



**Prince Albert**  
**HIGH SCHOOL**



# School Uniform Policy

## 2023/2024

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## Aims

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
- Clarify our expectations for school uniform

## 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 students 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 students
- Allow all students to have long hair (though we reserve the right to ask for this to be tied back)
- Allow students to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons
- Allow students to wear headscarves and other religious or cultural symbols

## Limiting the cost of school uniform

Prince Albert High School is situated in Perry Barr, Birmingham which is one of the most deprived areas nationally. Of the 390 students at PA High, 181 are eligible for pupil premium. Taking the demographics of the community that we serve into consideration, our school has a duty to make sure that the uniform we require is affordable, in line with statutory [guidance](#) from the Department for Education on the cost of school uniform.

We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that have to have a school logo or a unique fabric/colour/design) cannot 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

We will do this by:

- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary
- Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics where possible
- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost or long-lasting items, such as ties
- Avoiding specific requirements for items students could wear on non-school days, such as coats, bags and shoes
- 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
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents to acquire second-hand uniform items
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents of any changes
- Consulting with parents on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy

## Expectations for school uniform

### Our school's uniform

All students attending Prince Albert High School are expected to wear:

- A charcoal-coloured blazer (*this item is available with a school logo on*)
- White shirt
- Black/dark grey trousers or skirt
- Black shoes (trainers are not permitted)

- PA High school bag (*this item is available with a school logo on*)
- PA High Tie

#### P.E Kit

All students at PA High are expected to wear the following items when participating in P.E:

- PA High T Shirt (*this item is available with a school logo on*)
- Black shorts/jogging bottoms (available from any local store)
- Trainers

#### Jewellery and accessories

Students may not wear any jewellery except for one watch (no sound effects, games or smart watches) and if they wish, one pair of stud earrings, worn in the lower ear lobe. Earrings must be removed for PE.

#### Body piercing or tattoos

Body piercing is prohibited, with the exception of single, standard ear piercing, as mentioned above. No other forms of body piercing will be allowed for any pupil. Pupils are not allowed to have tattoos of any kind on their body.

#### Where you can purchase our school uniform

All uniform items required for students at Prince Albert High can be purchased from the school. If parents and carers wish to purchase items online, then they can be found online at [schoolwear solutions](#).

Prince Albert High School will host a second-hand uniform sale during the summer term and welcome all uniform donations from our families. All monies raised will go directly to school fund.

## Expectations for our school community

#### Students

Students are expected to wear the correct uniform at all times (other than specified 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)

#### 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
- In good condition

Parents are also expected to contact Mr. Harvey-More 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.

#### Staff

Staff will closely monitor students to make sure they are in correct uniform. They will give any students and families breaching the uniform policy the opportunity to comply, but will follow up with the Head of School if the situation doesn't improve.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with by a member of our senior leadership team.

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.

#### Academy Representatives

The local academy committee will review this policy and make sure that it:

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

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.

## **Review**

This policy will be reviewed annually.

Whenever changes to admission arrangements are proposed (except where the change is an increase to the agreed admission number), the Trust will publicly consult on these changes.