

Hope Valley College

School Uniform Policy

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1. 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

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 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 all students to style their hair in the way that is appropriate for school yet makes them feel most comfortable
- Allow students to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons
- Respect the importance of religious and cultural dress and individual choice to wear a headscarf, turban, or other religious headwear
- Allow for adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking students or their parents/carers to get in touch with the our Pastoral team on pastoral@hopevalley.chorustrust.org who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests

3. Limiting the cost of school uniform

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'/carers' 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, taking into account the cost and also the quality of items.

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
- 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 leveller
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups
- Avoid charging parents/carers for different uniform requirements where they are necessary for extra-curricular activities e.g. sports fixtures.
- Considering alternative methods for signalling differences in groups for interschool competitions, such as creating posters or labels
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents/carers to acquire second-hand uniform items
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents/carers of any changes
- Consulting with parents/carers and students on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy

4. Expectations for school uniform

4.1 School uniform

Our uniform is straight forward, but it is important that all students adhere to our expectations.

4.1.1 Required Branded items:

- A navy-blue polo shirt with the HVC Logo
- A navy-blue sweatshirt with the HVC logo and / or a navy-blue hoodie with the HVC Logo

4.1.2 Required Non-Branded Items:

- Students must wear either plain blue or black trousers. These can be jeans but not tracksuit bottoms or leggings. Rips, tears and writing are not permitted. Alternatively, students may wear plain navy blue or black knee length skirts or tailored shorts.
- Trainers are acceptable footwear, but heeled shoes, open-toed footwear and sandals are not

4.2 PE Kit

PE Kit is required for all PE lessons, but should not be worn to travel to or from school.

4.2.1 Required branded items

- White polo shirt with HVC Logo

4.2.2 Required Non-Branded Items:

- Black shorts/tracksuit bottoms
- Plain black warm layer
- Trainers for use indoor/MUGA (clean and in addition to those worn as uniform)
- Gum guard/shield – we strongly recommend that these should be worn for activities such as rugby and hockey. Parents/carers should provide these as part of essential PE kit. Teachers will remind students that any protective equipment provided by parents/carers should be used to reduce the severity of any possible injury whilst participating in contact sports lessons and activities.

4.2.3 Football & Rugby

Anyone playing football or rugby needs:

- Knee high sports socks in black or white
- Football boots/ Astro turf trainers (deep grip) for use on the field
- Shin pads

4.3 Other expectations

4.3.1 Jewellery

- Students are allowed up to two piercings in each ear and may wear simple stud earrings. No other piercings are allowed, and students will be asked to remove any before taking part in lessons.

- For health and safety reasons, nail extensions are not allowed.

4.3.2 Coats

- Outside coats, hats and scarves should not be worn inside the building. Students can use their school bag to store their coat while inside the building. When a student enters the school building, before school, and at social times, coats must be removed immediately. Students will only be allowed to put their coat on when they leave the building for social times and at the end of Period 5.

4.3.3 Mobile phones/Smartwatches/Earphones/Airpods/Buds

- We do not expect children and young people to own a smart phone to access our curriculum. Although we recognise the potential benefits of technology in school, we also recognise the distractions and potential harm caused by phones and social media. Therefore, students are not allowed to use mobile phones, smartwatches or earphones/airpods/buds at school, unless directed by a member of staff in a lesson. Students are permitted to check their timetables on their phones. Any of these items that are seen or heard during the school day without permission will be confiscated by staff and parents/carers will be required to collect the confiscated item from reception. If a student chooses to bring any of these items to school to use at social times (outside the building) or after school, these items should be switched off and put away in bags. Students must not wear headphones in the corridors as this is a health and safety issue; we require all students to be able to hear instructions from staff or react to emergency situations.

4.4 Equipment List

All students should have the following equipment

- 2 x black pens
- 1 x green pen
- 2 x pencils
- ruler
- rubber
- pencil sharpener
- colouring pencils
- scientific calculator
- compass
- angle measure
- set square
- protractor

- earphones with a plug in
- apron for Food Tech lessons
- dictionary
- refillable water bottle
- tissues.

4.5 Where to purchase the Uniform

4.5.1 Branded Items

Our uniform provider is Emblematic and can be ordered at <https://emblematic.co.uk/schools/hv118/>

To ensure value for money, Hope Valley College last undertook a tender exercise in February 2022.

4.5.2 Second-Hand School Uniform

Second-hand school uniform is available from our school reception. Availability does depend on what stock we have in at the time, however we try to keep the full range of uniform and PE kit in a range of sizes available.

If you wish to enquire about purchasing any of the items please contact school at enquiries@hopevalley.chorustrust.org. There is a small cost of £1 per item of uniform which can be paid either in cash at Reception or through Parent Pay.

If you have any unwanted Hope Valley College uniform, or items your child has outgrown, we welcome donations all year round.

5. Expectations for our school community

5.1 Students

Students 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)

Students are also expected to contact the Pastoral Manager if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics.

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

Parents/carers are also expected to contact the Pastoral Manager if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to:

- Their child's protected characteristics

Parents/carers 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/carers to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

5.3 Staff

Staff will closely monitor students to make sure they are in correct uniform.

If students attend school in incorrect uniform parents/carers will be informed and students are expected to be in correct uniform the next day. Staff will also take account of unforeseen circumstances and individual situations.

If students return to school in incorrect uniform, they will be provided with correct uniform to change into.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with by the Hope Valley College Behaviour for Learning Procedure.

In cases where it is suspected that financial hardship has resulted in a student not complying with this uniform policy, staff will take a mindful and considerate approach to resolving the situation.

5.4 Local Governing Body

The Local Governing Body 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/carers and students

- Offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all students

The Local Governing Body 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 annually by the school Business Support & Finance Manager. At every review, it will be approved by the Resources Committee.

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

- Hope Valley College Behaviour for learning procedure
- Chorus Education Trust Behaviour policy
- Equality information and objectives statement
- Anti-bullying policy
- Complaints policy