



LONGBENTON HIGH SCHOOL

Uniform Policy

1. Statement of Intent

1.1 A consistent uniform policy is vital to promote the ethos of Longbenton High School (LHS) and provide a sense of belonging and identity for all pupils, regardless of their protected characteristics or socio-economic circumstances. Uniform can also be useful to protect children from social pressures to dress in a particular way.

1.2 This policy lays out the measures we have taken to ensure a consistent, fair and inclusive uniform policy, to implement a uniform that reflects the needs of all pupils and is affordable and the best value for money.

1.3 We believe that pupils learn most effectively and achieve their best outcomes when they are comfortable, able to be themselves, and dressed in such a way that sets an appropriate tone for education.

2. Legal framework

2.1 This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Education Act 2011
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Equality Act 2010
- The UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)
- Data Protection Act 2018

2.2 This policy has due regard to all relevant guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

DfE (2021) 'Cost of College uniforms'

DfE (2021) 'College Admissions Code'

DfE (2021) 'College uniforms'

3. Roles and responsibilities

3.1 The Headteacher is responsible for:

- Enforcing the school uniform on a day-to-day basis.
- Ensuring that teachers understand this policy and what to do if a student is in breach of the policy.
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of the school community with regard to uniform and making appropriate recommendations to governors.

3.2 Staff members are responsible for:

- Ensuring that students dress in accordance with this policy at all times.
- Disciplining students who are in breach of this policy.

- Ensuring that students understand why having a consistent and practical school uniform is important, e.g. identity and belonging at LHS.

3.3 Parents are responsible for:

- Providing their children with the correct LHS uniform as detailed in this policy.
- Informing the Pastoral Learning Managers / Raising Achievement Leaders if their child requires an adjustment to the uniform policy for a period of time, including why.
- Ensuring that their child's uniform is clean and presentable.

3.4 Students are responsible for:

- Wearing the correct uniform at all times, unless an exemption has been granted.

4. Cost principles

4.1 LHS is committed to ensuring that its school uniform is affordable and accessible to all students and does not place an unreasonable financial burden on parents.

4.2 The school will assess the overall cost implications of its uniform policy regularly, including prior to making any changes to the uniform.

4.3 LHS will evaluate the cost of its uniform based on the overall collection of uniform items that parents would need to purchase for an individual student, rather than on the cost effectiveness of individual items; this will include consideration of the fact that parents will need to purchase multiples of certain items, e.g., shirts and socks, to ensure their child can come to school in clean uniform every day.

4.4 LHS keeps variations in school uniform for different groups of students, e.g. house colours, to a minimum where possible to ensure that students can get the most wear out of their uniform possible and that parents can pass some items down to younger siblings.

4.5 LHS keeps branded uniform items to a minimal level that is reasonable. The school defines a branded uniform item as any item of clothing that cannot be purchased at a range of retailers, including by virtue of logos, colours, design, and fabrics.

4.6 The school works with suppliers to obtain the best value for money possible.

4.7 The school will not amend uniform requirements regularly and will take the views of parents and students into account when considering any changes to school uniforms.

5. Equality principles

5.1 The school takes its legal obligation to avoid discriminating against any protected characteristic unlawfully seriously and aims to ensure that the uniform policy is as inclusive as possible.

5.2 The school will work to ensure wherever possible that the uniform's cost does not disproportionately affect any student group.

5.3 The school implements a gender-neutral uniform, meaning that students are not required to wear specific items based on their gender, and may wear any of the uniform items listed in the uniform section of this policy regardless of the legal sex recorded on the school's records.

5.4 The school ensures that students who are required to follow certain dress requirements, e.g. by virtue of their membership of a particular religious or cultural group, are afforded flexibility to allow them to wear a uniform that adheres to their requirements as far as possible. The school endeavours to meet all requests for amendments to the uniform for these purposes; however, will ensure that the needs and rights of individuals are weighed against any health and safety concerns for the entire school community.

5.5 We are sensitive to the needs of different cultures, races and religions and will act reasonably in accommodating these needs, without compromising important school policies, such as school safety or discipline. Parents' concerns and requests regarding religious clothing are to be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

5.6 The school ensures that the needs of pupils with SEND and/or sensory difficulties are considered in the uniform policy, e.g., ensuring soft, stretchy fabrics and avoiding intricate too many buttons or hard seams; however, where the needs of these pupils cannot be met in the standard uniform policy, individual adaptations to the uniform will be considered and may be permitted where possible.

6. Complaints and challenges

6.1 The school endeavours to resolve all uniform complaints informally, in accordance with the Complaints Policy.

7. LHS uniform supplier

7.1 Our current uniform supplier details are:

Emblematic <https://emblematic.co.uk/longbenton-store/longbenton-high-school/>

8. Uniform assistance

8.1 The school supports vulnerable families in meeting the costs of uniforms. To claim uniform assistance, parents should be eligible for FSM. The budget for the uniform assistance scheme comes from pupil premium funds. For other families who are struggling to purchase the uniform, contact can be made with the Pastoral Learning Manager or Raising Achievement Leader for support.

8.2 In addition, the school holds a wide range of pre-loved uniforms for parents to access. Parents are invited to donate their child's uniform when they no longer need it.

9. Non-compliance

9.1 Staff members are permitted to discipline students for breaching this policy, in accordance with the Behaviour/Culture for Learning Policy.

9.2 For minor breaches of Uniform Policy, teaching and support staff may use some or all of the following sanctions:

- A student may be required to remove excess items of jewellery or clothing if this can be done safely and decently.
- The student may be warned that their current dress is inappropriate and given a time limit to correct this (e.g. you must come in correct uniform tomorrow).
- The student may be isolated from mainstream classes, including break and lunchtimes, until they agree to comply with the uniform rules (and especially for repeated breaches of the policy). Repeated breaches will be regarded as defiance and treated as such.
- The student may be sent home to change into correct uniform or to dress properly. This can only be done in consultation with Senior Staff. If this does occur, it should be made absolutely clear that this is not an exclusion and the student is welcome back in school properly dressed in accordance with the school's rules.

9.3 Where there are severe breaches of Uniform Policy, the student may be sent home by Senior Staff as soon as is practical. Students must not be sent home unless contact can be established with the parent/carer and either the parent/carer collects the student or agrees that the student should make their own way home. If this is not possible, then the students may be held in isolation until the end of the school day. Again, it is emphasised that sending a student home is not exclusion.

9.4 Students are required to comply with the current uniform rules. In the event that a parent/carer disagrees with Uniform Policy, it should be pointed out that:

- Parents/carers agreed to send their child to LHS knowing that this was the school uniform rule agreed by Governors, and;
- If they wish to make changes to the school uniform rules, they should make representations to the Headteacher and/or Governing Body.

10. LHS uniform

10.1 The school uniform is as follows:

Black school blazer with the badge/logo at all times

Students also have the option to wear a **plain black v-necked jumper**. (This option is in addition to the blazer, not in place of the blazer)

Plain white shirt with collar (not polo shirts)

Striped clip on tie at all times (matched to the students' house colour)

Formal black trousers or black skirt (not jeans, leggings or combat trousers; no other colours)

Shoes - all black with no other colours, markings or branding

Black socks or black tights (tights should not be patterned or laddered/fishnet. Sports socks should not be worn over tights)

Underwear should not be visible.

No hats, baseball caps or scarves indoors.

No hoodies, denim or leather biker style jackets.

No footless or patterned tights or plain/sports leggings.

No outdoor coats to be worn in the building.

10.2 In the summer students are permitted to wear:

Black tailored shorts instead of trousers. These must be formal tailored shorts, not sports shorts or casual shorts made from nylon, jersey etc.

11. Jewellery

11.1 On health and safety grounds we do not allow students to wear visible jewellery, with the exception of up to one small stud in each ear lobe and a smart, sensible wristwatch. Any necklaces or chains should not be seen (they should be under shirts and ties, not visible over the top).

11.2 Excessive facial/tongue/lip piercings are not allowed on health and safety reasons. Any nose piercings should be stud only.

11.3 Jewellery is the responsibility of the student and not the school. Lost or damaged items will not be refunded. If, however, jewellery needs to be confiscated, it will be labelled and stored in student reception for collection at the end of the day.

11.4 All jewellery must be removed during practical lessons, including PE lessons and science experiments.

12. Footwear

12.1 We believe that it is dangerous for students to wear shoes with platform soles or high heels in school, so we do not allow this.

12.2 Sandals, flip flops, or backless shoes should not be worn.

12.3 Shoes should be plain black. Trainers and trainer style shoes are permitted but they must be plain black with no coloured sections, stripes, logos, etc. Eg converse trainers are not permitted.

13. Ties

13.1 Clip on ties are compulsory.

13.2 Lost/damaged/stolen ties must be replaced as soon as possible.

14. Make-up/Nails/eyelashes

14.1 The following make up is not permitted:

- Excessive fake tan
- Excessive lipstick and eye make- up
- False eyelashes and extensions
- False nails (gel, acrylic, coloured tips etc.)

15. Hairstyles including religious/cultural headcoverings

15.1 LHS reserves the right to make a judgement on where students' hairstyles or hair colours are inappropriate for the school environment; however, will ensure that any such judgements do not discriminate against any student by virtue of their protected characteristics, particularly race.

15.2 Haircuts (styles and colours) should not serve as a distraction to other children.

15.3 Any Afro hair coverings eg wraps, duka, tignon, gele etc are permitted but must be black in colour to match the rest of our school uniform.

15.4 Students with long hair must ensure that this does not impede their vision, cover their face or provide a health and safety risk. Long hair must be tied up during practical lessons, e.g., during PE.

15.4 Head coverings such as turbans or hijabs (which should not obscure the student's face) are an acceptable part of school uniform. They must however, be black in colour only.

16. PE Kit

16.1 All pupils must have a branded LHS polo shirt or t-shirt.

<https://emblematic.co.uk/longbenton-store/longbenton-high-school/>

16.2 Parents who do not wish to buy some of the optional branded PE kit must ensure PE kit meets the following criteria:

A plain t-shirt in black or blue

Plain black shorts or tracksuit bottoms or leggings with no branding or logos from professional sports teams

Plain non-branded blue or black sweatshirt

Suitable trainers

Suitable sports footwear, e.g., football boots

16.3 Parents are responsible for ensuring their child brings their PE kit to school when needed. In the absence of this, a clean spare kit will be issued by the PE department to ensure all pupils take part in PE.

17. Labelling

17.1 All students' clothing and footwear should be clearly labelled with their name.

17.2 Any lost clothing is to be taken to the lost property box in the student reception and is disposed of if it is not collected in a timely manner. Lost property will be regularly displayed in student reception.

18. Sixth form Dress Code

18.1 Sixth Form students are the oldest students in our school community and thus are expected to project themselves as positive role models for the younger pupils. We believe that attitude to appearance has an impact on attitude to effort and therefore we require our students to dress in a smart and respectful way.

18.2 In order to safeguard our community, identity lanyards must be worn at all times.

18.3 Jeans may be worn, but must not be ripped

18.3 Tops must not contain any offensive images or words

18.4 Tops/blouses must not be 'cropped' or have a low neckline

18.5 Shorts may be worn but must be smart and an appropriate length (cycle shorts are not permitted)

18.6 The Head of Sixth Form has the final say on whether clothing and appearance is appropriate.

Monitoring and review

This policy is reviewed every three years by Governing Body sub committee. Next date for review: **June 2026**

