



UNIFORM & APPEARANCE POLICY

2025 - 2026

Policy lead:	Assistant Headteacher - Hazel Weigh
Last review date:	July 2025
Next review date:	July 2026
Approval needed by:	Headteacher – Karen Key

Why do we have a school uniform?

We take pride in the high standards of appearance of Knutsford Academy students. Our uniform represents the core values and high expectations we have as a school, and we ask parents and/carers to give their full support in maintaining these high standards

Uniform is an important part of being a student in our community because:

- Uniform creates a sense of professionalism and a clear sense of high standards.
- Uniform creates a sense of pride, identity and belonging both in school and during the journey to and from school.
- Uniform removes the points of difference between students, helping to equalise social status and promote equality and inclusivity.
- Uniform creates a 'working environment' mindset and helps to separate home and school life.
- Uniform helps to promote wellbeing, improve self-confidence, and reduce bullying.

Policy Details

In choosing a place at Knutsford Academy, parents/carers and students are making a commitment to our uniform rules and standards. The uniform list included in this policy makes clear all compulsory branded items (and the supplier) and optional items to ensure the lowest possible cost for uniform.

All items of uniform should be clearly named or labelled to assist with returning items that have been left behind. Unnamed items are put into lost property for a half term and are then added to our spare uniform supply.

Knutsford Academy does have some good quality second-hand blazers/uniform/shoes/PE kit items that have been donated. Please contact the school office or your child's Head of Year for details so that we can support your child having the correct uniform. We welcome any good quality second-hand uniform, which can be recycled to support students in the school community. If you do have any items, please drop them into our Student/Main receptions.

Uniform Provider

Branded uniform/PE kit for Knutsford Academy is purchased from our supplier. We have branded items for consistency and because they are hardwearing. Some items of uniform can be bought from elsewhere. School ties may also be bought from Student Reception.

SWI Schoolwear-[SWI Schoolwear](#)

Knutsford Academy School Uniform – Years 7 – 11

Compulsory Uniform:

Navy Blazer with embroidered the Academy School logo	From SWI
School tie – clip on or traditional tie	From SWI
Plain white shirt	Any stockist
Black classic cut trousers – to be worn on the waist	Any stockist
Black box pleat skirt – to be worn knee length to mid-thigh	Any stockist
Smart all black shoes (more guidance provided below)	Any stockist
Plain black socks – from ankle length or knee length	Any stockist
Plain black tights	Any stockist
Plain navy blue knit 'V' neck jumper - can be worn beneath the blazer but not instead of.	Any stockist
Plain black or navy Hijabs/head scarves	Any stockist

Knutsford Academy Practical Kit – 7- 11

Students are expected to wear their school practical kit for PE/Dance/Drama lessons.

Navy/sky blue training top	From SWI
Navy/sky multi-sport top	From SWI
Navy/silver shorts	From SWI
Navy/silver training pants (optional)	From SWI
Navy thermal base layer (optional)	From SWI
Navy/silver coolmax socks	From SWI
Trainers & football boots	Any stockist
Compulsory for safety – shin pads	Any stockist
Recommended for safety – gum shield	Any stockist

Navy/sky full zip training top	From SWI
Navy/sky training top	From SWI
Navy/silver training shorts *	From SWI
Navy/silver leggings *	From SWI
Navy/silver skort *	From SWI
Navy/silver training pants (optional)	From SWI
Navy thermal base layer (optional)	From SWI
Navy/silver coolmax socks	From SWI
Trainers & football boots	Any stockist
Compulsory for safety – shin pads	Any stockist
Recommended for safety – gum shield	Any stockist
* Please note - Students are expected to have at least <u>one</u> of the following items of practical kit for lessons: shorts, leggings or skort and allows for personal preference.	

- Sports trainers are expected to be worn for practical lessons, such as PE. 'Fashion' trainers or pumps are not suitable.
- If students are excused from PE, they are expected to have a note from parents/carers.

- All items of PE kit should be clearly named/labelled to assist with returning items that have been left behind. Unnamed items are put into lost property.

If students do not bring their own PE kit to lessons, they are expected to borrow spare kit from school and still participate.

Student Uniform and Appearance Standards and Expectations

At Knutsford Academy, we expect all students to take pride in their appearance and wear their uniform to the highest standards. These rules and our expectations are clear; they are displayed on corridors around the building and are regularly reinforced through assemblies and form tutor presentations.

We ask that students adhere to the following expectations:

Blazers: The Knutsford Academy blazer is compulsory. It may be removed in lessons or outside but must be worn when transitioning between lessons and at all formal school events.

Shirts: Shirts should always be tucked in neatly, and the top button must be fastened.

Ties: The knot of Academy branded tie should cover the top button.

Trousers: Black trousers must be worn at the waist and should be appropriate in fit and style (not excessively tight or baggy).

Socks/Tights: Students should wear either plain black socks (ankle length or below the knee) or black tights.

Jumpers: A navy blue knit 'V-necked' jumper may be worn underneath the blazer but is optional.

Skirts: A black box pleated skirt should be worn at a length no higher than mid-thigh - an acceptable length for the school setting and a professional environment.

Coats/Hoodie/Scarves – these items are not to be worn inside the school building

Jewellery: Students are allowed to wear **one** small stud in each ear. Students are not allowed to wear any other jewellery including rings and/or bracelets. Further guidance is provided below.

Footwear: Sensible, plain, all black traditional **shoes** should be worn for school – this **does** include the brand 'Kickers'. Sports trainers are **NOT** permitted. Further guidance is provided below.

Sanctions

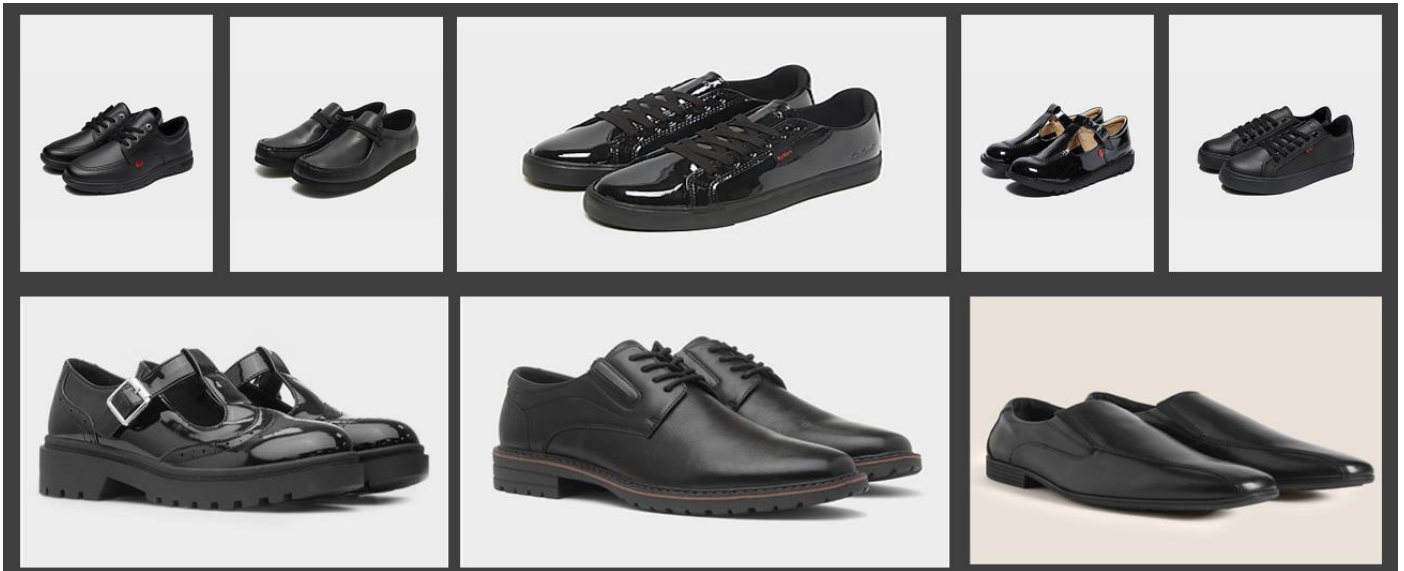
Knutsford Academy has high standards when it comes to uniform and appearance and students are clear of our expectations, which are regularly reinforced. We understand that occasionally items are mislaid or forgotten and staff at school will support students by providing items where they are available. However, persistent breaches in standards and expectations will be communicated to parents/carers via Arbor and we will follow the Behaviour Pathway with appropriate sanctions issued. Parental support is vital in achieving and maintaining our high standards.

Footwear

Please ensure that you are clear on the guidelines we provide and expect as a school before purchasing school shoes rather than being led by your child's fashion preferences.

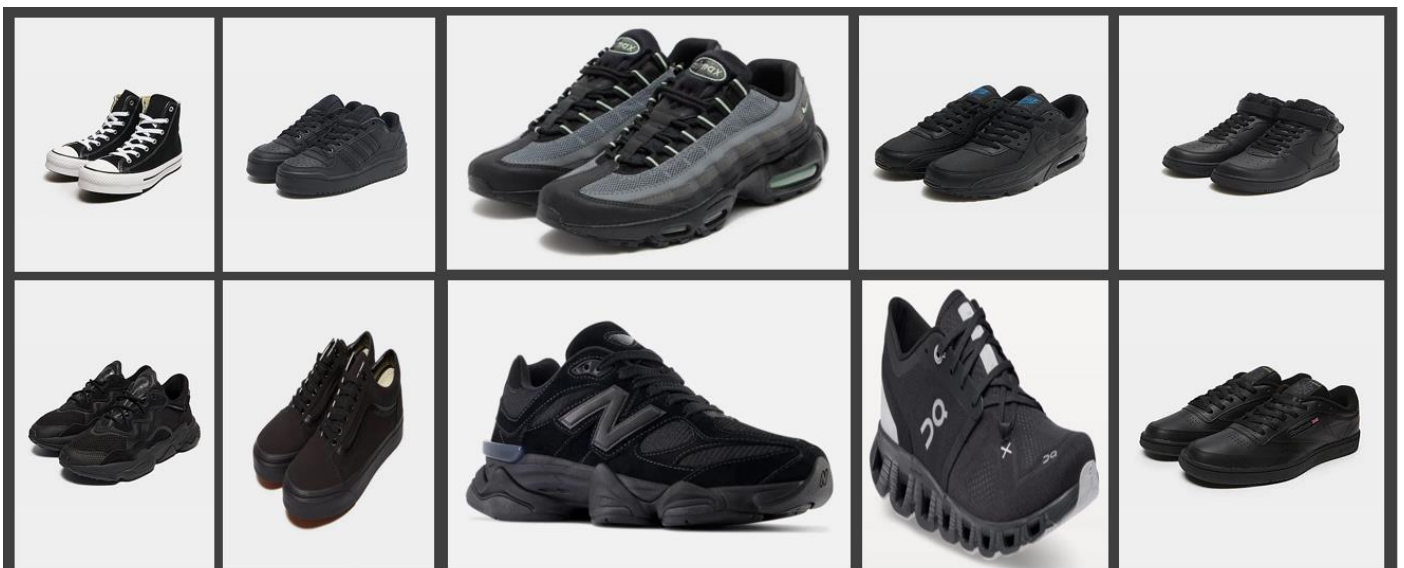
If you are in any doubt about the suitability of the shoe you are buying for school, please do not hesitate to contact your child's form tutor or Head of Year to avoid incurring additional cost.

Examples of suitable school shoes:



- Sensible, plain, all black traditional **shoes** should be worn for school – this **does** include the brand 'Kickers'.
- Sports trainers are **NOT** permitted to be worn with school uniform (Nike, New Balance, On, Adidas, Converse, Vans). Also: No boots, canvas pumps or footwear with logos on them.
- Sports trainers are expected to be worn for practical lessons such as PE.

Examples of footwear that are **NOT** suitable for school:



Jewellery

- A wristwatch may be worn.
- Smart watches are only allowed for telling the time and must not be worn when taking examinations. If students use their smart watch as a method of communication or recording, it is subject to confiscation (see mobile phone policy).
- Piercings should be done at the start of the summer holidays to allow time for healing. Students are not allowed to cover piercings with a plaster.
- Students are allowed to wear **one** small stud in each ear. A stud is defined as an earring that fits onto the lobe or edge of the ear but not below it.

Examples:



- Students are not allowed to wear any other jewellery including rings and/or bracelets.



- Nostril studs are **not** permitted but a clear plastic stud retainer may be worn.
- Facial piercings, septum piercings, ear spacers/plugs or tapers are **not** permitted.

If students choose to wear jewellery that breaches these standards, and items are seen by staff they are subject to confiscation – confiscated items are kept securely until collected by parents or the items will be returned at the end of a half term.

Hair Styles / Make Up

- Extreme hairstyles are not permitted. These are defined as hairstyles which do not follow social conventions – closely shaven heads, unnatural colouring of hair.
- Long hair which presents health and safety issues must be tied back for PE, Performing Arts, Science, and practical technology lesson. Students are expected to be equipped with a bobble if required.
- Light, natural make up is permitted.
- False eyelashes/acrylic nails are not suitable for school and are not permitted.

Halo Code

As part of our commitment to be an inclusive school community, we have adopted the Halo Code. This is a campaign pledge that promises members of the black community that they have the “freedom and security to wear all afro-hairstyles without judgement”. At our school we want to recognise and celebrate our staff and student identities.



School bags

- Student's school bags must be appropriate for carrying A4 books, pencil case/stationary, and other necessary equipment/kit for school.
- Small handbags / 'man bags' are not permitted.

Equipment for learning

Within the school bag students should have a basic level of equipment to support their learning, this includes:

- A pencil case containing the following:
 - Ruler
 - 2 x Handwriting pens – blue or black (black pens are required for examinations)
 - Pencil / Pencil Sharpener / Eraser
 - A scientific calculator / Compass / Protractor
 - Reading book

Optional items include - Highlighters, coloured pens/pencils

Additional

- Students are expected to take personal responsibility for their belongings. They should not bring expensive items into school - Students bringing in mobile phones/EarPods/smart watches, as with all other valuables, do so at their own risk. School cannot be held responsible for the loss, theft, or damage of such items.
- Students should not bring more money into school than they should reasonably need for food, drink, and travel.

Sixth Form Dress Code

Knutsford Academy teaches courses and offers opportunities for students to leave the academy with academic qualifications plus a whole range of experiences that develops confidence, builds resilience, and prepares students for the world of work.

Students are asked to carefully consider their appearance when attending the Sixth Form, wearing clothes that would generally be regarded as 'smart/casual'. This is to ensure that our students are role models and create a positive impression when interacting with staff, other year groups, visitors to the Sixth Form and our community.

Following feedback from students and parents, we have decided not to prescribe what students can wear but rather provide guidance on items that we deem unsuitable.

The following are not appropriate:

- Clothes with offensive slogans, words, or diagrams
- Visible underwear
- Headwear (see school's safeguarding policy)
- Tube tops/anything strapless that is revealing, particularly if the garment exposes midriff.
- Skirts of an inappropriate length
- Shorts of an inappropriate length
- Wearing of coats during registration and timetabled lessons.