being introduced progressively.

- **2026/27:** Years 7–8.
- **2027/28:** Years 7–9.
- **2028/29:** Years 7–10.
- **2029/30:** Years 7–11.

Parents/carers will be informed of changes in advance. Students are only required to have one approved PE lower garment, not every available style.

10. Is the Aspire PE quarter-zip compulsory?

No. The school-crested Aspire PE quarter-zip is optional. Students who do not have the quarter-zip must wear their compulsory Academy blazer over their approved PE kit when arriving at school and moving around the Academy on timetabled PE days. Plain unbranded quarter-zips, hoodies and other alternative sports tops are not part of the approved standard uniform.

11. Can my child wear makeup, false eyelashes or artificial nails?

Discreet, natural-looking makeup is permitted. False eyelashes, acrylic nails, gel nails, press-on nails and nail polish are not permitted under the Academy's standard appearance requirements. Fake tan is discouraged and, where applied, must be discreet and consistent with the Academy's expectations.

12. What jewellery and piercings are permitted?

Students may normally wear one pair of small, plain gold- or silver-coloured stud earrings in the ear lobes and an ordinary wristwatch. Facial piercings, additional piercings, necklaces, bracelets and rings are not permitted under the standard requirements. Smartwatches must not be worn during the Academy day and must follow the Academy's Mobile Phones and Devices Policy. Any necessary medical, disability-related, religious or other lawful exception will be considered individually.

13. What happens if my child has a newly fitted piercing?

A new or healing piercing does not automatically authorise an exemption. Parents/carers are advised to arrange elective piercings sufficiently in advance of term time. Where removal raises a genuine medical, safeguarding or other relevant concern, the Academy will consider the circumstances individually.

14. Are religious head coverings and protective hairstyles permitted?

Yes. The Academy respects religious and cultural requirements. Plain purple, black or white hijabs and headscarves are permitted under the standard requirements. Natural, textured, protective and culturally significant hairstyles, including braids, twists, locs and appropriate beaded protective styles, are permitted. Requests for necessary adaptations or reasonable adjustments will be considered individually.

15. What happens if my child arrives without the correct uniform?

Students will normally attend the Standards Room, where staff will seek to resolve the concern promptly through correction, loaned uniform, parental contact or appropriate support. For repeated Standards Room visits within one school week, the normal escalation is:

- **First visit:** Uniform issued where available; reminder and recording.
- **Second visit:** 20-minute lunchtime detention.
- **Third visit:** Same-day detention from 3.00pm to 3.45pm.
- **Further visits:** Head of Year or Behaviour Team review, parental contact and appropriate further support or intervention. Individual circumstances and reasonable adjustments will be considered before a consequence is confirmed.

16. Will my child automatically be placed in Impact for incorrect uniform?

No. An initial uniform error or missing item will not automatically result in removal to Impact. Deliberate and sustained refusal to follow a reasonable uniform instruction may constitute C4 Uniform or Appearance Defiance. The normal C4 consequence is a same-day detention from 3.00pm to 4.30pm. A supervised, time-limited Impact placement may also be authorised where necessary and proportionate, in accordance with the Behaviour Policy.

17. Can my child be sent home for incorrect uniform?

Students will not be sent home informally or prevented from attending for disciplinary reasons solely because of incorrect uniform. The Academy will seek to resolve concerns on site. Any formal suspension for sufficiently serious associated misconduct must be authorised by the Headteacher, or a person formally acting as Headteacher, and follow statutory procedures.

18. What if I cannot afford or obtain the correct uniform?

Parents/carers should contact their child's Head of Year or the Academy office as soon as possible.

Support may include temporary loaned uniform, second-hand items, available hardship support or an agreed short-term arrangement. The Academy will consider financial hardship and circumstances outside a student's reasonable control. No student will receive a disciplinary sanction solely because their family cannot afford the required uniform.

19. Can my child receive a uniform adjustment because of SEND, disability, medical or religious needs?

Yes. The Academy will consider individual circumstances and make reasonable adjustments where required. Parents/carers should contact their child's Head of Year to discuss the concern. Urgent or unforeseen needs will also be considered without requiring a request to have been submitted in advance.

20. Who should I contact if I disagree with a uniform decision?

Parents/carers should contact their child's Head of Year in the first instance. If the concern remains unresolved, it may be raised through the Academy's published Complaints Policy.