

Why School Uniform Matters at Castle Academy

Working Together to Support Pride, Belonging, and High Standards

At Castle Academy, we believe that wearing school uniform is about more than just appearance — it's about creating a positive, inclusive, and respectful learning environment for every child.

When children wear their uniform with pride, it helps them feel part of our school community. It promotes equality, reduces distraction, and supports a sense of purpose and readiness to learn. Our aim is to make our uniform simple, affordable, and appropriate for all children — and we appreciate the role families play in supporting this.

Why Uniform Is Important

- **Belonging** – Uniform helps children feel part of the same team, building school pride and a sense of community.
- **Equality** – It reduces pressure to wear branded or fashionable clothing and helps avoid comparisons or social divisions.
- **Readiness to Learn** – It sets the tone for the school day and encourages children to take school seriously.
- **Safety** – When all children are in uniform, they are easily identifiable, especially on trips or in busy areas.
- **Simplicity** – It makes mornings easier for families and reduces the cost and pressure of buying a wide variety of clothes.

Maintaining High Standards: Our Approach

We understand that there may occasionally be a reason why a child is not in full uniform. We approach these situations with kindness and understanding. However, we also know that consistency is important — both for fairness and for maintaining high expectations.

We rely on families to make sure that children come to school dressed appropriately. When there are persistent breaches of the uniform policy, we will always aim to work with you to resolve the issue.

Importantly, persistent uniform breaches can impact more than just the child involved. Other children often notice when rules are not followed and may feel confused, frustrated, or that expectations are unfair. It can lead to distraction, unnecessary comparisons, and a sense that school expectations don't apply equally to everyone. That's why it's so important that we maintain a consistent approach for all.

Here's how we will respond to ongoing uniform concerns:

1. Gentle Reminder

- *A quiet word with the child (if appropriate) and a short message or note sent home as a reminder of the school uniform expectations.*
- *We treat this as a one-off and assume it will be corrected quickly.*

2. Follow-Up Communication

- *If the issue continues, a formal letter or email will be sent to parents/carers to highlight that the concern is now ongoing.*
- *We'll remind families of the uniform policy and offer support, such as access to our second-hand uniform supply or help finding affordable items.*

3. Supportive Conversation

- *If needed, a member of staff will arrange a conversation or meeting to understand the reasons behind the continued issue.*
- *Where there are genuine challenges (financial, sensory, delays in obtaining items), we'll agree on a short-term plan or find a suitable alternative that meets the policy and supports the child.*

4. Final Reminder and Resolution Plan

- *If there is no resolution and no clear reason provided, a final reminder will be issued.*
- *This will outline the importance of following the policy and set a clear timeframe for resolving the issue.*
- *Ongoing concerns may be passed to the senior leadership team if needed.*

What We Will Not Do

- We will not single out or embarrass any child for what they are wearing.
- Our conversations will always be respectful, supportive, and confidential.

How You Can Help

We kindly ask all parents and carers to:

- Familiarise yourselves with the school uniform policy.
- Label all items clearly to avoid lost property.

Let us know as early as possible if there are any difficulties in meeting the uniform expectations. We know that, as parents, you want the best for your child — and part of that includes helping them feel confident, included, and ready to learn each day.

Need Help with Uniform?

We're here to help. If you need support — financial, practical or otherwise — please don't hesitate to contact the school office. We have second-hand uniform available and can offer advice or support where needed.

Thank You for Your Support

By working together, we can maintain a strong school identity and ensure that every child comes to school feeling proud, prepared, and part of something special. Thank you for your continued support in upholding our school's values and standards.

If you have any questions about the uniform policy or need help with specific items, please get in touch.



Marie Bond
Parent Support Advisor



Together we are TEAM CASTLE!

Castle Academy School Uniform

PE Kit

			
Black joggers	Black plimsols or trainers	Black shorts (no cycling shorts)	White t-shirt (no sports brands)

School Uniform

			
Grey trousers	Grey shorts	Grey skirt	Grey pinafore dress
			
White or burgundy polo t-shirt	White Shirt	Burgundy cardigan	Burgundy jumper
			
Grey tights	Black tights	Black shoes	
			*Children do not require a PE bag as they will need to come dressed ready for PE. *Please ensure ALL items are labelled with children's names.
Red/burgundy gingham dress.	Water Bottle (not metal)	Burgundy bookbag (Existing red do not need to be replaced; No rucksacks)	
Jewellery: • Only single stud earrings which children can take out independently for PE. • A watch (no smart watches) • No bracelets or necklaces.			

This school year has been a transitional phase as we move from the previous red uniform colour to burgundy. As communicated in Summer 2024, red jumpers and cardigans will no longer be part of the school uniform from September 2025.

In response to parental feedback, we are pleased to confirm that **burgundy polo shirts** have now been added as an alternative to white polo shirts. Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain a consistent and smart school uniform.