School Uniform Policy
Castle Hall Academy

Reviewed By	Approved By	Date of Approval	Version Approved	Next Review Date
S Jefferson/P Brook	Governing Body	Jan 22	1.1	July 25
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Document Owner	James Lockwood
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Abstract

This policy sets out Castle Hall Academy's approach to school uniform. It confirms our legal duties under the Equality Act 2010, explains how we limit the cost of uniform in line with statutory Department for Education guidance, and sets clear expectations for pupils, parents, carers, staff and governors. The policy reflects the September 2026 statutory limit on compulsory branded items and Castle Hall Academy's agreed four-item branded model.

Version History			
Date	**Version**	**Status**	**Summary of Changes**
Sept 25	1.2	Approved	Added full Equality Act compliance: all protected characteristics, inclusive hair policy, and reasonable adjustments for disability/sensory needs. Clarified cost measures: generic items allowed, second-hand provision, and supplier guidance. Updated jewellery rules to allow faith-based items; added contact details for adjustment requests. Strengthened governance and monitoring sections; reformatted for clarity.
Sept 2026	1.3	Approved	Updated in response to statutory guidance and the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026 requirements. Reduced compulsory branded items to four: blazer, clip-on tie, navy training/rugby top and navy training trousers. Clarified that all other uniform and PE kit items may be generic, removed the rucksack from compulsory branded uniform, strengthened affordability and second-hand uniform wording, and updated equality, hair, religious garment and reasonable adjustment provisions.

For the purpose of this policy the following representatives need to sign off this document:	
Role/Department & Responsibilities	**Name**
Local Governing Body	Mrs. A. Burman

Website:	
Yes/No	Yes

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N THIS POLICY THE FOLLOWING ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES ARE HELD BY THE PEOPLE NAMED BELOW:

Role / Responsibility	Name	In post since
Headteacher	Paul Brook	Jan 2019

1. Aims

This policy aims to set out Castle Hall Academy's approach to a school uniform that is smart, practical, affordable, inclusive and compliant with statutory requirements.

- Set out our approach to requiring a uniform that offers reasonable cost and best value for money for parents and carers.
- Clarify the compulsory, optional and generic elements of Castle Hall Academy uniform and PE kit.
- Explain how we avoid discrimination and meet our duties under the Equality Act 2010.
- Confirm how pupils, parents, carers, staff and governors are expected to support the implementation of this policy.

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

The Equality Act 2010 prohibits discrimination against an individual because of protected characteristics, including age, sex, sexual orientation, disability, race, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity, and gender reassignment. Castle Hall Academy will apply this policy fairly and will consider reasonable adaptations where this is needed to avoid discrimination.

- We do not list uniform items according to sex; pupils may wear the uniform items that are appropriate, safe and comfortable for them.
- We allow pupils to wear headscarves and other religious garments where required for religious reasons.
- We allow pupils with sensory, physical or disability-related needs to request reasonable adaptations to uniform requirements.
- We allow long hair, protective hairstyles and natural Afro-textured hairstyles. Hair may be required to be tied back where needed for safety.
- Requests for reasonable adjustments should be made to the Headteacher via office@castlehall.com and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

3. Limiting the cost of school uniform

Castle Hall Academy has a duty to ensure that the uniform we require is affordable, in line with statutory Department for Education guidance on the cost of school uniform. From September 2026, secondary schools are limited to a maximum of four compulsory branded items where one of those items is a tie. Castle Hall Academy's compulsory branded items are limited to four: the academy blazer, academy clip-on tie, academy navy training/rugby top and academy navy training trousers.

We recognise that branded items, items with a logo, or items with a distinctive design can restrict parents' and carers' ability to shop around. We therefore keep compulsory branded items to the statutory minimum, allow generic alternatives wherever possible, and avoid unnecessary requirements for items that pupils may also use outside school.

We will make sure our uniform:

- Is available at a reasonable cost.
- Provides the best value for money for parents/carers.

We will limit the cost of uniform by:

- requiring only four compulsory branded items: academy blazer, academy clip-on tie, academy navy training/rugby top and academy navy training trousers;
- allowing all other uniform and PE kit items to be purchased from any retailer, provided they meet the academy's colour and style requirements;
- keeping optional branded items to a minimum and making clear that generic alternatives are permitted;
- avoiding compulsory branded bags, coats, socks, shorts, t-shirts or additional PE layers;
- avoiding frequent changes to uniform requirements and minimising the financial impact of any changes;
- making second-hand uniform arrangements clear, accessible, timely and discreet for current and prospective families;
- reviewing supplier arrangements with cost and value for money as a priority; and
- considering concerns about uniform cost through discussion with families and, where necessary, through the academy complaints process.

4. Expectations for school uniform

4.1 Our school's uniform

A uniform is worn by every student at Castle Hall Academy. We expect students to arrive at the academy, attend lessons and leave the academy in full uniform unless an agreed reasonable adjustment applies. Smartness, pride and good personal presentation are important features of our school culture.

Compulsory branded items	Generic or non-branded items
Castle Hall Academy blazer Castle Hall Academy clip-on tie Castle Hall Academy navy training/rugby top Castle Hall Academy navy training trousers	White shirt or blouse with top-button collar Black tailored full-length trousers; no flares, jeggings, leggings or black jeans Black, grey or white socks Plain black school shoes; no trainers Black or navy headscarf worn for religious reasons Plain, non-branded black football shorts Plain, non-branded navy t-shirt Black or navy non-branded football socks Trainers for PE; no pumps Football boots, shin pads and gum shield where needed for PE activities

Optional Castle Hall Academy branded PE shorts, t-shirts and other PE items may be worn if families choose to purchase them, but they are not compulsory. Generic alternatives are permitted where they meet the academy's colour and style requirements.

On PE days, students should wear the Castle Hall Academy navy training/rugby top and navy training trousers during the school day. Shorts and t-shirts may be worn underneath for PE lessons, but the training top and trousers must be worn at all other times during the school day unless a reasonable adjustment has been agreed.

The academy may provide students with a school bag and lanyard. These are not compulsory branded uniform items for the purposes of the statutory branded-item limit. Students are expected to look after any items provided and keep them in good condition. Replacement bags or lanyards may be charged for where they have been lost, deliberately damaged, vandalised or defaced.

Outdoor Clothing

Outdoor clothing such as coats, gilets, hoodies, scarves, gloves and hats/caps must not be worn inside academy buildings unless there is an agreed reasonable adjustment or specific permission has been given.

Trousers/Skirts

Trousers must be black, tailored and full length. Flares, jeggings, leggings and black jeans are not permitted. Skirts are not part of Castle Hall Academy's required uniform.

Hair

Hair should be safe, suitable for school and not disruptive to learning. Protective hairstyles and natural Afro-textured styles are permitted. Long hair may be required to be tied back where needed for safety, including in PE, science, technology or practical activities. Any concerns about hair colour or style will be considered objectively and fairly, taking account of equality duties and reasonable adjustment requests where relevant.

Jewellery

For safety, jewellery is limited to one set of small stud earrings and one nose stud. Additional jewellery should not be worn. Religious or faith-based items may be worn where required; families should discuss any adjustments with the Headteacher so that these can be considered appropriately and safely.

In the interest of safety students will have to cover up piercings in some lessons and remove them in PE and practical lessons.

Make-up/Nails
Any students wearing excessive make-up will be required to remove it.
False eyelashes are not permitted.
False nails are not permitted.

Shoes
Shoes must be plain black school shoes. Trainers, trainer-style shoes, boots, canvas shoes and shoes with prominent logos are not permitted.



4.2 Where to purchase it
Parents and carers can buy generic uniform and PE kit items from any retailer, provided they meet the academy's colour and style requirements. The four compulsory branded items are available from Term Time Wear, 5 St John's Road, Huddersfield, HD1 5AY, www.termtimewear.com, 01484 453534.
Second-hand uniform is available through Uniform Exchange, Railway Sawmills, Burbeary Road, Lockwood, Huddersfield, HD1 3UN, 07955 724789. The academy will publicise second-hand uniform arrangements on the school website and through transition information so that current and prospective families can access support in a timely and discreet way.

5. Expectations for our school community

5.1 Pupils
Pupils are expected to wear the correct uniform at all times, other than on specified non-uniform days, while on the school premises, travelling to and from school, and attending school-organised events or trips where uniform is required.

5.2 Parents and carers

Parents and carers are expected to make sure their child has the correct uniform and PE kit, and that every item is:

- Clean and in good condition
- Clearly labelled with the child's name

Parents are also expected to contact the academy via office@castlehall.com if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy.

Parents 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 collaborate closely with parents to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

5.3 Staff

Heads of Year will closely monitor pupils to make sure they are in correct uniform. They will give any pupils and families breaching the uniform policy the opportunity to comply.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with by your child's Head of Year in line with our Behaviour policy.
Where staff believe financial hardship may be affecting a pupil's ability to comply with this policy, they will take a mindful and considerate approach. The academy will seek to resolve the matter with the family and will not remove a pupil from classroom teaching solely because of suspected financial hardship linked to uniform.

5.4 Governors

The governing board will review this policy and make sure that it:

- Is appropriate for our school's context.
- Is implemented fairly across the school.
- Considers the views of parents and pupils.
- Offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical, and safe for all pupils.

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 five years.

6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed every three years by the Headteacher. At every review, it will be approved by the local governing body.

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

- Behaviour policy
- Equality information and objectives statement
- Anti-bullying policy
- Complaints policy