



DURHAM JOHNSTON
COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL
DARE TO BE WISE

Uniform Policy and Uniform Guidance

Last reviewed:	February 2026
Next review due by:	July 2027





Uniform Policy and Uniform Guidance

Summary:

Uniform is integral to the standards that we set and we expect every single one of our young people to be correctly dressed at all times whilst at school. It is really important to us as we are a genuinely comprehensive school. Uniform helps children from very different backgrounds to mix effectively together and to have a sense of a shared culture and ethos. Our uniform is also practical, and reasonably cheap.

Parents should note pupils are not allowed to wear ANY jewellery, nor do we allow recently-pierced ears to be covered by plasters. No young person below sixth form age may wear earrings or jewellery of any sort. Earrings and any other visible piercings must be taken out. The wearing of false nails or eyelashes is not permitted. It is important to share this with all parents or carer.

We ask that all uniform and PE kit is labelled with students' name. It is the very nature of uniform that it all looks the same, so it really does need to be named. Each year a significant amount of expensive clothing is left at school.

Our rules are fair and we would ask you to fully support them. If the school and parents work closely together and support each other, then issues of behaviour and uniform are often addressed very quickly.

The policy applies to all students and involves staff, and parents and carers working together to maintain high standards, supported by the Governing Body.

Approved by:	Governors (Full Governing Body or Pupil and Staff Wellbeing sub-committee) Leadership Group Teaching Unions
Related policies:	Behaviour Policy
Staff with responsibility for this policy area	Deputy Head (Pastoral and Behaviour) Senior Leadership Team Year Leaders

Document Control

Date	Changes
July 2026	Addition of mobile phone pouch to uniform policy



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School Uniform Policy

Aims

This policy aims to:

- Support the ethos and values of the school by explaining the principles on which our school uniform is based
- Provide clear guidelines for students and parents on our school uniform
- Outline the measures we will take to promote consistency in the wearing of school uniform by pupils in years 7-13.

Relevant publications

This policy takes account of the Sex Discrimination Act (1975), the Human Rights Act (1988) and the Race Relations Act (1976). It should be read in conjunction with our Home School Partnership Agreement and the school's SEND and Inclusion and Behaviour policies.

1. Ethos and values

Durham Johnston's ethos is based upon a belief in the importance of social justice. A child's personal circumstances should not be reflected in their school uniform. When students cross our threshold each morning, they are treated equally, and uniform is very important in helping to generate a sense of equality and community. Items of our school uniform are also available from a variety of suppliers so as to reduce cost.



It is very important that parents, carers, and students support our uniform policy as this reflects a commitment to the school and its ethos. The uniform is not open to personal interpretation and, when buying school uniform, please refer to this document only. If you have any questions, please contact the school.

2. Guidelines for pupils and families/carers

It is our school policy that all students in Years 7-13 wear school uniform when attending school, or when participating in a school-organised event outside normal school hours. High standards of dress are required at all times, reinforcing the standards of appearance and behaviour that are needed to meet and maintain high expectations. A separate document "Uniform Guidance", is shown on our website and details our expectations and rules regarding our uniform. We have included the guidance at the end of this policy.

Our uniform is deliberately non-branded and can be purchased at a variety of shops, including supermarkets. We do not sell second hand uniform, but we do have some limited stock available. Students or their families can make enquiries with Form Tutors or their pastoral team, confidentially, about short- or longer-term loan of uniform.

A mobile phone pouch has been added as an item to the school uniform policy and is compulsory for all students who bring a mobile phone (or other smart devices) on site. This is our only branded item. The 'ESPO Smartphone Locking Pouch with Window (305294)' must be purchased via [ParentPay](#).

<https://durhamjohnston.org.uk/pastoral/uniform>

There are a number of health and safety issues that sometimes get confused with uniform requirements. It is important that all parents and carers are aware that students in year 7-11 cannot wear any jewellery at any point during the school day. This includes retainers to keep piercings open. False nails and eyelashes are not allowed. Smart watches must not be worn in school.

3. Ensuring consistency with regard to wearing the uniform

We expect all students to comply with our school uniform policy. Students and parents are asked to sign our Home School Agreement which outlines their responsibilities as follows:

The Role of Students

Students should wear the correct school uniform when attending school, representing the school, or when participating in a school-organised event outside normal school hours. Students will remember to bring PE kit on the correct days.

The Role of Parents/Carers

All parents and carers who send their children to our school should support the school uniform policy. We believe that parents have a duty to send their children to school correctly dressed



and ready for their daily school work. One of the responsibilities of parents is to ensure that their child has the correct uniform, and that it is clean and in good repair.

The Role of the School

All staff are responsible for maintaining high standards of uniform in school. They will make discreet and sympathetic enquiries should any students fail to wear the correct uniform. Should they be concerned about the uniform of any student, they may raise concerns at home. Some concerns may be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead and pastoral team. We offer support to pupils to ensure that they are not disadvantaged with regard to school uniform. Staff will also give positive encouragement to students setting good examples of dress. If there is an issue with incorrect uniform, staff will employ appropriate sanctions until the matter is resolved.

The school may deal with non-compliance in the following ways:

- If appropriate, staff may suggest that a student go home to change if they have arrived at school dressed incorrectly. This will be treated as a temporary absence whilst the pupil is given reasonable time to change into correct uniform. Parental consent and support would be sought and logistical arrangements made before moving forward in such an instance.
- Ask the student to wear items of uniform or PE kit provided by the school. Failure to do so will result in appropriate and reasonable sanctions (see the Behaviour Policy)
- Place the student into our Lydia Support Centre for a brief period of time until the matter has been resolved. The matter could be resolved by the parent bringing in the correct item of clothing.

In extreme and/or persistent cases of non-compliance, the Headteacher has the right to issue a fixed-term or permanent suspension.

The Role of the Governing Body

The Governing body is responsible for decisions about school uniform and will review the policy each year. They will hold the Headteacher to account for implementing the policy. The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring that this policy is adhered to, and for:

- Monitoring standards of uniform
- Ensuring appropriate systems are in place to address issues of noncompliance.
- Reporting to Governors on key issues relating to uniform and making recommendations if any change in the uniform or policy is deemed necessary.





4. Uniform Guidance

MUST WEAR	DON'T WEAR
A black blazer with the Durham Johnston badge on the top pocket must be worn by all students (available from Parkins)	
Students must then choose from the following:	
✓ Black formal style trousers - straight leg or bootcut style only ✓ Trousers must be full length, and the hem should rest on the top of the shoes. OR ✓ Black straight, A-line or pleated skirt. Skirts should be of reasonable length and worn <u>no shorter than 3 inches above the knee.</u>	× Jeans, jeans style or casual trousers, leggings, jeggings or trousers made from stretch lycra or jersey fabric, or trousers which fit tightly on the ankle × Tight skirts made from stretch lycra or jersey type fabric.
AND	
✓ White shirt (short or long sleeved) worn with a Durham Johnston school tie (available from Parkins) OR ✓ White formal blouse with gold embroidered revere collar (available from Parkins)	× Open necked or polo type shirts
AND	
✓ Plain black footwear	× High heeled boots or shoes or Ugg style boots.
AND	
✓ Plain, un-patterned, black opaque tights (<u>minimum of 40 denier</u>) / plain, un-patterned black socks	× Patterned tights or tights which are torn or laddered × White socks
Optional	
✓ Plain black belt ✓ Plain grey V-necked pullover or cardigan – no logos ✓ Please ensure that head coverings worn for religious purposes are plain black or white N.B: If bringing a mobile phone into school, the 'ESPO Smartphone Locking Pouch with Window (305294)' must be purchased via ParentPay.	× Sweatshirts or hoodies



Uniform for Pupils in Years 7-11

Why is uniform important? Why do we have a particular uniform?

Durham Johnston's ethos is based upon a belief in the importance of social justice. A child's personal circumstances should not be reflected in their school uniform. When students cross our threshold each morning, they are treated equally, and uniform is very important in helping to generate a sense of equality and community. Items of our school uniform are also available from a variety of suppliers so as to reduce cost.

Why is it so important that parents, carers and students support our uniform policy?

It is very important that parents, carers, and students support our uniform policy as this reflects a commitment to the school and its ethos. The uniform is not open to personal interpretation and, when buying school uniform, please refer to this document only. If you have any questions, please contact the school.

What is the uniform? What must students wear? What can't students wear?

To demonstrate our school uniform, we have provided the following illustrations, and an overview of what students must wear and what they should not wear. Stretchy skirts, leggings, jeans (or trousers that look like jeans) are not part of Durham Johnston's school uniform. Please do not buy them. We are aware that many supermarkets and high street shops sell items marked as school uniform that do not conform to the school's policy. Please do not put yourself to additional expense buying items which will have to be replaced.



The A-line and pleated skirts illustrated below are acceptable alternatives to the straight skirt modelled above.





What items will my child need for PE?

- ✓ One short sleeved red top
- ✓ One long sleeved red top
- ✓ One plain black short bottoms
- ✓ One plain black long bottoms
- ✓ Red socks
- ✓ Football boots and trainers (clean trainers are required for indoor use)

Optional kit can be purchased in addition to the compulsory kit from our supplier Avec Sport.

What Health and Safety considerations are linked to uniform? Are there any other items that students can't wear?

There are a number of health and safety issues that sometimes get confused with uniform requirements. It is important that all parents and carers are aware that students **cannot wear any jewellery at any point during the school day**. This includes retainers to keep piercings open. False nails and eyelashes are not allowed. Smart watches must not be worn in school.

What will happen if my child doesn't wear the correct uniform?

Form tutors and senior teachers regularly explain the importance of school uniform. Students who are wearing incorrect uniform will be provided with loan uniform so that they can continue with their education. Students who are wearing any items that are a health and safety concern will be asked to remove them immediately. It is very important that you read and understand our uniform policy and fully support the school.

Where can I buy uniform?

Uniform, including PE Kit and craft aprons, is available from most supermarkets and clothing stores.

Blazers and ties are supplied by Parkins Outfitters (71 North Road Durham). Items are available to purchase from their shop and there is the facility to order online.

<http://parkinsschoolandmenswear.co.uk/>

Password: Johnston

Branded PE Kit is also available to purchase from Avec Sport by following this link:

<https://durhamjohnston.avec sport.com/>

DfE Guidance

Please see below the link to DfE guidance on school uniform.

[Cost of School Uniforms](#)

Please note that we also have uniform in school that we are able to offer on a loan basis should pupils require additional support.