



Kirkburton Middle School Uniform Review

What – We are reviewing our school uniform policy and expectations

Why – In response to new guidance issued by the government on the cost of school uniforms. Also because it is a number of years since our school uniform policy was reviewed.

When – Consultation by Easter. Any changes to take effect from September 2022

This document is in two parts.

- Part one – uniform expectations from September 2022
- Part two - our rationale for uniform at KMS

You also have the opportunity to provide feedback on this matter via the [online form here](#)

Part 1

Uniform expectations from September 2022

Jumpers – Plain black crew neck sweatshirt (with school logo).

Polo shirts – White polo shirt (with school logo).

Trousers – Plain, black full length tailored trousers. No other styles are allowed, including, canvas, linen, denim, jeans style, tight or skinny fit trousers, leggings or tracksuit bottoms. Trousers must be full length i.e. cover the top of the shoe and ankles must be covered; cropped or rolled up trousers are not permitted. Alternatively, pupils may wear black tailored school shorts (not casual shorts or sportswear).

Skirts (NEW) – Black tailored skirt. Suitable length, preferably knee length, or just above the knee – no tube/tight fitting skirts or stretchy skirts.

Socks/tights – Plain black ankle or knee-length socks. Plain black tights.

Outer garments – The wearing of outer garments to and from school is encouraged. They should be appropriate to the season. Coats should not be denim or have obtrusive logos on them. Heads should not be covered indoors (except for religious observance). Hoodies or sweatshirts must not be worn as an alternative to a coat.

Jewellery – Jewellery often presents a health and safety risk in school. Therefore, all jewellery must be able to be removed as this will be necessary in certain lessons where there is a particular issue. All jewellery must be plain and discreet.

The only acceptable jewellery is a watch and **one small stud per ear (no bigger than the end of a pencil)**. No stretchers. Earrings should only be worn in the earlobe. No other body/facial piercing is permitted. Nail extensions/nail polish must not be worn in school. Pupils wearing nail polish will be asked to remove it.

Hair and make-up – Extreme or unnaturally coloured hairstyles are not allowed. What constitutes ‘extreme’ is at the discretion of school leaders. Shaved patterns will not be allowed. Should hairbands be worn, these must be discreet. Pupils may not wear make-up in school. This includes eyeliner, mascara, foundation, lip glosses or lipsticks. Pupils wearing make-up will be asked to remove it.

Shoes - Shoes must be plain black leather or leather effect and suitable for school. Plain black laces only. Velcro fastening shoes are acceptable. Flat or low heeled ankle boots are allowed, again these must be plain black. All shoes should be able to be polished. Sports style and trainer style shoes, such as Nike, Puma, Reebok, Converse, Vans, Lonsdale etc. are not allowed even though some shops may sell them as ‘school shoes’. No trainers, high heels, platforms or pumps. There should be no visible sports logos. **If in doubt, please ask school for advice before purchasing new shoes – the easiest way to do this is send us a photo / web link.**

School Bags – Children do need a school bag to transport books and equipment but it should be of a reasonable size (suggested length 50cm). Small handbags or ‘man bags’ are not appropriate for school.

Smart Watches - As technology advances at a rapid rate we also have to amend our policies to keep pace. ‘Smart’ watches have the same functionality as a mobile phone and are therefore not allowed in school. This approach also keeps expensive personal possessions out of school.

PE Kit

Indoor PE – a school logoed T-shirt in your house colour, plain black shorts / skirt/ skort and trainers.

Outdoor PE – as indoors with a change of socks.

Optional items for PE

Tracksuit bottoms - if worn, should be plain black – no logos. Leggings or sports tights are allowed but they must be plain black without logos.

Hoodie / Sweatshirt – if worn, should plain black- no logos. Optional KMS PE hoodies are available from uniform suppliers.

Pupils are encouraged to wear a gum shield when playing hockey (available from sports retailers or your dentist). Pupils are also encouraged to wear shin pads for certain sports.

Design Technology - Pupils will need an apron for DT. Pupils with hair which is of a length that may constitute a health and safety risk in practical subjects such as DT, Science and PE will also need a safe, sensible means of restraint.

Please make sure that all belongings are clearly labelled with the pupil's name.

Kirkburton Middle School reserves the right to determine what constitutes appropriate uniform

Examples of school uniform



Examples of acceptable shoes



If in doubt, please ask school for advice before purchasing new shoes – the easiest way to do this is send us a photo / web link.

Examples of shoes that are not acceptable



If in doubt, please ask school for advice before purchasing new shoes – the easiest way to do this is send us a photo / web link.

Part 2 – Our rationale for uniform at KMS

Introduction

School uniform is an aspect of education where everybody seems to have an opinion or view. These opinions can often be very strong and sometimes quite polarised. On the one hand you have those people who believe a strict and formal uniform policy helps teach children discipline and that such an approach helps prepare pupils for the world of work, where following rules is important and where a uniform or dress code may be part of the terms of employment. At the opposite end of the scale are those who feel uniform is a distraction from the core business of education and as such uniforms have no place in schools.

[New government guidance on the cost of school uniforms](#) was released in November last year. This guidance was produced in response to a law that was passed last April with the intention of making school uniforms more affordable for all.

Uniform at KMS

At KMS we firmly believe in the power of school uniform and this document sets out our rationale behind this belief. It also outlines our plans for school uniform moving forward, taking into account the new guidance. As part of this process, we will be consulting with parents, pupils, staff and those responsible for the governance of the school. As such the views of all stakeholders will be taken into account before we finalise our uniform policy for September 2022 and beyond.

Whatever we finally decide in terms of our uniform policy, we ask just one thing – all members of our school community respect the decisions that are taken and support the school fully in ensuring expectations are followed to the letter.

Our current uniform policy states -

We are proud of our school and expect all pupils to wear the KMS uniform with pride. We believe our uniform:

- Creates a sense of school community, cohesion and identity – *all pupils belong to Team KMS and our uniform shows pupils they belong to that team. We want pupils to wear their uniform with pride as they walk around the school and in the local community.*
- Supports positive behaviour and good discipline – *wearing a uniform reminds pupils that there are different behaviours expected from them when in school.*
- Ensures pupils from all cultures and backgrounds feel welcome – *a uniform shows we are all equal regardless of culture or background.*
- Protects children from social pressures to dress in a particular way – *we recognise the pressures young people place on themselves in relation to self-image, something we cover extensively as part of our PSHE curriculum. A school uniform takes these pressures*

away. This decision also ensures there isn't the need to constantly purchase the next 'must have' trainers or fashion items which often come at great expense to parents.

Some people argue that a uniform stifles creativity in young people, our response is that we welcome creativity and individuality however we encourage pupils to express these character traits through their behaviours, actions and interactions with others.

Our response the new guidelines

Under the new guidelines schools should –

- 1. Review their current uniform policy** – this has been completed and this document is the outcome.
- 2. Re-tender single-supplier contracts every 5 years** – we will always aim to work with a variety of suppliers in order that parents are able to get best value for money. If we ever felt it was a more cost effective option for parents to move to a single supplier, we would always re-tender in accordance with the government guidance.
- 3. Keep branded items 'to a minimum'** – we believe our uniform expectations already keep branded items 'to a minimum' when compared to most other schools. Currently, parents are required to purchase three branded items – a polo shirt, a sweatshirt, a PE t-shirt. For those pupils wishing to wear a skirt this means four branded items. We recognise the requirement for a logoed skirt is inequitable and as such are proposing to make this an optional part of our uniform. Where parents chose to buy non-branded skirts, it is essential they purchase skirts in line with our uniform expectations. We are proposing the other three branded items stay. A logoed sweatshirt and polo shirt helps build a sense of identity. We also feel the branded uniform items are of good quality and they last well. This will support the supply of pre-worn uniform.
- 4. Apply 'same consideration' to PE kit** - we believe our branded t-shirts for PE are a cost effective option for parents when compared to other schools. Having pupils in identically coloured t-shirts also assists with the delivery of PE lessons. In future years, we will aim to place siblings in the same house so t-shirts can be passed down the family. KMS PE hoodies will continue to be available but remain optional.
- 5. Make second-hand uniform available** – we are desperately keen to find ways to make second-hand uniform more desirable and readily available. We have a wealth of spare school uniform in school, much of it in near new condition. This has been accumulated either from donations or unclaimed lost property. We all know how quickly pupils grow and as such it makes sense to find ways to exchange uniform. Not only will this support parents financially, it is also a far more sustainable option than purchasing new uniform. We would be very keen to hear how parents feel we can achieve this aim.

- 6. Think about 'total cost' of uniform** – We are very mindful of this but would welcome your views. The only other area where we have clear expectations on uniform is in relation to footwear. We are keen for pupils to look smart but also for footwear to be practical. Like all other aspects of our uniform, we want our footwear expectations to protect pupils from social pressures to dress in a particular way whilst also supporting parents to keep costs down – as such we insist on no large logos or visible branding on shoes. Trainers or trainer style shoes (those with logos for sports companies on the side) must not be worn in school. We are proposing to allow boots to be worn as long as they are plain black, have a flat sole and are ankle length only.

- 7. Be 'mindful' of financial hardship** – wherever families are suffering financial hardship, the school will endeavor to provide assistance.

Please feel free to share your views on uniform with us via this [online form here](#)

The parent survey will close at 4pm on Tuesday 5th April 2022