



Uniform and Equipment Policy

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Section 1: Introduction

1.1 Principles

Future Academies promotes excellence and aspiration in everything its students do therefore this uniform policy is applied to all secondary schools within the Trust, a separate policy will reflect uniform requirements in Future Academy Primary Schools. The Principal or Head of School has discretion over minor amendments that are deemed appropriate for the school community.

The academy uniform is designed to reinforce this spirit of excellence, encouraging students to take pride in belonging to their school community. Our uniform is smart and practical and, as such, it presents a professional and business-like image that enables students to act as ambassadors for their school and for Future Academies.

At Future Academies, we believe that having an academy uniform achieves three important goals:

- It encourages a sense of community identity and pride. By wearing the same badge and the same clothing, students are encouraged to think of the needs of the community as well as their own individual needs.
- It encourages our students to develop habits for life. By learning to polish their shoes, fold their trousers or hang up their blazers, students learn habits of discipline and personal responsibility that will stay with them for life.
- It prevents unkindness or bullying while keeping costs down. By requiring all our students to wear the same low-cost uniform, we reduce the incentive for students to ask parents for the latest (and most expensive) items of fashion. As a result, costs are kept as low as possible, and no child can be identified as being poorer or wealthier than any other.

High standards of presentation are always required when wearing the academy uniform. The uniform must be complete and must not be mixed with non-uniform clothing. In addition, we expect all students to take pride in their personal appearance: clothes should always be clean and smartly presented, and hair should be neat and tidy. We expect shoes to be polished at least once each week, and we expect students to wear a clean shirt every day. We expect sports kit to be washed each week. It is important to stress that our uniform expectations apply both when students are on the academy premises as well as when they are travelling to and from the academy, when they are on school trips, or when they are otherwise representing our school in the community.

For our uniform policy to be successful, it must be implemented universally and without exception. Our parents and guardians understand this, and they therefore support us at home to uphold the academy's high standards. For any parent who has a child with an EHCP and is concerned about this, will need to contact SENDCo - Mr Faccini to arrange a meeting.

We understand that, for some families, finances may be tight. We believe that, by having a strict uniform policy and by doing all we can to keep items of fashion out of the academy, we help families to keep costs down. Nevertheless, if you do have an individual problem, or if you are unsure about an item of clothing, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Head of Year who will deal with your enquiry in the

strictest confidence. We have also minimised the number of branded items to keep costs at a minimum.

If in any doubt about the details of the uniform policy, and to save time and anguish, parents/guardians should contact the academy. It is better to check with a member of staff than to rely on assurances from students as these are sometimes incorrect.

1.2 Scope

The uniform policy applies to all students whenever they are in school, travelling to and from school or otherwise representing the academy.

The academy uniform or sports kit must be worn in their entirety. Students should not 'mix and match' the two, nor wear either alongside non-uniform items. If students wish to wear their own clothes after school, they must return home and change completely out of their uniform.

Whilst any item of academy uniform or sports kit is being worn, the Behaviour Policy and Uniform and Equipment Policy apply in their entirety.

Section 2: Uniform and Equipment

2.1 Academy Uniform

Students must only wear the academy blazer, tie and PE top that have been purchased through our official suppliers. In addition, they must also have the official, school specific Future Academies schoolbag which can also be purchased through this supplier. In this way, we ensure that each student looks smart and professional, and that we uphold a consistent standard of dress and appearance.

Our supplier also offers other uniform items, but it is not compulsory for parents to purchase these items through our supplier.

All items not marked with an asterisk in the uniform and sports kit lists must be completely plain. No logos, patterns or embellishments of any kind are allowed. Should there be any questions regarding acceptable academy uniform, please contact the academy to check before purchase. Where the school has previously had additional branded items (skirts/trousers), these may be available as suppliers deplete their stocks, the school will accept school branded items.

Please note that some items are compulsory, whereas others are optional. Items marked with an asterisk (*) can only be bought through our nominated suppliers listed in the appendices section.

Academy Uniform List Years 7-11

Compulsory items

1. Navy blue *Future Academies* blazer with school badge*
2. *Future Academies* tie* (see appendices for school specific)
3. Knee length box/twin pleated navy blue skirt **OR** navy-blue trousers.
4. Plain navy or black tights or socks (white socks are not permitted, see additional guidance below – section 2.3)
5. *Future Academies* navy blue backpack with school badge*

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6. White collared shirt
7. Black, flat, leather-fronted, logo-free shoes
(see additional guidance below)

Optional items

8. V-Neck Navy blue jumper*
9. Coat (navy, black etc.) discreet branding only, no denim or leather

2.2 Skirts

Skirts must not be rolled. They must be of a box-pleat or twin pleat design.

Skirts of the correct style and various lengths can be purchased from our uniform supplier or alternative uniform providers.

Sanctions will be given, in line with the Behaviour Policy, to students who roll their skirt up.

2.3 Tights and Socks

Students when wearing a skirt are encouraged to wear plain navy or black tights.

When it is hot, students wearing a skirt may wear plain black or navy-blue ankle socks as an alternative to tights. White socks are not permitted.

Students when wearing trousers are required to wear plain black or navy socks.

2.4 Shoes

Academy shoes should be black, flat, faux leather/leather-fronted and logo-free. The style should be traditional, avoiding the appearance of a trainer.

Some specific styles that are not permitted include:

- Boots or ankle boots (including Kicker's ankle boots)
- Trainers
- Plimsolls
- Styles that appear to be more trainers or plimsolls than professional black shoes
- Suede, fabric, or canvas shoes
- Shoes with heels
- Styles with obvious logos or branding
- Styles with elaborate buckles, decorations, or patterns

This list is not exhaustive and the academy's decision on what is and is not acceptable is final. If parents are unsure as to whether a particular style will be accepted, they should send a picture of the shoe to the academy before purchasing.

Parents who are struggling to find acceptable affordable shoes are encouraged to contact the academy who will be happy to recommend appropriate footwear.

Please note that, even though shoes may be sold in the 'school' section of shops or online retailers, these may not be within our guidance as to what is acceptable.

Acceptable Styles	Unacceptable styles
	

2.5 Blazers, Coats, and Outside Clothing

- Coats are not to be worn over or under the academy blazer inside the building.
- Hats are not to be worn inside the academy building at any time.
- Hoodies are a banned item and are not to be brought into the academy.
- No coat hoods are to be up whilst on the academy site.
- Blazers must be worn every day. In hot weather, teachers may give permission for blazers to be removed in lessons, but it is the teacher's decision.
- At times, when particularly hot, the Principal may state that it is a 'blazer off' day and therefore blazers and ties do not need to be worn.

2.6 Sports Kit

Students must have the compulsory items (1 – 5 below) for Sport. They will not be allowed to wear their own winter clothes for Sport and, if they choose to wear additional garments for warmth, these must be items 6 – 11 on the list.

All items must be clearly marked with the student's full name.

All items marked with an asterisk* must be purchased through Smarty Schoolwear

Compulsory items

1. White polo shirt with Future Academies logos
2. Plain navy PE shorts without logos/patterns
3. Plain navy PE socks without logos/patterns
4. Black, blue, or plain white trainers, with only discreet logos. Trainers must not have spikes.
5. A plain navy blue or black material, drawstring bag for sports kit which must accompany, rather than replace, the academy bag.

Optional items

6. *Future Academies* grey PE sweatshirt*
7. Plain navy-blue tracksuit bottoms.
8. Plain navy-blue sport leggings (only to be worn under PE shorts).
9. Leggings/tracksuit bottoms must be plain. If these are not plain, including having any sport logo, students will not be able to wear these during sport lessons.

10. White unbranded base layer top – this must be worn under the white polo shirt.
11. Football boots, shin pads, gum shield.

Students who are unable to participate in a sport lesson owing to injury are still expected to bring and wear their full sports kit, as well as a note from their parents/guardians requesting that they be excused. Excused students will be able to participate through coaching and officiating roles.

2.7 Equipment

Every student must have the following equipment with them every day:

- A reading books.
- A scientific calculator
- A pencil case containing:
 - 2 black pens
 - 2 green pens
 - a pencil
 - a ruler
 - a rubber
 - a highlighter
- A water bottle.
- A black/navy hairband for sport and practical lessons if hair is long.

The presence of the above items will be checked at the start of each day and students will be sanctioned if they do not have any items.

In addition, students may also wish to bring with them the following (non-compulsory) items:

- Colouring pencils
- An English dictionary/thesaurus
- A foreign language dictionary.
- Glue stick.
- Year 11 and Year 13 must have a clear pencil case for exams.

2.8 Labelling

We require all items of clothing to be clearly marked with the students' full name. With hundreds of students owning identical uniforms, it is much more likely that lost items will be returned if they are named. Labels are available through our school uniform supplier for this purpose. Black permanent markers may be used, but names should be written largely, clearly and in full (not initials).

Section 3: Presentation and Appearance

3.1 The appropriate wearing of uniform

The following points about general appearance should be noted:

- Blazers must be clean and well-maintained. They must be worn at all times when moving around the academy site as well as on-route to and from the academy. Sleeves must not be rolled up and only academy-issued badges may be worn.
- Shirts must be tucked in at all times. Shirts must have no logos. Jumpers are an optional item. However, if a jumper is worn, it must be the academy jumper. Ties must be worn with a neat knot covering the top button. Skirts must not be shortened by being rolled up at the waist.
- Outdoor coats and winter garments must be removed upon entering the building.

3.2 Jewellery

Future Academies challenges any jewellery that can be a health & safety challenge (such as some hooped earrings and bracelet).

In line with our mobile phone policy, Smart watches are not allowed. Please note that no watches of any kind are permitted in public examinations.

An item of jewellery which is worn on religious grounds is allowed but necklaces are expected to be tucked in.

3.3 Make-up

Some students may feel comfortable in make-up. The school allows this if it is subtly applied. The academy reserves the right to make final judgements on what is and is not appropriate.

Section 4: Policy Infringements

The academy is a place of learning and not a place to demonstrate or show off the latest fashion accessories, clothes, or footwear. Our uniform and equipment policy encourages a sense of pride, belonging and loyalty to the community of which all students are members. The policy also removes any visible manifestations of inequality. The policy is applied consistently and without exception – ‘every day, every child, no excuses. Students are expected to adhere to the policy at all times, including on their journey to and from the academy.

When a student is not dressed in the full uniform or does not have the expected appearance, they will not be permitted to attend lessons. In such cases, and if parents/guardians can be contacted and informed and requested to resolve immediately; alternatively, will undertake supervised work within the Internal Exclusion room (Reconnect) until the correct uniform is brought to them, or until they are of the expected appearance.

When a student is missing a compulsory piece of equipment or an item of sport kit, they will receive sanctions in line with the Behaviour Policy.

The Academy will contact home for any students who refuse to correct or borrow uniform and will explore further options with parents. This may include parents bringing in the correct uniform or collect the student to take home, correct and return to the academy.

Second Hand Uniform

All parents and students are encouraged to drop off items of uniform that are no longer required to the school reception. The school will check and wash the items and make them available to families who might need them.

If you require an item of uniform from the second-hand store, please contact the school will be able to support you with your enquiry.

Appendices

1. Future Academies School Uniform Providers
2. Variations of Uniform by school

Appendix 1- Future Academies School Uniform Providers

School	Supplier
Future Academies Watford (FAW)	 Trusted by over 1330 UK Schools Price & Buckland is the UK's best specialist for logo and branded school uniforms, alongside offering an extensive range of plain schoolwear items. As a leading school uniform and sportswear provider trusted by over 1,330 schools nationwide, we hold a 4.6 Trustpilot rating. We deliver our high-quality schoolwear and sportswear through fully managed online uniform shops for seamless direct-to-parent ordering, alongside flexible bulk wholesale supply backed by full production control. We are a family-run UK school uniform supplier proud to design garments that work as hard as students do. From individual primary and secondary schools to major Multi-Academy Trusts (MATs) and Federations, our focus is producing the highest quality of school wear at the best value. From custom blazers and specialised badges to bespoke colour patterns, we offer a full design service. This makes it seamless to create new school uniforms that promote your unique school ethos and identity. <u>Price & Buckland Website</u>

Appendix 2- Variations of Uniform by school

Compulsory Daywear (must be purchased through uniform provider)		Academy Branded	Must be purchased through uniform provider	Variation Notes
1	Academy Blazer School Name with the Academy Logo	Yes	Yes	None
2	Academy School Tie Blue and white striped tie.	Yes	Yes	None
3	Academy Backpack Navy with the Academy logo	Yes	Yes	None
4	Academy White PE Polo T-Shirt White with the Academy logo	Yes	Yes	None

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