King's Cross Academy

Clothing and Uniform Policy

Ratification and Monitoring

Ratified date:	September 2026
Review date:	September 2029
Website?	YES
Policy drive?	YES
Master Policy S/S	YES

Approval

Headteacher	Stephen Mitchell	September 2026
Chair of Quality of Education Committee	Allan Atlee	September 2026

1. Introduction

At King's Cross Academy, our uniform helps to create a strong sense of identity, belonging and pride in our school community. We want our expectations to be simple, inclusive and affordable for families, while ensuring that pupils are dressed safely and appropriately for learning, play and physical activity.

Our approach to uniform is guided by the following principles:

- **Belonging:** uniform helps pupils to feel part of the King's Cross Academy community.
- **Equality:** a simple and consistent uniform reduces visible differences in clothing and fashion between pupils.
- **Affordability:** families should be able to purchase the majority of uniform from a retailer of their choice and no family should experience financial hardship because of our uniform expectations.
- **Inclusion:** our expectations take account of individual needs, including religion or belief, disability, sensory needs and other protected characteristics.
- **Safety and practicality:** clothing, footwear, jewellery and accessories should enable pupils to participate safely and comfortably in all aspects of school life.
- **Sustainability:** we encourage families to reuse good-quality uniform and support access to pre-loved uniform.

The Academy has regard to the Department for Education's statutory guidance on the cost of school uniforms and its wider guidance on developing school uniform policy. The Academy also considers its responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 and Human Rights Act 1998 when developing and implementing this policy.

2. Our basic uniform

King's Cross Academy does not require pupils to wear Academy-branded uniform. Items displaying the KCA logo are available for families who wish to purchase them, but equivalent plain items can be purchased from any retailer.

Tops

Pupils should wear:

- a plain red sweatshirt, fleece or jumper; and
- a pale blue shirt, blouse, T-shirt or polo shirt.

Items may display the King's Cross Academy logo, but this is optional.

Clothing should not display large commercial logos, slogans or prominent patterns.

Bottoms

Pupils may wear:

- plain grey or black trousers;
- plain grey or black skirts;
- plain grey or red pinafores; or
- red-and-white gingham dresses.

Uniform should be practical, comfortable and suitable for a busy school day.

There is no requirement for particular uniform items to be worn by boys or girls. Families and pupils may select whichever of the permitted uniform options is most appropriate and comfortable for them.

Coats and outdoor clothing

Children should bring an appropriate coat for the weather.

Coats do not need to be in Academy colours and do not need to be purchased from a particular supplier. We recommend that coats are warm and waterproof during colder months.

Hats, gloves and scarves may be worn outdoors when appropriate.

During periods of particularly hot, cold or adverse weather, the Academy may temporarily adapt uniform expectations to ensure that pupils remain safe and comfortable.

3. Academy-branded uniform

Academy-branded clothing is entirely optional.

Families who wish to purchase items displaying the King's Cross Academy logo may do so through the Academy's approved uniform supplier. Details of the current supplier are available on the Academy website.

Families are equally welcome to purchase suitable plain red, pale blue, grey and black items from supermarkets, high-street retailers, online retailers or second-hand sources.

No pupil will be treated differently because they are wearing a generic rather than an Academy-branded item.

4. PE kit

All pupils should have suitable clothing and footwear for Physical Education.

From Year 1, pupils will require:

- a plain T-shirt suitable for PE;
- shorts, leggings or jogging bottoms suitable for physical activity; and
- trainers or suitable sports footwear.

PE clothing should allow pupils to move safely and comfortably. Academy-branded PE kit is not required.

Teachers will advise families where particular clothing or footwear is required for specific activities.

For health and safety reasons, jewellery will normally need to be removed for PE. Pupils should therefore ideally not wear jewellery to school on PE days if they are unable to remove it independently.

Arrangements for PE in the EYFS will be age-appropriate and communicated to families by the EYFS team.

5. Footwear

Pupils should wear safe, practical footwear that allows them to participate fully in the school day.

School shoes are recommended, although trainers are also permitted.

Footwear should:

- fit securely;
- allow children to walk, run and play safely; and
- be appropriate for the activities of a primary school day.

High heels, flip-flops and other footwear that presents an avoidable safety risk should not be worn.

A separate pair of trainers or appropriate sports shoes is required for PE from Year 1.

6. Jewellery and piercings

For health and safety reasons, jewellery should be kept to a minimum during the school day.

Pupils with pierced ears may wear small stud earrings. Large earrings, hoops or dangling earrings should not be worn because they may become caught during play, PE or other activities and cause injury.

Necklaces, bracelets and other decorative jewellery should not normally be worn.

Other facial or body piercings are not appropriate for school.

Where jewellery or an item is worn as part of a pupil's religion or belief, the Academy will work with the pupil and family to accommodate this wherever possible. Any necessary restrictions will only be made where there is a legitimate safety or other significant concern.

The Academy may require jewellery to be removed or safely covered for particular activities where it presents a health and safety risk.

7. Make-up, nail varnish and artificial nails

Make-up and nail varnish should not be worn to school.

Artificial, acrylic, gel or extension nails should not be worn. Longer artificial nails can create a safety risk during PE, playground activity, practical learning and everyday play.

Where there is a medical or other exceptional reason for a pupil to wear a particular product, families should discuss this with the Academy.

8. Religious dress, equality and individual needs

King's Cross Academy is committed to ensuring that its uniform policy is inclusive and does not unlawfully discriminate.

We recognise that pupils may need adaptations to the standard uniform expectations because of:

- religion or belief;
- disability;
- SEND;
- sensory or physical needs;
- medical needs; or
- another individual circumstance.

The Academy will make reasonable adjustments for disabled pupils where appropriate and will consider requests for other adaptations sensitively and individually.

Families who believe that an aspect of the uniform policy presents a difficulty for their child are encouraged to speak to the child's class teacher, Phase Leader or a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Our aim will always be to find a reasonable solution that enables the pupil to participate fully in Academy life.

9. Affordability

King's Cross Academy is committed to keeping the cost of uniform as low as reasonably

possible.

For this reason:

- Academy-branded uniform is optional;
- generic uniform may be purchased from any retailer;
- we keep the number of different items required to a minimum;
- PE kit does not need to be Academy-branded; and
- families are encouraged to make use of good-quality second-hand uniform.

We will never knowingly allow difficulty purchasing uniform to become a barrier to a child's attendance, participation or sense of belonging at school.

If a family is experiencing difficulty providing uniform or PE clothing, they are encouraged to contact the Academy confidentially. We will work sensitively with families to identify appropriate support.

10. Pre-loved and second-hand uniform

We recognise that reusing uniform can significantly reduce costs for families while also reducing waste.

The Academy supports access to good-quality pre-loved uniform. Information about how families can access second-hand uniform will be made available through the Academy website and updated when arrangements change.

Families are also encouraged to donate clean, good-quality uniform that their children have outgrown so that it can be reused by other members of our community.

11. Spare clothing in Nursery and Reception

Young children may occasionally require a change of clothing during the school day.

Families of children in Nursery and Reception are therefore asked to provide a complete labelled change of clothing, including underwear and socks, which can be kept at school where appropriate.

This does not need to be Academy uniform.

Staff will manage any need for changing clothes sensitively and in accordance with the Academy's safeguarding and intimate care procedures.

12. Labelling and lost property

Families are strongly encouraged to clearly label pupils' clothing, coats, PE kit and other

belongings with their child's name.

The Academy will make reasonable efforts to return named items to their owners.

Lost property will be kept in the Academy's designated lost-property area. Families will be reminded periodically to check lost property.

Unclaimed items may periodically be donated for reuse, recycling or charitable purposes after families have been given reasonable notice.

13. When uniform expectations are not met

We expect families to support the Academy's uniform expectations. However, our first response when a pupil is not wearing the expected uniform will be to understand **why**.

There may be many legitimate reasons, including:

- an item having been lost, damaged or outgrown;
- financial difficulty;
- difficulties washing or drying clothing;
- SEND, sensory or medical needs;
- religious or cultural considerations; or
- temporary family circumstances.

Staff should address uniform concerns discreetly and sensitively. Pupils should not be embarrassed or publicly singled out because of their clothing.

Where there is a difficulty, the Academy will seek to work with the pupil and family to resolve it. This may include providing additional time to obtain an item, offering access to pre-loved uniform, making a reasonable adjustment or providing other practical support.

Where a pupil or family persistently and deliberately chooses not to follow the uniform policy despite appropriate support, explanation and reasonable opportunity to resolve the issue, the Academy may respond in accordance with its Behaviour Policy.

This may include:

1. a reminder to the pupil;
2. communication with parents/carers;
3. discussion with the class teacher or Phase Leader; and
4. where necessary, involvement from a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Any response will be reasonable and proportionate to the circumstances.

Uniform issues should not unnecessarily prevent a pupil from attending school or participating in education. Sending a pupil home because of uniform will only be considered in exceptional circumstances and in accordance with relevant guidance.

14. Attendance and participation

A lack of correct uniform or PE kit should not become a barrier to attending school.

If a pupil does not have the appropriate clothing for an activity, staff should consider what reasonable steps can be taken to enable the pupil to participate rather than automatically excluding them from the activity.

Where uniform difficulties are contributing to absence, reluctance to attend or bullying, the Academy will work with the pupil and family to identify and address the underlying issue.

15. Non-uniform and special event days

From time to time, the Academy may hold non-uniform, themed or special event days.

We will aim to ensure that these events are inclusive and do not place unnecessary financial pressure on families.

Where costumes or themed clothing are suggested, families will not be expected to purchase expensive or specialist items in order for their child to participate.

Clothing worn on non-uniform days should remain appropriate for a primary school environment and safe for the activities taking place.

16. Responsibilities

The Governing Body

The Governing Body is responsible for monitoring the effectiveness and appropriateness of the Academy's uniform policy and ensuring that it reflects relevant statutory requirements and guidance.

Headteacher

The Headteacher has overall responsibility for the implementation of this policy and for ensuring that expectations are applied fairly, consistently and sensitively.

The Headteacher may delegate responsibility for day-to-day implementation to other members of staff.

Academy staff

All staff are expected to:

- promote the Academy's uniform expectations positively;
- model a respectful and inclusive approach;
- address concerns discreetly;
- consider the individual circumstances of pupils;
- raise persistent concerns with the appropriate leader; and
- identify families who may require additional support.

Parents and carers

We ask parents and carers to:

- support the Academy's uniform expectations;
- ensure that clothing is appropriate, safe and clearly labelled;
- contact the Academy where they are experiencing difficulty meeting the expectations; and
- work constructively with us where concerns arise.

Pupils

We encourage pupils to:

- take pride in belonging to King’s Cross Academy;
- look after their clothing and belongings;
- follow reasonable expectations relating to uniform and safety; and
- speak to a trusted adult if there is a reason why they are finding an aspect of the uniform policy difficult.

17. Monitoring and review

The Headteacher is responsible for overseeing the implementation of this policy.

Class teachers and Phase Leaders will monitor any emerging issues relating to uniform and raise significant or recurring concerns with the Senior Leadership Team.

The Academy will consider feedback from pupils and families when reviewing its uniform arrangements, particularly where changes could affect cost, accessibility or inclusion.

The Governing Body will review the policy at appropriate intervals to ensure that it remains affordable, inclusive, proportionate and consistent with current statutory requirements and Department for Education guidance.

Relevant legislation and guidance

This policy has been developed with regard to:

- Education Act 1996, including amendments relating to compulsory branded school uniform;
- Education (Guidance about Costs of School Uniforms) Act 2021;
- Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026;
- Equality Act 2010;
- Human Rights Act 1998;
- Department for Education, *Cost of school uniforms: statutory guidance*;
- Department for Education, *Developing school uniform policy*; and
- relevant Equality and Human Rights Commission guidance.