

	POLICY TITLE:	Uniform Policy
Committee/Person Responsible for Policy:		Assistant Headteacher
Date Approved by Local Advisory Board:		September 2020
Last Review Date		May 2022
Next Review Due		May 2023

At the Taunton Academy we believe that a smart and distinctive uniform provides several advantages for students.

Firstly, uniform minimises social distinction and avoids the emergence of a ‘fashion competition’ culture amongst students.

Secondly it provides a sense of pride and identity across the Academy. This encourages students to feel part of the school community and preserves the reputation of the academy in the wider community.

Finally, it gives students a realistic experience of adult life where they will be expected to conform to dress codes within their place of employment.

For these reasons, the Academy strictly enforces all elements of the uniform code. Students are expected to wear the official school uniform for the full five years of secondary compulsory school attendance. **It is crucial that parents support the Academy in enforcing the uniform policy.**

Taunton Academy Uniform:

- Black jacket/ blazer with embroidered Academy logo – available from the Uniform Shop
- Black trousers or black (knee length) skirt
 - Trousers and skirts should be pressed and well maintained.
 - Skinny trousers are not acceptable.
 - Black jeans are not acceptable.
 - Stretchy skirts are not acceptable.
 - Belts should be black and of standard width and size with standard buckles.
- White shirt with collar.
- Academy grey jumper with purple trim – available from the Uniform Shop.

- Jumpers are not compulsory. However, non-uniform jumpers are not acceptable.
- Hoodies and sweatshirts are not acceptable
- Purple clip-on tie with silver stripes – available from the Uniform Shop.
- Plain black socks or plain dark coloured tights.

Footwear:

- Black, sensible, safe shoes. Shoes must be able to be polished.
 - Shoes must be ENTIRELY BLACK, with no other colours, or highlights.
 - Canvas shoes offer no protection to students and are not acceptable.
 - Boots are not acceptable.
 - Astro-turf trainers are not acceptable.
 - Shoes must be flat.

Please see examples of unacceptable footwear at the end of this policy. If in doubt, please check with your child's Year Leader at the Academy before you buy shoes.

Hairstyles:

- Extreme hairstyles, such as shaved heads, tramlines, shaved patterns are not acceptable.
- Dyed hair must be of a natural colour. The judgement of staff will be the basis for natural hair colour.

Make up:

- Make up (including nail polish) must not be worn by any students in Year 7, Year 8 or Year 9.
- Year 10 and Year 11 students make up must be discrete and natural. This will be based on the judgement of Academy staff. If students are deemed to have excessive make up, they will be asked to remove it.
- False fingernails are not acceptable.
- False eyelashes / extensions are not acceptable.

Jewellery:

- Jewellery is discouraged, as Taunton Academy cannot accept any responsibility for the loss, or damage of jewellery.
- However, the following are acceptable:
 - A watch
 - ONE fine chain around the neck.
 - ONE PAIR of plain stud, or small sleeper earrings.
 - ONE plain ring.
- Facial piercings are not allowed. Students will be asked to remove them immediately – regardless of how recently the piercing was done, or the cost.
- Only one piercing in each earlobe is acceptable. No multiple piercings and no tragus piercings.

SAFETY:

Parents are reminded that these rules are subject to change in certain subjects i.e. rings are dangerous if worn in workshops, an apron is necessary for Food Technology, Pottery and Workshop activities and jewellery must not be worn during PE or Games.

If you are in doubt, please speak to the appropriate Year Leader at the Academy rather than buy items which are not allowed.

If you have any difficulties, are unable to access the website or require any advice, please contact your child's Tutor.

The Head Teacher's decision is final in all matters of uniform.

Breaches of the Uniform Code:

Students considered to be in breach of the school uniform policy may be parked until this is rectified. See below:

- Students are expected to wear the correct uniform appropriately (e.g. trousers around the waist, shirts fully buttoned and always tucked in).
- Skirts should not be rolled up and should reach the knee.
- If a student arrives in incorrect footwear, they will be provided with black plimsolls to wear and their own footwear can be collected at the end of the day.
- Any student in Year 7, 8 or 9 wearing makeup, or any student in Year 10 or 11 whose make up is deemed excessive, will be sent to the Year Leader and asked to remove it. Hypo-allergenic make up remover will be provided if necessary.
- Students who arrive at the Academy with extreme hairstyles, or dyed hair, will be placed in inclusion and parents contacted. They will be unable to return to mainstream education until the problem is rectified.
- Incorrect items will be confiscated and can be collected by the student at the end of the day.
- Any student who refuses these requests becomes subject to procedures and sanctions set out in the Behaviour for Learning Policy and parents will be contacted.
- **If there is a medical reason for exemption** from the uniform code a doctor's note will need to be provided.

PE Kit:

- It is important that all pupils bring the correct kit to their Physical Education lessons, as this contributes to a strong sense of identity and allows us to maximise our teaching time as time is not wasted supplying spare kit.
- Kit is regularly checked by staff to ensure that our high standards are maintained.
- All kit must be clearly marked with your child's FULL name.
- Hoodies are not acceptable for PE, as they are not safe and are not school uniform.
- Student with long hair will also need to ensure this is tied-up, for safety reasons. Please supply hair bands.

- **Outdoor/Winter:**

- Taunton Academy PE Top
- Black shorts
- Football/hockey socks.
- Football boots/ AstroTurf-trainers/ trainers
- Optional black tracksuit bottoms
- Optional black Academy sports jacket

- **Indoor/Summer:**

- Taunton Academy PE Top
- Black Shorts
- Black Football/ Hockey Socks
- Non-marking trainers
- We very much recommend that students also have available shin guards and mouth guards for activities such as Football/ Hockey and Rugby.

If a student is unable to take part in PE we do expect them to have a note. We will still expect that student to take part in the lesson as coach/referee or observer and therefore they will be expected to change.

If a student misses two lessons in a row, then a doctor's note will be required.

Procedure for Acquiring Uniform:

1. Uniform is available from South West Schoolwear Taunton and orders can be placed on-line, by telephone or by visiting the shop in person:

South West Schoolwear (previously Taunton Uniforms)

114B East Reach

Taunton

TA1 3HT

Visit South West Schoolwear's website at www.swschoolwear.co.uk, or call on 01823 278080.

2. School shoes, shirts, trousers, skirts, and PE kit are also available from a wide range of high street retailers

If you have any concerns over The Taunton Academy's uniform, please contact the appropriate Year Leader. It is our intention that every student has the correct uniform that allows them to take pride in our school and we will ensure no student is disadvantaged regarding this aim.

Examples of Unsuitable Shoes	Explanation
	<p>These are not suitable because they are not plain black. Shoes must be entirely black.</p>
	<p>These are not suitable as they cannot be polished. Shoes must be of a material that could be polished.</p>
	<p>These are not suitable. They cannot be polished and they are not plain.</p>
	<p>These are not suitable. They are not safe because they have a heel. They are also not plain. They cannot be polished.</p>
	<p>These are not suitable. They are canvas and cannot be polished. This type of shoe offers no protection to students in wet weather.</p>
	<p>These are not suitable, because they are boots and not shoes.</p>
	<p>These are not suitable, because they are trainers specifically for astro-turf and not school floors.</p>