

Hope Valley College

School Uniform Policy

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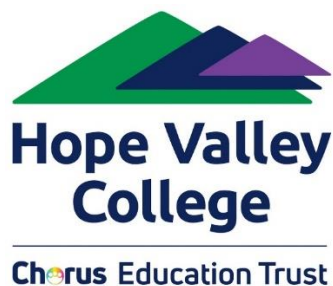
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‘Wear your badge with pride’

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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 and comfortable and we expect all students to 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



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 plain blue or black shorts: these must be appropriate for the school environment.
- Flat shoes or trainers.

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 – these must 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:

- White or black knee-high football/rugby socks.
- Football boots/Astro turf trainers (deep grip).
- 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. A single nose **stud** is permitted. No other piercings are allowed, and students will be asked to remove any before taking part in lessons. Necklaces are only permitted if worn beneath clothing: they must be removed before taking part in practical lessons such as PE.
- We recommend that students leave items of value, including jewellery, at home to avoid any loss of or damage to any personal possessions whilst at school. If removed, school cannot be liable for the loss of any items.
- For health and safety reasons, long nail extensions are not allowed.

4.3.2 Coats

In lessons and in the dining room coats, hats and scarves should not be worn. Students can use their school bag to store their coat while inside the building or there are a limited number of lockers available for parents/carers to rent.

4.3.3 Mobile phones/Smartwatches/Earphones/Airpods/Buds

As a school, we see and understand the value of students having access to technology, including mobile phones however we do not expect children and young people to own a smart phone to access our curriculum. Our current policy is that mobile phones should be switched off and in school bags while students are in the school building – what we refer to as ‘invisible’.

Students whose phones can be ‘seen’ which includes being carried in back pockets or out even while switched off, will be asked to hand their phones in. Students do not need to check their phones to access timetables or homework whilst in school, they are now provided with a student planner which contains this information.

The use of smartwatches, earphones or airpods/buds is also not permitted within the school building.

Students are currently allowed to check their mobile phones while outside at break/lunchtimes and this will continue for the time being.

4.4 Equipment List

All students should have the following equipment:

- Student Planner
- 2 x black pens
- 1 x green pen
- 2 x pencils
- ruler
- rubber
- pencil sharpener
- colouring pencils
- scientific calculator
- compass
- set square
- protractor
- apron for food tech lessons
- refillable water bottle

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, this will be repeated in February 2025.

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 always wear the correct uniform (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

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 or health issue

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 by email and students are expected to be in correct uniform the next day. Staff will also take account of unforeseen circumstances and individual situations, however there is an expectation that students have uniform clean and ready for the week.

If students do not return to school the next day in correct uniform, they will be provided with correct uniform to change into. If they don't do this, a consequence will be issued.

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