Park Academy West London
an Aspirations Academy

# Uniform Policy

2026-2027

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# 1. Purpose

At Park Academy West London, we expect students to wear uniform correctly and with pride. Uniform supports the academy's ethos, promotes belonging, reduces visible difference between students, and helps set a calm and purposeful tone for learning.

This policy applies to clothing, PE kit, footwear, hairstyles, headwear, jewellery, make-up, nails, bags and other aspects of appearance.

The academy will apply this policy fairly and consistently, while making reasonable adjustments where required and taking account of equality, SEND, medical, religious and cultural needs.

# 2. Principles

The academy will ensure that uniform is practical, smart, inclusive and affordable. We will:

- keep compulsory branded items to a minimum;
- ensure second-hand uniform is available;
- consider affordability when making any changes;
- avoid unnecessary changes to uniform requirements;
- consult where significant changes are proposed;
- consider individual requests for reasonable adjustments or exemptions.

Parents and carers are expected to ensure that their child attends the academy in correct uniform each day. Students are expected to wear uniform correctly throughout the academy day, unless an exemption has been agreed.

# 3. Uniform expectations

Students must wear:

- Park Academy blazer;
- Park Academy clip-on tie, worn with the top button fastened;
- plain white collared shirt;
- black tailored school trousers (not flares) or black knee-length pleated skirt;
- plain black or neutral-coloured tights, if worn;
- plain black, low-heeled, fully enclosed school shoes. Branding, stitching, soles and laces should be black and discreet;
- plain black socks;
- Park Academy branded bag.

Students may also wear:

- Park Academy sweater or sleeveless sweater, or a plain black V-neck school jumper.

The following are not permitted:

- trainers, except for PE;
- jeans, chinos, leggings, tight-fitting trousers or Lycra skirts;
- boot-leg or casual leisure trousers;
- hoodies, cardigans or tracksuit tops, except approved PE items;

- belts with large or decorative buckles.

## 4. PE kit

Students must bring the correct PE kit when required. PE kit includes:

- Park Academy PE shirt;
- plain black sports shorts or plain black tracksuit bottoms;
- trainers with non-marking soles;
- football boots where required for field use.

Optional PE items include:

- Park Academy tracksuit bottoms;
- Park Academy hooded jumper.

## 5. Appearance, jewellery and accessories

Hair must be safe, tidy and suitable for school. Long hair must be tied back where required for health and safety, including PE, science, technology and other practical lessons.

The academy may address hairstyles, headwear or appearance where, following individual consideration, they present a health and safety risk, include offensive words or images, are not suitable for a school environment, or cause disruption to the calm and orderly running of the academy. The academy will not prohibit hairstyles, headwear or dress linked to race, ethnicity, religion, culture or protected characteristics. Any concerns will be considered individually and in line with equality duties.

Make-up, where worn, must be discreet and natural-looking. False eyelashes, false nails, nail extensions and nail varnish are not permitted.

Students may wear one small plain gold or silver stud in each ear and a discreet watch. Other jewellery, facial piercings and visible tattoos are not permitted and will be confiscated. Jewellery must be removed where required for health and safety.

Headwear worn for religious, cultural or medical reasons should normally be plain black unless otherwise agreed.

## 6. Coats and outdoor clothing

Outdoor coats may be worn to and from the academy and outside during break and lunch. They must be removed inside the building unless directed otherwise by staff.

Hoodies, tracksuit tops and non-uniform outerwear are not permitted as replacements for school uniform and may be confiscated.

## 7. Equipment

Students should bring the correct equipment each day, including:

- pencil case;
- black pen, green pen and pencil;

- ruler, rubber and basic geometry equipment;
- scientific calculator;
- any subject-specific equipment required, including PE kit or food technology ingredients.

Failure to bring correct equipment may result in a sanction in line with the Behaviour Policy.

## 8. Uniform support and assistance

Second-hand uniform is available through the academy's second-hand uniform arrangements. Details will be published on the academy website.

Families experiencing difficulty with uniform costs should contact the academy. Support may be available, particularly for students eligible for free school meals or where there is financial hardship.

Parents and carers are encouraged to donate clean, good-quality uniform that is no longer needed.

Lack of correct uniform should be raised with the academy in advance wherever possible; it should not be used as a reason for a student to refuse reasonable support or correction during the academy day.

## 9. Non-compliance

Uniform issues will be managed calmly, fairly and proportionately in line with the Behaviour Policy.

The academy will distinguish between genuine difficulty in meeting uniform expectations and deliberate refusal to comply. Where there is a genuine financial, medical, SEND, sensory, religious, cultural or safeguarding reason, parents and carers should contact the academy as early as possible so that support, a temporary uniform pass or a reasonable adjustment can be considered.

Requests for uniform adjustments linked to medical, SEND, sensory, religious or cultural needs will be considered individually. For medical adjustments, the academy may request appropriate evidence, such as a medical note, appointment letter, care plan or other relevant professional advice, particularly where the adjustment is significant, repeated or long-term. Reasonable adjustments will not be delayed where the need is already known, obvious or urgent.

Where a student arrives in incorrect uniform without an agreed exemption, they will be expected to correct this immediately where possible. This may include borrowing uniform, removing prohibited items, or handing items in for confiscation. Refusal to correct uniform, borrow appropriate uniform, remove prohibited items or follow reasonable staff instructions will be treated as a behaviour matter and sanctioned in line with the Behaviour Policy.

Parents and carers may raise concerns about uniform decisions or sanctions through the academy's usual communication or complaints procedures. However, students are expected to follow staff instructions and comply with the policy while any concern is being reviewed.

In rare cases, a student may be permitted to return home briefly to correct a uniform breach, but only where this is safe, reasonable, parent or carer contact has been made, and the absence is recorded appropriately. Students will not be informally excluded for uniform issues.

Confiscated items will normally be returned at the end of the academy day, or to a parent or carer where appropriate. Unsafe, prohibited or repeatedly misused items may be retained for longer in line with academy procedures.

## 10. Adverse weather

The academy may temporarily adjust uniform expectations during adverse weather. This may include allowing students to wear academy-approved smart black shorts, remove blazers or jumpers during hot weather, or make reasonable adjustments during cold or wet weather. Any changes will be communicated clearly to students and families.

## 11. Labelling and lost property

Parents and carers should ensure that all clothing, footwear and equipment are clearly labelled with the student's name. Lost property will be kept by the academy for a reasonable period. Unclaimed items may be disposed of, donated or recycled.

This policy should be read alongside the academy's Behaviour Policy, SEND information, Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, and Complaints Policy.