



HIGHDOWN SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM CENTRE

UNIFORM AND DRESS CODE

Aspiration – Respect – Excellence

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

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Version	1	Status	Approved
Committee	FGB	Date Approved	5 th July 2023
Link Governor	Prof A Rajantie	Review Date	5 th July 2025



HIGHDOWN SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM CENTRE

Uniform and Dress Code

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policy/policies:

- Behaviour Policy
- Equality Statement

Purpose

This policy aims to set out the expectations of dress and personal presentation for students of Highdown school and Sixth Form Centre. The purpose of our uniform and dress code is to ensure that all students have a sense of belonging to our community and are proud to represent our core values of aspiration, respect and excellence in all that they do. The school uniform and dress code policy is compulsory for all students.

The uniform and dress code has been designed in consultation with all stakeholders and should not discriminate, in accordance with the Equality Act (2010), on grounds of race, religion, sex and disability.

Aims

The aims of the school uniform and dress code at Highdown School and Sixth Form are:

- To foster a sense of pride, belonging and self-confidence,
- To reduce distractions and allow students to focus on their learning,
- To allow students from all socio-economic backgrounds to be included,
- To set clear boundaries for students and embed positive behaviours,
- To represent the Highdown Values (aspiration, respect and excellence) at school and in the community.

Consultation

All stakeholders in accordance with Department of Education Cost of Uniforms Statutory Guidance November 2021.¹

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cost-of-school-uniforms/cost-of-school-uniforms>

Roles and Responsibilities

Staff: It is the responsibility of all staff under the direction of the Headteacher to monitor and enforce the uniform and dress code. Mentors are asked to check appearance each morning and to work with parents and pastoral leaders when students are not adhering to the code. Consequences for not adhering to our uniform and dress code are outlined in the Behaviour Policy. Staff teaching Physical Education will also check kit and use our academy consequences for those students clothing s who are not adhering to the expectations.

Parents: Parents have the responsibility to ensure that their child comes to school in the correct uniform and has the correct kit for P.E. Parents should notify the mentor, in the first instance, if there are any unforeseen problems with uniform or kit on a particular day and assistance will be given.

Students: Students should always dress according to the published uniform and dress code (this includes the journey to and from school). They should take responsibility for their own personal presentation and being organised with kit and equipment. Students should only wear the school uniform and a coat and not supplement with hoodies, sweatshirts, hats and jewellery.

Correction and Confiscation: Students wearing prohibited items should expect that they will be warned in the first instance and the item confiscated if repeated. Students arriving at school in incorrect uniform will be instructed to change either by asking parents to deliver correct uniform or by borrowing items from our stores of second-hand items.

Non-uniform days: Highdown students enjoy the non-uniform days held at the end of term to raise funds for our chosen charities. On these days, students should still wear clothing and footwear that are appropriate to a school, working environment and adhere to our Health and Safety guidelines. Non-school uniform items should not have extreme or offensive slogans or images.

Uniform Years 7-11

School uniform is available to order online, directly from supplier, SWI Schoolware Ltd. <https://www.swischoolwear.co.uk/> but many items can be obtained from high street stores. Second-hand uniform can be obtained from the Highdown School PTA who regularly advertise their stock in parent newsletters, website and on social media. The school has a stock of second-hand uniform which can be loaned to students. Support is given to disadvantaged families in the purchase of items with the Highdown logo.

- Blazers with the Highdown logo are compulsory and should be worn at all times unless invited to remove them.
- Shirts or blouses should be plain white. T-shirts and polo shirts are not permitted.
- Jumpers and cardigans are not compulsory but if a student chooses to wear one, it should be plain black with the Highdown logo.
- Trousers and shorts should be formal, tailored and plain black. ***Shorts can be worn in September and Terms 5 and 6 only.***
- Skirts should be formal, tailored, plain black, pleated and knee-length (this item can be obtained from SWI or from high street stores).
- Socks should be plain grey, black or white. Tights should be plain black or neutral coloured.

- Shoes should be plain black and polishable. Trainers (including Nike Air -type footwear) are not permitted.

Additional Information

- Hijab, if worn, should be a dark colour, ideally black. Non-religious head-coverings are not permitted.
- Outdoor coats should be plain and worn over the jumper and blazer. Coats are to be removed in lessons.
- Hairstyles should be simple and non-attention seeking. Only natural hair colours are permitted and long hair should be tied back during P.E., Science and D&T for Health and Safety reasons. Shaved patterns are not permitted.
- Jewellery is not permitted except watches and single studs (no more than one per ear) and facial piercings are not permitted. Students who breach this code will be asked to remove items, hand to a pastoral leader for safe-keeping and collect them at the end of the week. All jewellery must be removed for P.E. lessons.
- Make-up (including fingernails) should be inconspicuous.
- All items of clothing should be named.

P.E. Kit

PE Shirt	With school logo	Compulsory – from school supplier
Shorts	Black with school logo	Compulsory – from school supplier
Multisport Top	With school logo	Compulsory for boys' outdoor sports – from school supplier
Long Sports Socks	Red	Compulsory – can be bought from school supplier
Tracksuit Bottoms	Black and plain	Optional – can be bought from school supplier
Sports Hoodie	With school logo	Optional – from school supplier
Trainers		Compulsory. These should be fairly strong, but not too heavy or bulky. Multipurpose/cross trainers would be appropriate.
Jewellery		All jewellery/piercings must be removed for PE
Extras when required		
Swimming costume and towel		
Football boots		
Shin-pads - compulsory for school matches Mouthguards Recommended for all Rugby lessons		

Sixth Form Dress Code

Students entering the Sixth Form are expected to exercise a disciplined and conventional attitude to dress. It is expected that the following general principles will be met by all students. Sixth Formers are the *role models* for the rest of the school and are highly visible in the local community. Their appearance is therefore very important, both in school and on the way to and from school, and for this reason the Sixth

Form dress code is based upon the staff dress and appearance guidance. We expect Sixth Form students to dress in clothing suitable for a working environment.

We believe the guidelines above allow students to express their individuality but within a framework that recognises their responsibility to promote the highest standards of dress and appearance to the rest of the school. It is expected that Sixth Form students will be sensible and self-regulating in the choice of clothing that they wear to school. However, if dress is considered inappropriate then the student will be spoken to by the Head of Sixth Form who will ensure that the situation is rectified. Extremes of make-up, hairstyle, facial and other piercings are unacceptable.

All Sixth Form students are supplied with an identity badge and Highdown lanyard which must be worn at all times when on site or at other locations when representing the academy.

Staff Dress and Appearance

Staff appearance and presentation is very important in setting an example for our students to follow. Guidelines for dress and appearance are based on sound principles of health and safety, safeguarding, security, hygiene and professional reputation. It is expected that all staff will always project a professional image and dress appropriately for the work they do at Highdown School and Sixth Form Centre. The academy will be sensitive to the influence of culture, religion, disability, gender and sexuality on dress and appearance but must ensure that our overall objective of projecting an acceptable, professional image is not compromised.

Further specific details can be found in Section 3 of the Staff Handbook.

All staff are supplied with an identity badge and Highdown lanyard which must be worn at all times when working on site or on behalf of the academy at other locations, activities or events.

Monitoring and evaluating the policy

The uniform and dress policy will be monitored and reviewed biannually by the Deputy Headteacher (Culture for Learning) in conjunction with Pastoral Leaders and overseen by the named governor.

Senior Leaders and Pastoral Leaders will monitor uniform and dress throughout the year through:

- Learning Walks
- Mentor Time visits

Dr S L Capaldi July 2023

Appendix

1. Shoes

In order to maintain consistent high standards of uniform, we hope that this information provides some clarity for parents, students, and staff.

Shoes are deemed to be acceptable if they are **plain black** in colour, **polishable**, and **not overly decorative**. Essentially, shoes which can be described as flat, black, sensible school footwear. Velcro fastenings are permitted on shoes such as Clarks Monte Lite and Maris Fire. Sports branded footwear is **not** permitted.



Shoes are deemed to be *unacceptable* if they are **not plain black** in colour, are made of **canvas**, **overly decorative**, or have **white soles**.

Trainers, boots, and brands such as Vans, Converse, Nike, and Adidas are also not permitted. Examples include:



2. Skirts

Skirts are knee length, black and pleated. Some examples include:



3. Shorts

Shorts are black, formal and tailored:

