



Dear Parents and Carers

RE: School Uniform

As we come to the end of this half term, I thought it would be a good idea to contact you with regard to the Academy's uniform policy (see below, and also on the website).

I would like to point out one or two areas of concern that I would like parents and carers to bear in mind when preparing your child's uniform for after half term.

The style and length of skirts can be an issue when some students seek to shorten the length of their skirts wherever possible. Also, we have noticed that some students are wearing tube or skater style skirts which are not part of our uniform policy. I would be most grateful if you could make sure that your child's skirt is of an appropriate style, fabric and length.

A number of students have started to wear shoes and/or trousers that do not conform to the uniform policy. Skinny jeans and chinos are not acceptable, neither are trainers, boots and canvas shoes. Students should be wearing black, rather than white, socks.

The policy is also very clear about make-up and jewellery. Make up should be discreet and students should not wear nail varnish or affix artificial nails. With regards to jewellery, students are permitted to wear one pair of small earrings and one ring. No other jewellery is acceptable.

Staff at the academy want to be able to focus on getting the best out of students' abilities rather than having to nag them about their uniform, so I would be grateful if you could work with us to ensure that students are wearing the uniform as they should. Students will be challenged about their uniform if it goes against the policy and expected to dress appropriately. Our core purpose is to invest time in teaching and learning, helping our young people to make progress.

Many thanks for your support in this matter.

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Axe Valley Academy

Uniform

- **Blazer:** Black, with The Axe Valley Academy badge in gold embroidery. All students are required to wear the Academy blazer. They may be removed in lessons with permission from the teacher. During periods of hot weather, students will not be required to wear blazers.
- **Shirt/blouse:** Plain white shirt that is long enough to tuck in, with a formal collar. Top button must be fastened or plain white fitted blouse with a formal collar. With both options top button must be fastened. All shirts must be tucked in. White polo shirts with the new Academy shield can be worn during the second half of the Summer term. This period of time may be extended during periods of hot weather. Students will be required to wear their Academy blazer if they want an additional layer of clothing.
- **Ties:** AVA clip-on ties are compulsory for all students. Clip-on ties are available from reception.
- **Skirts/trousers:** Plain black trousers (flares and tight fitting/straight leg trousers are not permitted) OR plain black skirts (skirts should be no more than 2 inches—from the top of the knee). Skirts must be made of an acceptable material; must not be skin tight fitting (e.g. tube skirts or skater style skirts).
- **T-shirts:** Plain white t-shirts/vests can be worn under shirts.
- **Coats/Jackets:** It is acceptable to wear a coat or jacket over blazers before and after school and during break and lunch. These must not be worn instead of blazers. Hooded jumpers are not permitted, unless they are the Academy logo PE hooded jumpers.
- **Scarves/Hats:** Scarves and hats can be worn before and after school and during break and lunch.
- **Belts:** Plain, black belts can be worn; these must not be more than 3 cm wide.
- **Shoes/Socks:** Sensible, plain, flat, sturdy, leather and black-soled black footwear is essential. Trainers, boots and canvas shoes are not permitted. Socks should be plain and black. Tights should be plain, black and in good order (e.g. ripped tights will need replacing).
- **Hairstyles:** For safety purposes, long hair must be tied back in practical sessions. Hair colouring needs to be natural and discreet. Extremes of colour and styles are not permitted.
- **Make-up:** Make-up, if worn, should be discreet. Artificial nails (inc gel nails) will not be permitted. Students are not permitted to wear nail varnish.
- **Jewellery:** One pair of small stud earrings/sleepers. Students are allowed to wear one ring. No other jewellery is acceptable e.g. bracelets and necklaces.
- **Facial piercing:** Facial piercing is not permitted. Students are advised that all types of bars/studs, including clear ones, are strictly not permitted. Neither do we permit students to be in classes with piercings covered by plasters.