



UNIFORM & APPEARANCE POLICY

2026 - 2027

Policy lead:	Assistant Headteacher - Hazel Weigh
Last review date:	April 2026
Next review date:	July 2027
Approval needed by:	Headteacher – Karen Key

Following new guidelines, the Government have instructed schools to review their uniform policies and reduce the number of compulsory items to make uniform more affordable for families. As part of this process, we consulted the views of parents, students and staff from our school community. The new uniform and any changes have been carefully considered to ensure the lowest possible cost for uniform and will be effective from **September 2026**.

The new uniform design reflects the high standards and professional image of Knutsford Academy and will provide a greater consistency in the appearance of our uniform. To support the changes for September 2026, all students will be provided with the **new design tie free of charge**. The **new design skirt will be optional**; the alternative is that students may choose to wear tailored black trousers.

The uniform and practical kit lists in this policy make clear which compulsory branded and non-branded items are required. It also details the optional branded items that remain available on the supplier's website which can be purchased and worn if families wish.

Why do we have a school uniform?

As one of the highest achieving schools nationally, we take pride in the high standards of appearance of Knutsford Academy students. Our uniform represents our high expectations, and we want our students to take pride in their uniform. In choosing a place at Knutsford Academy, parents/carers and students are making a commitment to maintaining our uniform standards and rules.

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.

Uniform Provider

SWI Schoolwear-[SWI Schoolwear](#)

Branded uniform and practical kit can be purchased from our supplier – **SWI Schoolwear**. We have branded items for consistency and because they are hardwearing.

We strongly recommend that all items of uniform are 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 uniform and practical kit 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.

Knutsford Academy School Uniform – Years 7 – 11

Compulsory uniform:

Secure, Lockable, Signal, blocking Phone Pouch. *	Provided for free **
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*Please note that Mobile Phone Pouches are a compulsory item of uniform. Students must bring their pouch every day (even if they do not have their phone or smartwatch with them). Failure to bring a pouch will result in a behaviour point being added to their Arbor record. For further details, please refer to the Phone Policy or the Behaviour Policy.

**Lost, damaged or vandalised phone pouches must be replaced at the expense of the family. The cost is approximately £11.

If a replacement pouch is required, it can be purchased via an online 'digital shop', with efficient home delivery available.

We recognise that, for some families, this may present a financial challenge. Where support is needed, a replacement pouch can be provided directly by the school, with the cost added to ParentPay and repaid through a flexible and manageable schedule agreed with the school. Families eligible for additional support, including those in receipt of Pupil Premium, are encouraged to contact us so that we can provide appropriate assistance in a discreet, sensitive and supportive manner.

Compulsory branded uniform:

Only **two** branded items are **compulsory** – the blazer and new design tie. For September 2026, all students will be provided with a new design tie free of charge.



Optional branded uniform:

The new design skirt is optional; the alternative is plain black tailored trousers.

Please note: For September 2026, as Year 11 students will not be with us for a full academic year, they may wear their current black pleated skirt.



Compulsory branded uniform:	
Navy Blazer with embroidered the Academy School logo	From SWI
New design school tie – clip on	From SWI
Optional branded uniform:	
New design skirt	From SWI
Non-branded uniform:	
Plain white shirt	Any stockist
Plain black tailored trousers	Any stockist
Plain navy blue knit 'V' neck jumper - can be worn beneath the blazer but not instead of.	Any stockist
Plain black socks - ankle or knee length	Any stockist
Plain black tights	Any stockist
Smart all black shoes (more guidance provided below)	Any stockist
Plain black or navy Hijabs/head scarves	Any stockist
September 2026 – Year 11 only	
Black box pleat skirt	Any stockist

Knutsford Academy Practical Kit – worn for PE, Dance and Drama lessons – Years 7- 11

Girls Practical Kit

For practical subjects only **two** branded items are **compulsory**. A short sleeve top and a longer sleeve top for warmth. All other current branded items remain available and may still be purchased if families wish.



Compulsory branded practical kit:	
Navy/sky short sleeve training top	From SWI
Navy/sky long sleeve training top	From SWI

Shin Pads - Compulsory for safety	Any stockist
Non-branded practical kit:	
Plain black sports leggings	Any stockist
Plain black tracksuit bottoms	Any stockist
Plain black shorts – must be mid-thigh leg length	Any stockist
Plain black training/football socks	Any stockist
Trainers & football boots	Any stockist
Gum shield - Recommended for safety	Any stockist

Optional branded practical kit:	
Navy/silver skort	From SWI
Navy/silver training shorts	From SWI
Navy/silver leggings	From SWI
Navy/silver training pants	From SWI
Navy thermal base layer	From SWI
Navy/silver coolmax socks	From SWI
Navy apron	From SWI

Boys Practical Kit

For practical subjects only **two** branded items are **compulsory**. A short sleeve top and a longer sleeve top for warmth. All other current branded items remain available and may still be purchased if families wish.



Compulsory branded practical kit:	
Navy/sky short sleeve training top	From SWI
Navy/sky long sleeve multi-sport long sleeve top	From SWI
Shin Pads - Compulsory for safety	Any stockist
Non-branded practical kit:	
Plain black training/football shorts	Any stockist
Plain black tracksuit bottoms	Any stockist
Plain black training/football socks	Any stockist
Trainers & football boots	Any stockist
Gum shield - Recommended for safety	Any stockist

Optional branded practical kit:	
Navy/silver training/football shorts	From SWI

Navy/silver training pants	From SWI
Navy thermal base layer	From SWI
Navy/silver coolmax socks	From SWI
Navy apron	From SWI

- 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.
- Sports trainers are expected to be worn for practical lessons, such as PE. School shoes, 'Fashion' trainers, or pumps are not suitable.
- If students are excused from PE, they are expected to have a note from parents/carer.
- 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 new design clip on tie should cover the top button.

Skirts: The new design skirt is **optional**. Students who chose to wear this skirt are not permitted to shorten the skirt by rolling it at the waistband. The school reserves the right to direct any individuals who persistently breach our expectations to wear trousers.

September 2026 - Year 11 only - Students may choose to wear the new design skirt, black tailored trousers or a black pleated skirt. If they choose to wear the black box pleated skirt. The school reserves the right to direct any individuals who persistently breach our expectations on skirt length to wear trousers for the rest of the academic year.

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

Footwear: Sensible, plain, all black traditional **shoes** should be worn for school – this **does** include the brand 'Kickers' and black leather 'Air Force One'. Further guidance is provided in this policy.

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 (optional)

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 in this policy.

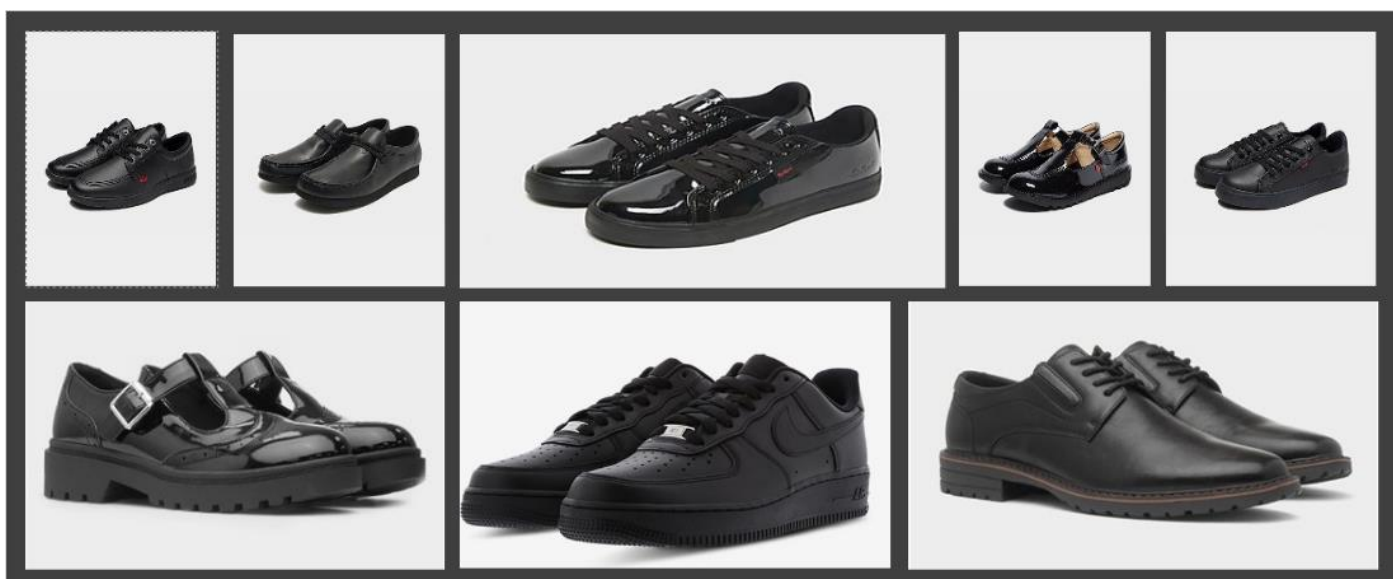
Footwear

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.

- Sensible, plain, all black traditional **shoes** should be worn for school – this **does** include the brand 'Kickers' and black leather 'AirForce One'.
- 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 suitable school shoes:



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.



Equipment for learning

Student's school bags must be appropriate for carrying A4 books, pencil case/stationery, and other necessary equipment/kit for school. 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)

- Green pens for self and peer assessment
- Pencil / Pencil Sharpener / Eraser
- A scientific calculator (we recommend Casio fx-83GT CW)
- Compass / Protractor
- Reading book

Optional items include - Highlighters, coloured pens/pencils

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.

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.

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.