



Hamstead Hall Academy

SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY 2026

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Approved by	Hamstead Hall Academy Trust Board
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1. Aims

Our policy is that all students should wear clothing that is in keeping with a purposeful learning ethos. Our uniform policy is guided by a desire to ensure that all students appear professional and are seen as equal. Parents and carers are advised that they agree to the academy uniform when they accept a place at Hamstead Hall Academy. Our policy is based on DfE guidelines and the belief that a school uniform:

- promotes the ethos of the Academy
- promotes a sense pride in the Academy
- engenders a sense of belonging and identity
- sets an appropriate tone for education
- is practical and distinctive
- identifies students within the academy
- is not distracting in class (as fashion clothing might be)
- makes students feel equal in terms of appearance
- reflects the sense both of community and of diversity that the academy takes pride in
- is regarded as suitable and good value for money by most parents and carers.

This policy aims to:

- Set out our approach to requiring a uniform that is of reasonable cost and offers the best value for money for parents and carers
- Explain how we will avoid discrimination in line with our legal duties under the Equality Act 2010

2. Our school's legal duties under the Equality Act 2010

The [Equality Act 2010](#) prohibits discrimination against an individual based on the protected characteristics, which include sex, race, religion or belief, and gender reassignment. To avoid discrimination, our school will:

- Avoid listing uniform items based on sex, to give all pupils the opportunity to wear the uniform they feel most comfortable in or that most reflects their self-identified gender
- Make sure that our uniform costs the same for all pupils
- Allow all pupils to have long hair (though we reserve the right to ask for this to be tied back)
- Allow all pupils to style their hair in the way that is appropriate for school yet makes them feel most comfortable
- Allow pupils to wear cultural symbols, headscarves and other religious head coverings for reasons of faith or religious observance. Headwear should be plain and in a dark colour, such as black or navy.
- Allow for adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents/carers to get in touch with Miss Stevenson, who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests
- Clarify our expectations for school uniform

By creating a common identity amongst all pupils, regardless of background, our school uniform will act as a social leveller. Having a common identity amongst students will reduce bullying and peer pressure to wear the latest fashions or other expensive clothes. We will take into consideration that uniform can be expensive and can place an unreasonable burden on families. We will work with our families to support them if this is the case. By working closely together with our families, we will minimise the impact that uniform can have on attendance, access and participation.

All students have equal access to wearing the academy uniform regardless of their culture, race, religion, gender, disability or ability. We ensure that the set uniform respects other policies such as the Equality Policy and allows for individual sets of circumstances of all groups and individuals.

3. Limiting the cost of school uniform

In line with the Department for Education's statutory guidance on the cost of school uniforms and the requirements introduced from September 2026, Hamstead Hall Academy is committed to ensuring that school uniform remains affordable for all families. The Academy will limit the number of compulsory branded uniform and PE kit items to a maximum of four, including the Academy tie, in accordance with the guidance for secondary schools. Wherever possible, non-branded alternatives will be accepted for other uniform items to enable parents and carers to purchase from a wide range of retailers and secure best value for money.

We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that must have a school logo or a unique fabric/colour/design) cannot always be purchased from a wide range of retailers and that requiring many such items limits parents' ability to 'shop around' for a low price. We will make sure our uniform:

- Is available at a reasonable cost
- Provides the best value for money for parents/carers

The Academy will do this by:

- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary
- Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics where possible for example, by only asking that the blazer features the school logo
- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost or long-lasting items, such as ties or making them optional, for example, sleeveless jumper.
- Considering cheaper alternatives to school-branded items, such as logos that can be ironed on, as long as this doesn't compromise quality and durability
- Keeping the number of optional branded items to a minimum, so that the school's uniform can act as a social leveler
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- Considering alternative methods for signaling differences in groups for interschool competitions, such as creating posters or labels
- Making sure parents/carers are aware that we do stock second-hand uniform items if required (uniform items that have been returned to school)
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents of any changes
- Consulting with parents/carers, pupils and the Local Governing Body on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy

4. Expectations for school uniform

4.1 Our school uniform

All our students must be safe and have high standards of uniform at all times. For these reasons, the following items (although not an exhaustive list) are not permitted and should not be worn or brought to the academy. Staff reserve the right to confiscate such items which parents/carers can collect at the end of the academy day.

- Pupils are expected to wear academy uniform and are encouraged to take pride in their appearance.
- Training shoes may not be worn except during PE lessons.
- It is expected that practical shoes be worn to the academy (**avoid buying from sports shops**).
- When taking part in PE **no** items of jewellery may be worn. The wearing of jewellery is discouraged for reasons of safety and security.
- Only wear a single stud in each ear and no other jewellery. No finger rings, bangles, bracelet, nose, tongue or other piercings are permitted in the academy.
- Students are prohibited from wearing false eyelashes, false nails or nail varnish.
- Hair colour and style must be appropriate for school. No brightly coloured hair / braids, extensions, beads or accessories. No haircuts with patterns is permitted.
- Eyebrows should not have any artificial lines, gaps, slits or notches shaved or cut into them.
- No caps/hats/do-rags/balaclavas. Hats and hoods are **NOT** allowed to be worn indoors.
- Chewing gum / energy drinks, or drinks in cans or glass bottles are banned.
- Tattoos are not permitted.
- Students arriving to the academy in non-uniform clothing may expect to be sent home to change.
- Pupils are expected to have a school bag to carry all equipment.
- Equipment is an important part of the school day and students are required to bring a pencil case with at least a black pen, pencil, eraser, ruler and calculator.
- No small pouches / messenger satchels are permitted.
- **Students are not allowed to wear jeans, denim jackets, “hoodies” or sports/leather jackets. Such items will be confiscated.**
- All items of clothing should be clearly and indelibly marked with the pupil's name.

4.1.1 Confiscated Items

Items taken from students during the school day are usually returned at the end of the day (apart from electronic devices that disrupt the learning environment). However, where a student repeatedly flouts the rules, parents/carers may be requested to come into the academy to collect the item.

UNIFORM	PE KIT
Black blazer jacket with academy badge (Branded Compulsory Item)	PE long or short sleeved top with academy badge (Branded Compulsory Item)
White shirt (Compulsory)	PE bottoms with academy badge (either shorts or tracksuit trousers) (Branded Compulsory Item)
Black trousers / Black knee length plain skirt (no pleats or lycra) (Compulsory)	Tracksuit jacket with academy badge (Branded Optional Item)
Academy tie – navy blue with light blue/gold stripes (Branded Compulsory Item)	Navy blue long sports socks (Compulsory)
Black socks /plain school tights (not patterned) (Compulsory)	Protective Equipment Shin pads (recommended) Mouth Guard (recommended) Football Boots / Astro Trainers (recommended)
Academy sleeveless jumper (Branded Optional Item)	
Black hard shoes that can be polished (no shoes that look like sports shoes purchased from shops such as JD Sports, Sports Direct, Footlocker; pumps and soft shoes are permitted. There should be no sports branding and NO LOGOS on school shoes. (Compulsory)	
Outdoor Coat (dark in colour, no leather, suede or denim and no hoodies. Coats should be plain with no large logos or branding)	Supportive sports trainers - no soft pumps, slip on shoes or crocs (Compulsory)
School Lanyard and ID badge to be worn at all times (not required to be worn in PE lessons). Lanyards are provided by Hamstead Hall Academy but if misplaced or lost, parents/carers to purchase a new one on Parent pay (Compulsory)	
School bag big enough for an A4 file	

4.1.2 Blazers

Should be worn at all times, unless a pupil has been given permission to remove them by a member of staff.

4.1.3 Mobile phones and electronic devices

In strict compliance with statutory guidance *'Mobile Phones in Schools'* (DfE June 2026), Hamstead Hall Academy operates as a phone-free environment by default at all times. This rule supports a calm, safe and focused learning environment by removing any distraction and disruption. The use of mobile phones, smartwatches, earphones and other personal electronic devices is strictly prohibited anywhere on the school site during the school day. To provide absolute clarity, a yellow line is marked on the ground at the main school gates and denotes the boundary of the school site. Devices must be switched off and out of sight before crossing this line when entering school and may only be used once students have crossed the line when leaving at the end of the day. Any device seen, heard or used on site will be confiscated and may only be collected by a parent/carer or other responsible adult at the end of the next school day. This is designed to be an effective deterrent and parents/carers are expected to support the consistent application of this policy. Students who repeatedly breach this expectation may be placed on a surrender agreement, requiring them to hand their device into the secure locker system at Reception at the start of each day and collect it at the end of the school day for a specified period.

4.2 Where to purchase uniform

- Gogna School and Sports and Uniform Plus.

The Academy understands that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items that must have a school logo or a unique fabric/colour/design) must be purchased from specific retailers (such as Blazers, ties and PE kit etc.). Other uniform items such as skirts, trousers, shirts, blouses etc. can be bought from any other supplier.

4.3 Sixth Form Uniform

The Hamstead Hall Academy dress code is in place for Sixth Form students to foster a sense of community and identity. The formal dress code requirements ensure students have professional attire, preparing students for future workplace and to instil a sense of pride of being a part of Hamstead Hall Academy.

The dress code allows some capacity for expression and individuality and for students to take some ownership regarding their own professional representation. It is imperative that all students reflect Hamstead Hall values in ethos in both their behaviour and appearance. This is imperative as Sixth Form students act as role models for our KS3 and KS4 students.

Students not adhering to the dress code nor wearing a lanyard will be given a warning and then an appropriate sanction issued if it is not rectified. Continued failure to comply with the dress code will be treated as defiance and the behaviour policy will be followed. The Sixth Form team makes the final decision on what is suitable dress code.

4.3.1 Sixth Form Dress Code:

- Trouser suit, skirt suit or dress suit
- Skirt not too short or long (close to knee and not below ankle length)
- Collared shirt or appropriate blouse
- Tie to be worn with shirts
- Smart shoes (Black trainers will not be allowed)
- Shoes must be low heeled (closed toe)
- Single block coloured jumper or cardigan may be worn under formal jacket, jumpers must be round or V-neck

- Outdoor wear is not to be worn when inside the buildings (coats, hats, gloves)
- Sixth Form lanyards must be worn at all times

4.3.2 Sixth Form Prohibited Dress Code Items

- Denim items/Ripped jeans
- Sportswear, including jogging bottoms, tracksuits, sweatshirts or hoodies
- Polo neck jumpers
- Zipped sweatshirts
- Baggy or exceptionally long jumpers
- Trainers, canvas shoes, plimsolls or boots
- Leg warmers
- No large logos on any items of uniform
- Cropped tops/low cut tops
- Baseball caps
- Beanie Hats (May be worn outside school buildings)
- Bandanas / Balaclavas

5. Expectations for our school community

5.1 Pupils

Pupils are expected to wear the correct uniform at all times (other than specified non-school uniform days) while:

- On the school premises
- Travelling to and from school
- At out-of-school events or on trips that are organised by the school, or where they are representing the school (if required)

5.2 Parents and carers

Parents and carers are expected to make sure their child has the correct uniform and PE kit, and that every item is:

- Clean
- Clearly labelled with the child's name
- In good condition

We expect that our parents / carers will:

- Ensure that their child/children adhere to the academy uniform policy
- Ensure that they come to the academy in uniform everyday unless there are special circumstances
- Ensure that they have all equipment for the day
- Support the academy in sanctioning students as per the policy

Parents are also expected to contact Miss Stevenson (Assistant Headteacher) if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to:

- Their child's protected characteristics
- The cost of the uniform

Parents are expected to lodge any complaints or objections relating to the school uniform in a timely and reasonable manner. Disputes about the cost of the school uniform will be:

- Resolved locally
- Dealt with in accordance with our school's complaints policy

The school will work closely with parents to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

5.3 Staff

Our staff will ensure that students are in correct uniform and will challenge any infringements. Students will be sanctioned accordingly by staff for uniform infringement as per our behavior policy. Pupils and families breaching the uniform policy will be given the opportunity to comply but will follow up with the pastoral team if the situation does not improve. Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with by Miss Stevenson (Assistant Headteacher) or escalated to the Headteacher. In cases where it is suspected that financial hardship has resulted in a pupil not complying with this uniform policy, staff will take a mindful and considerate approach to resolving the situation.

5.4 Governors

The local governing board will review this policy and make sure that it:

- Is appropriate for our school's context
- Is implemented fairly across the school
- Considers the views of parents and pupils
- Offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all pupils

The board will also make sure that the school's uniform supplier arrangements give the highest priority to cost and value for money, for example by avoiding single supplier contracts and by re-tendering contracts at least every 5 years.

6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by Miss Stevenson (Assistant Headteacher) and the Headteacher. At every review, it will be approved by the Local Governing Body.

7. Links to other policies and legislation

This policy is linked to our:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection policy
- Behaviour policy
- Equality Act 2010
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Children and Families Act 2014
- Children's wellbeing and School Act 2026
- Mobile Phones in Schools statutory guidance (DfE June 2026)
- Anti-bullying policy
- Complaints policy