

SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY 2023

At St Paul's Academy, we believe that school uniform is fundamental to ensuring equality amongst students. If students were allowed to wear clothes of their choice, the financial differences between families would soon become very apparent. We also believe that our uniform should be worn correctly so that students look smart and are proud to represent their school.

In order to ensure the best quality clothes and the best value for money, we opened our own successful uniform shop on the campus which allows parents and carers to have far more flexibility when buying uniform for their sons and daughters.

We do not have a uniform coat as such, because we are aware these are extremely expensive items and parents and carers may want to shop around. **However, the school coat should be navy blue or black and should be worn over the blazer, rather than instead of it. Students are not allowed to have hoodies in school and they must not be worn on the journey to or from school.** The reason for this is quite simple; young people use hoodies to disguise their identities, particularly when they are involved in anti-social behaviour. This is definitely not the image we wish our students to portray.

Again, school shoes can be very expensive, so it is at the discretion of parents and carers where they shop. Shoes should be appropriate for school wear, e.g Kickers shoes with black laces are allowed, but not trainers, canvas shoes or crepe soled suede shoes.

Students who persist in infringing the uniform code will be sent home to rectify the situation. This is allowed in educational law.

- **Blazers are to be worn in school, including at lesson changeovers.**
- Students **may not** wear any form of jewellery or make-up, including nail varnish, acrylic nails, false eyelashes and hair extensions.
- A plain wrist watch is permitted.
- Long hair should be tied back; this applies to both boys and girls.
- If you allow or pay for your child to have piercings, these will need to be removed on school days, and not worn to or from school.
- Hair styles and hair colour, including braids, should be the students' natural hair colour and not pink, green, blue, red etc.
- Extreme hair styles and colouring are not allowed. The definition of extreme lies with the school. Hair adornments are to be plain blue or black.
- Hijabs must be black or navy blue or a light colour (white/grey) in the summer.
- Tram lines shaved into hair or eyebrows are not permitted and boys are expected to shave if facial hair is obvious.

We are very aware that many families are experiencing financial hardship, especially as the Local Authority no longer provide uniform grants on our behalf. In order to assist parents and carers who are experiencing difficulties we have a nearly new service; students who have left or grown out of various items return them to the Academy and they are washed and pressed and given to students as necessary. On rare occasions, we are also able to provide new items of uniform for families who are entitled to certain benefits.

For further information, please contact the School Uniform Shop via or e-mail at spa.shop@stpauls.greenwich.sch.uk