

Marches Academy Trust

Uniform Policy

DOCUMENT CONTROL

Policy Owner	Head of Marketing & PR
Scope	All Staff, Members, Trustees, Governors and Clerks
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Status	APPROVED
Date of approval	17.03.2025 by the Board of Trustees
Summary of last revision	Spring 2025 - Use of the term responsible adults to replace parents/carers. Added code of dress under Appendix 1.
Related Policies/Documents	▪ Behaviour Policy & Procedures (incorporating tackling bullying, inclusion, personal development, support, and use of reasonable force & physical intervention) ▪ Equality information and objectives statement ▪ Complaints policy
Policy control survey	Please complete this survey and provide feedback if you have had to use this policy • https://forms.office.com/r/HMeZtB29Si

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1. Introduction & policy aims

- 1.1 At Marches Academy Trust (the Trust), we pride ourselves in being smart, well-presented and ready for learning. It is our policy that all children and young people (CYP) wear school uniform when attending school, or when participating in school-organised events outside normal school hours. We ask CYP to take a pride in their personal appearance.
- 1.2 Our policy on school uniform is based on the notion that school uniform:
- i. promotes a sense of pride in the school
 - ii. engenders a sense of community and belonging towards the school
 - iii. is practical and smart
 - iv. sets an appropriate tone for education
 - v. identifies the CYP with the school
 - vi. prevents CYP from coming to school in fashion clothes that could be distracting in class
 - vii. makes CYP feel confident in their appearance
 - viii. makes CYP feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance ensuring that no child is unfairly discriminated against
 - ix. facilitates activities with specialised and appropriate clothing such as sports-specific attire
 - x. is designed with health and safety in mind
 - xi. is of reasonable cost and offers the best value for money for responsible adults; and
 - xii. supports the school's commitment to inclusion.
- 1.3 Within this policy, adults responsible for the care of CYP are referred to throughout as responsible adults, taken to mean those with parental responsibility for the child or young person and may include parents, carers, kinship carers, corporate parents, or guardians.

2. Our school's legal duties under the Equality Act 2010

- 2.1 The [Equality Act 2010](#) prohibits discrimination against an individual based on the protected characteristics, which include sex, race, religion or belief, and gender reassignment.
- 2.2 To avoid discrimination, our schools will:
- i. avoid listing uniform items based on sex, to give all CYP the opportunity to wear the uniform they feel most comfortable in or that most reflects their self-identified gender
 - ii. make sure that our uniform is reasonably priced for all CYP
 - iii. allow all CYP to have long hair (though we reserve the right to ask for this to be tied back)
 - iv. allow all CYP to style their hair in the way that is appropriate for school yet makes them feel most comfortable
 - v. allow CYP to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons
 - vi. allow CYP to wear headscarves and other religious or cultural symbols
 - vii. allow for adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking CYP or their responsible adults to get in touch with school staff who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests.

3. Limiting the cost of school uniform

- 3.1 Our Trust 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.
- 3.2 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 responsible adults' ability to 'shop around' for a low price.
- 3.3 We will make sure our uniform:
- is available at a reasonable cost; and
 - provides the best value for money for responsible adults.
- 3.4 We will do this by:
- i. carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary
 - ii. avoiding specific requirements for items that CYP could wear on non-school days, such as coats, bags and shoes
 - iii. keeping the number of optional branded items to a minimum, so that the school's uniform can act as a social leveller
 - iv. avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups
 - v. considering alternative methods for signalling differences in groups for interschool competitions, such as creating posters or labels
 - vi. making sure that arrangements are in place for responsible adults to acquire second-hand uniform items
 - vii. avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on responsible adults of any changes; and
 - viii. consulting with responsible adults and CYP on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy.

4. Expectations for school uniform

4.1 Our school's uniform

The following items of uniform are mandatory and must be purchased from our uniform supplier:

Primary School Uniform:

- school jumper/cardigan

Secondary School Uniform

- branded jumper
- branded blazer (The Grove School only)
- school tie
- branded PE polo shirt
- branded PE jumper (Shrewsbury Academy only)

For all other uniform items and dress code, please refer to our school websites.

4.2 Where to purchase it

We have developed a purchasing system with details on all of the school websites detailing our preferred supplier for branded uniform. Non-branded uniform can be purchased from numerous retailers online or the high street.

4.3 Pre-loved Uniform

We know that uniform can be an expensive requirement for our families. With this in mind, we want to help our school community by making good quality, preloved uniform easily available to everyone. Many items of uniform have a longer life beyond the point when our CYP have outgrown them and could be re-used by another child. As well as saving family's money, re-using uniform also reduces our impact on the environment and is in line with our Trust's sustainability ethos.

To support our scheme, we are asking families to donate any unwanted items of uniform that could be worn by another child. Donations can be handed in to the school office. If there are items that you are interested in, we ask that you respond directly to the school with your required size to reserve items. Our school staff will then make contact directly with you, to arrange collection.

5. Expectations for our school community

5.1 Children & Young People

CYP 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).

CYP are also expected to contact the school directly if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics.

5.2 Responsible adults

Responsible adults 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; and
- in good condition.

Responsible adults are also expected to contact the school directly if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their child's protected characteristics.

5.3 Staff

Staff will closely monitor CYP to make sure they are in correct uniform. They will give any CYP and families breaching the uniform policy the opportunity to comply but will follow up with the Headteacher if the situation does not improve.

In cases where it is suspected that financial hardship has resulted in a child not complying with this uniform policy, staff will take a mindful and considerate approach to resolving the situation.

5.4 The Trust

The Trust will review this policy and make sure that it:

- is appropriate for our schools' context

- is implemented fairly across schools
- takes into account the views of responsible adults and CYP; and
- offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all CYP.

The board will also ensure that the school's uniform supplier arrangements give the highest priority to cost and value for money.

6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Trust.

Headteachers will assist in monitoring and reviewing this policy by seeking the views of CYP and responsible adults.

7. Appendix 1 - Code of Dress

- 7.1 Plain white shirt with collar and buttons that fasten to the neck, not polo shirts or a blouse. Shirts should be tucked in.
- 7.2 School tie worn in a small knot that covers the top button - purchased from the school suppliers. When the jumper is not worn, the tie must reach the waist in length.
- 7.3 The Marches School, Shrewsbury Academy and Sir John Talbot's School only - V-neck Jumper (school logo style) grey (black/navy in Year 11) - purchased from the school suppliers
- 7.4 The Grove School only - Blazer (school logo style) - purchased from the school suppliers
- 7.5 Plain black school trousers or pleated skirt.

Trousers

- 7.6 Trousers must be smart school style only. Trousers must not be skintight, hipster, legging style or jeans style in cut with patch pockets. Material should not be cord, denim, cotton jeans style and should not contain cargo pockets, jeans style rivets or logo labels, (e.g. a red label at the back).

Acceptable:



Not acceptable:



Skirts

- 7.7 Skirts should be the pleated panel skirt available from the school supplier or identical in cut. It does not contain zips, patches or pockets and does not cling to the body or ride up whilst walking, it is not a skater style skirt.

Acceptable:



Not acceptable:



- 7.8 Plain black tights only must be worn with skirts.
- 7.9 Socks with trousers should be ankle length in black, white or grey.

Footwear

- 7.10 Shoes must be plain black leather or leather look school or office style. **Boots, trainer or canvas pumps of any kind are not permitted.** Shoes must not be canvas, suede, contain coloured flashes, logos, eyelets that are not black. Heels should be no higher than 2cm and shoes should be fastened to the feet rather than loose slip on styles.

Acceptable:



Not Acceptable:





Coats

- 7.11 Coats must not have large logos or slogans (a small one on the chest or upper arm is acceptable). Tracksuit tops shells and hoodies (either over the head of zip up) are not allowed as outdoor coats, they also should not be worn underneath another coat. Denim or leather coats are not permitted.

Acceptable:



Not acceptable:



Summer Uniform in the last term of the year

- 7.12 Jumpers/Blazers do not need to be brought into school. If students wish to wear a shirt that does not tuck in, this should be a short-fitted variety with a collar and button fastening to the neck in the usual way. Normal longer length shirts may be worn tucked in.
- 7.13 Tailored professional style shorts purchased from our supplier may also be worn.



PE Kit

- 7.14 School branded PE polo shirt to be worn in all PE lessons. Please refer to school website for information on required kit needed for PE.

Jewellery

- 7.15 Only one plain ear stud in each ear is permitted. One stud, sleeper or small earring in the lower part of the ear (lobule) per ear is acceptable. No rings are allowed. Stretcher or flesh ring style earrings must be flesh coloured and flat to the ear.

Hair

- 7.16 Extreme hair styles including tram lines or unnatural colours are not permitted - hair length should be a minimum of a “number 2” in length. Fashion hair accessories such as bows or flowers and baseball caps should not be worn.

Makeup

- 7.17 Nail polish and makeup is **not** permitted in KS3 (Years 7,8,9). At KS4 makeup should be modest - nude and natural colours. Coloured in or painted on brows are not permitted. Nail polish should not be worn.

Acceptable in Key Stage 4:



Allowed in Key Stage 4	Not allowed
Light foundation	Thick Foundation
Cover up	Contouring
Setting Powder	Highlighter
Nude eye colours	Bright colours
Mascara	False Lashes
Eyebrows - natural shape and colour	Eyebrow liners or gels
	Eyeliner
	Lipstick, liner or gloss

Belts

- 7.18 Belts may be worn if black and being used for its functional purpose not for fashion and not visible below or on top of the jumper.

Piercings

- 7.19 Visible facial or body piercing including tongue piercings may not be worn unless worn as an aspect of a clearly identified religious faith

Other

- 7.20 Any extreme fashion which may from time to time become popular should be reserved for leisure wear outside school and should not be worn to school.
- 7.21 With all aspects of school uniform, we do our utmost to provide images of acceptable and unacceptable uniform, to allow correct choices to be made when purchasing. If in doubt, please refer to this information prior to making purchases.
- 7.22 It is the discretion of the school to make decisions regarding uniform that does not conform to the requirements of the school code of dress.

- 7.23 Please remember that in choosing a Marches Academy Trust school implies a willingness to conform to our school uniform guidelines at all times.
- 7.24 This policy is also fully endorsed and approved by each school's Local Governing Body.
- 7.25 The school views the wearing of correct uniform as a key element of the school's identity and standards as a community. Any student failing or refusing to follow these guidelines will be sent home or isolated until they are able to do so.