



**ANSFORD ACADEMY**

LEARNING TOGETHER TO LEAD OUR LIVES

## **Behaviour and Inclusion Policy Suite**

# **SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY**

<b>Status:</b>	<b>Statutory</b>
<b>Adopted:</b>	<b>July 2024</b>
<b>Renewal Period:</b>	<b>Yearly</b>
<b>Next Review:</b>	<b>July 2025</b>

## **Section A: Introduction**

One key element of Ansford as a learning community is the way that each child is encouraged to grow and develop as an individual so that they are supported to become the best version of themselves that they can. Our uniform is designed to allow our students to express themselves as individuals while clearly signalling to the world that they are a member of our community. Our uniform promotes a sense of pride in being part of our community and fosters a sense of belonging.

We have worked hard to ensure that our uniform is practical, flexible and affordable for our families. We will continue to consider matters of affordability when making changes or adjustments to our uniform requirements.

We provide a complete list of the items needed for Ansford Academy uniform as part of this policy, on our school website, in the pack of essential information for Year 7 families and new in-year admissions.

## **Section B: Purpose**

- To reinforce a sense of shared membership and pride in the School;
- To identify students as part of the community, creating a sense of belonging;
- To act as an equaliser, enabling all students to avoid pressures associated with following fashion trends or wearing branded or designer clothing
- To mark the formality of being educated at Ansford Academy.

## **Section C: 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 our families
- Explain how we will avoid discrimination in line with our legal duties under the Equality Act 2010
- Clarify our expectations for school uniform

## **Section D: Legislation and Guidance**

This policy takes account of the DfE statutory guidance [Cost of School Uniform](#) published in November 2021, the DfE non-statutory guidance [School Uniforms](#) published in June 2023, the DfE non-statutory guidance on [Procuring School Uniform Supplies](#) published in April 2024 and complies with the obligations outlined under the [Human Rights Act 1998](#) and the [Equality Act 2010](#).

Any escalation of sanctions for breaches of our school uniform guidelines will be conducted in line with the DfE Guidance: [Behaviour in Schools](#) published in February 2024 and statutory DfE guidance: [Suspension and Permanent Exclusion from Maintained Schools, Academies and Pupil Referral Units in England](#) published in September 2023

The [Equality Act 2010](#) prohibits discrimination against an individual based on the protected characteristics, which include age, sex, disability, race, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity, and gender reassignment.

To avoid discrimination, Ansford Academy 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 a way that is appropriate for school and makes them feel most comfortable

- Allow students to wear headscarves and other essential religious or cultural symbols
- Allow students with sensory or physical needs to request reasonable adaptations to their uniform depending on their specific needs
- Allow for reasonable adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking students, or their parents, to contact the Deputy Headteacher: Welfare and Inclusion who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis

### **Section E: 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 families' 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 families

We will do this by:

- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary
- Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics where possible, for example, by only asking that the blazer, worn over the jumper, features the school logo
- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost and/or long-lasting items, such as ties
- Considering cheaper alternatives to school-branded items, such as logos that can be ironed on, as long as this doesn't compromise quality and durability
- 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
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- 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 families to acquire second-hand uniform items
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on families of any changes
- Consulting with students and their families about any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy

### **Section F: School Uniform Details**

The uniform has the colours of grey, black and maroon running through it as these are the colours which have represented Ansford for many years. The logo is created from individual arcs of grey, black and maroon that sweep together to form the 'A' of Ansford which symbolises the coming together of individual members of the Academy in the creation of our community.

In line with the core values of the Academy, our uniform creates opportunities for students to express themselves as individuals. The *Uniform Expectations*, as detailed in the tables below, allow students elements of flexibility and choice in a number of areas. For example, students can choose:

- whether to wear trousers, skirts or shorts;
- from a range of approved styles of skirt;
- whether to wear a jumper, cardigan or sleeveless jumper and from a selection of colours;
- from a selection of tie colours and patterns.

In addition, there are only a small number of items that are both branded and required (as outlined in the tables below), enabling families to purchase a significant proportion of uniform from High Street retailers, if preferred.

### 1. Ansford Academy Uniform

At Ansford, our uniform offers individual choice and flexibility, avoiding the need for different winter and summer uniforms by recognizing, for example, that some students will prefer to wear shorts all year round and others will always prefer an extra layer under their blazers. During the hotter weather, students will be given the option to remove their blazers as detailed below.

Ansford Academy Uniform Expectations		
Item	Optional or Required Branded or Generic	Additional Information
<b>Grey Blazer</b> Badged with Academy Logo	Required Branded	All students are expected to wear their school blazer at all times with the exception of in lessons where the teacher has given permission, when eating in the canteen or if playing sport.
<b>White Shirt</b>	Required Generic	Plain in long or short sleeves which must be worn tucked in.
<b>Grey Skirt</b>	Required Generic	Must be one of the approved styles: Straight/Pleated or Kick Pleat. <b>Skin tight jersey or stretchy style skirts are not permitted.</b>  Skirts should sit on the waist and not be rolled up or taken in at the seams to shorten or narrow them.
<b>Grey Trousers or Grey Knee Length Shorts</b>		Must be of the approved style only. Not skin tight, jeans or legging style. Trousers must be full length.
<b>Jumper/Cardigan/Sleeveless Jumper</b> Choice of Black, Grey, or Maroon	Optional Generic	Can be worn under the blazer, but not instead of the blazer. All these items must be V-necked. No sweatshirts or hooded sweatshirts are allowed.
<b>Academy Tie</b> Choice of different colours and plain or striped	Required Branded	Must be worn with a small knot covering the top button of the shirt.
<b>Tights</b> Choice of Black, Grey or Natural	Required Generic	Tights must not be ripped or have tears in them.
<b>Socks</b> Choice of Black, Grey or White		Leg warmers or ankle warmers are not permitted.

<b>Black Shoes</b>	Required Generic	Black daps or trainers/plimsolls are permitted as long as they are completely black and have no colour on the shoe or sole. Short plain black boots may be worn under trousers. The following are not acceptable: medium or high heels, open-toed, decorated, 'cros' or sandals.
<b>Hair</b>	Natural shades only. During some activities, students will be asked to tie hair back for health and safety reasons.	
<b>Jewellery</b>	Must be discreet. No facial piercings except for discreet nose stud. During some activities, students will be asked to remove jewellery for health and safety reasons.	
<b>Make-up</b>	Must be discreet. No thick eyeliner, dark eye shadow or obvious lipstick.	
<b>Bags</b>	Bags must be of a size that can hold all school equipment; rucksacks are recommended.	
<b>Mobile Devices</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ From 8.30am until 3.30pm, phones and other mobile devices should be "OFF and AWAY, stored in bags, not carried in hands or placed in pockets.</li> <li>▪ Wireless headphones should not be worn.</li> <li>▪ Wired headphones should not be worn beneath, or threaded through, uniform.</li> </ul>	

<b>Ansford Academy PE Kit Expectations</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>Optional or Required Branded or Generic</b>	<b>Additional Information</b>
<b>Polo Shirt or Tech Top</b> (Badged with Academy Logo)	Required Branded	Maroon Pique
Reversible Rugby Shirt	Optional Branded	Maroon with White Band
Shorts or Skort	Required Branded or Generic	Either plain black or black with the Academy Logo
Socks	Required Branded or Generic	Long and either plain black or black with the Academy Logo
Trainers (PE)	Required Generic	
Football Boots	Optional Generic	Recommended
Shin Pads	Optional Generic	Recommended
Tracksuit Trousers	Optional Branded or Generic	Either plain black or black with the Academy Logo
Leggings		Either plain black <u>sports</u> leggings (not cotton) or black with the Academy Logo
Mouthguard	Optional Generic	

## 2. Where to Purchase Ansford Academy Uniform

All items can be purchased from our online store Directschoolwear ([directschoolwear.co.uk](http://directschoolwear.co.uk)). All non-logo items can be purchased either through the Direct Schoolwear website or any other retailer that provides school clothing in the approved colours and styles.

The Academy 'approved' styles of skirts, trousers and shorts for both boy and girls are shown on the Direct Schoolwear website. Any items purchased from alternative suppliers must be the same colour and shade as those available from our recommended supplier and must meet the requirements of the Academy's Dress Code.

**How to Order: -**

- **Log on** to the Directschoolwear website
- **Click** on the '**Find My School**' icon
- **Click** on Ansford Academy
- **Add** the required products to your basket and checkout
- **Pay** online either by using Paypal, Credit/Debit Cards, Bank Transfer, or call Direct Schoolwear to make a phone payment.

Ties are also available to purchase from the Academy Office

All Physical Education kit with the Ansford Academy Badged Logo can be purchased from RAM Sports, 20 High Street, Wincanton, Somerset BA9 9JF Tel: **01963 31779**

Second-hand uniform can be purchased by clicking on [this link](#) which will take you to the Ansford Academy Second Hand Uniform Shop on 'Uniformerly'. Purchases can be paid for online via PayPal or by cash in person. Please allow 48 hours before collecting your items from the Academy reception.

## **Section G: School Uniform Expectations**

### **1. Students**

Students are expected to wear the correct uniform at all times (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)

Students are also expected to contact the Deputy Headteacher: Welfare and Inclusion if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics.

### **2. Parents and Carers**

We ask all parents and carers who secure a place at Ansford Academy to support our school uniform policy by ensuring that their child has the correct uniform as outlined in our guidance and that it is clean and in good repair.

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 are also expected to contact the Deputy Headteacher: Welfare and Inclusion if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to:

- Their child's protected characteristics
- The cost of the uniform

Parents and 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 to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

### **Section H: Student Breaches of the Uniform Policy/Student Non-Compliance**

It is the responsibility of Ansford Academy to determine whether the uniform guidance is being followed appropriately by students. 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.

- Staff will closely monitor students to make sure they are in correct uniform. All staff are expected to monitor the standards of school uniform of all students and to take appropriate action when expectations are not followed. Appropriate actions may include asking students to correct their uniform by adjusting or removing any items that do not comply with guidelines and requesting that students change into appropriate uniform that is held, freshly laundered, in school stock for this purpose. It is expected that any borrowed uniform is returned, freshly laundered, or it will be necessary to invoice for the cost of the loaned item(s).
- In addition, the Headteacher, or a person authorised by the Headteacher, may ask a student to go home briefly to remedy a breach of the Academy's rules on appearance or uniform. When making this decision, the student's age and vulnerability, the ease and time it will take, and the availability of the student's parents will be considered. This will not be recorded as a suspension but as an authorised absence. If this is not appropriate, and the student is unwilling to use items stored within the academy, they will be placed into the re-tracking base. Parents or carers may be contacted to request the correct uniform is brought into school, at which point the students will be reintroduced to their normal school timetabled lessons. These approaches will give students the opportunity to comply with the expectations. I
- If the student continues to breach uniform rules in such a way as to be sent home to avoid school, or takes longer than is strictly necessary to effect the change, the student's absence may be counted as an unauthorised absence.
- In line with the guidance from the DfE teachers can discipline students for breaching the Academy's policy on appearance and uniform. If necessary, and where students refuse to follow requests to correct their uniform, the full range of sanctions may be applied and these will be issued in line with the Behaviour Management Policy. When considering suspending a student for breaches of the uniform policy any decision will be made in line with the legal requirements for suspension.

### **Section I: Monitoring Arrangements**

This policy will be reviewed on at least an annual basis by the Deputy Headteacher(s): Welfare and Inclusion. At every review, it will be approved by the governors on the Community, Culture and Welfare Committee.

In their review of this policy, the governing board will make sure that it:

- is appropriate for our school's context;
- offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all students.

The board 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.

## **Section J: Links to Other Policies**

This policy is linked to our:

- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Behaviour Management Policy
- Complaints and Concerns Procedure
- Equality Policy
- SEND Policy

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