



Morecambe Bay
Academy

Morecambe Bay Academy

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Uniform and Appearance Policy

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This document has been approved for operation within:	Morecambe Bay Academy
Date effective from	September 2024
Date of next review	September 2026
Review period	2 years
Status	Statutory
Owner	Acting Headteacher: Jen Pardoe
Version	V2.0

Roles and Responsibilities

Morecambe Bay Academy has overall responsibility for the effective operation of this policy. The Governing Body is responsible for approving this policy and monitoring its effectiveness.

The Governing Body has delegated day-to-day responsibility for operating the policy to the Acting Headteacher.

Aims

This policy aims to:

- Set out our approach to requiring a uniform that is of reasonable cost and offers the best value for money for parents and carers
- Explain how we will avoid discrimination in line with our legal duties under the Equality Act 2010
- Clarify our expectations for school uniform.

Our school's legal duties under the Equality Act 2010

The [Equality Act 2010](#) prohibits discrimination against an individual based on the protected characteristics, which include sex, race, religion or belief, and gender reassignment.

To avoid discrimination, our school will:

- Avoid listing uniform items based on sex, to give all pupils the opportunity to wear the uniform they feel most comfortable in or that most reflects their self-identified gender
- Make sure that our uniform costs the same for all pupils
- Allow all pupils to have long hair (though we reserve the right to ask for this to be tied back)
- Allow all pupils to style their hair in the way that is appropriate for school yet makes them feel most comfortable
- Allow pupils to wear headscarves and other religious or cultural symbols
- Allow for adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents/carers to get in touch with Ms Pardoe who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests.

Introduction and Principles

School uniform plays an important role in establishing the ethos of a school and is strongly encouraged by the DfE. At Morecambe Bay Academy, we believe that our uniform policy benefits the school in several ways:

- It encourages pupils to identify with the school and nurtures the notion of community
- It protects children from social pressures to dress in a particular way
- It supports discipline and good behaviour
- It instils a sense of pride in the school
- It promotes more effective teaching and learning
- It is not a prohibitive factor for any family applying for admission to Morecambe Bay Academy.

The appearance of pupils is also an important factor at Morecambe Bay Academy in promoting good behaviour and ensuring the health and safety of pupils and staff.

The Government, although it has published guidance, has made it clear that it is for the school's Governing Body to decide whether there should be a uniform and other rules relating to appearance, and if so, what they should be. Therefore, this document seeks to clarify the Governors' expectations at Morecambe Bay Academy regarding uniform and appearance.

An actual list of the acceptable, not acceptable and supplementary items pupils are permitted to wear is within this document. This includes particular items parents can apply to the Acting Headteacher for permission to wear. A judgement will be made with regard to any request based on whether the item is in sympathy with ethos of the school or any other judgement including health or safety. The Acting Headteacher / Acting Headteacher, in consultation with pastoral colleagues, will consider each application and reach a decision as soon as possible but until such time as a decision is made the item should not be worn for school.

Parents/Carers are asked to contact us if they are in any doubt about any item of uniform or issue of presentation for their child so that they can clarify what is acceptable before agreeing

to permanent or semi-permanent changes in appearances or sending the child to school wearing those items of which they are unsure.

Limiting the cost of school uniform

Our school 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.

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 parents' ability to 'shop around' for a low price.

We will make sure our uniform:

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

We will do this by:

- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary
- Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics where possible. Morecambe Bay Academy therefore only requires a blazer to have the Morecambe Bay Academy logo and a school tie
- Keeping the number of optional branded items to a minimum, so that the school's uniform can act as a social leveler
- Avoiding specific requirements for items pupils could wear on non-school days, such as coats, bags and shoes
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different years/key stages
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents of any changes
- Consulting with parents and pupils on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy.

Basic uniform requirements

Item	Uniform Expectations
Blazer and Tie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morecambe Bay Academy blazer and Tie <p>Please note that blazers must be worn at all times unless specific permission has been given by a member of staff for it to be taken off</p>
Trousers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charcoal grey • Any belts should be black with discreet buckles
Skirts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charcoal grey plain skirt or Morecambe Bay Academy skirt • Skirts should not be rolled up
Shirts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plain white school shirt • Tucked in always and buttoned up at the neck.
Shoes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional black, flat shoes <p>Pupils MUST not wear trainers, heeled shoes, boots or canvas shoes</p>
Socks and tights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plain black or white socks • Plain black or flesh coloured tights <p>Pupils MUST NOT wear:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coloured or patterned socks • Socks over the knee • Socks with frills or bows
Make-up	<p>Pupils may wear discrete make up, they MUST NOT have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nail varnish • Artificial nails, nail extensions or gel colour • False eyelashes
Jewellery	<p>Pupils may wear:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One wristwatch • One pair of silver or gold coloured studs worn in the lower ear <p>Any jewellery other than stated is not permitted</p>

It is expected that all pupils bring their full PE kit and get changed for PE lessons whether they are taking an active part in the lesson or not.

School clothing and sportswear marked * can only be purchased through our supplier The Uniform & Leisurewear Co. Common Garden Street, Lancaster/Euston Road, Morecambe (01524 388355) <http://www.ualonline.com/>. All items are embroidered with the school logo where applicable. Other items can be purchased through a store of choice.

Breaches of Policy

The Uniform and Appearance Policy will be strictly enforced. Every opportunity will be given for pupils to conform to the uniform policy and rectify any identified issues.

Minor breaches of uniform or appearance will result in a detention, at the decision of the pastoral team, in the first instance. This sanction will be increased to internal exclusion for persistent offenders.

The Acting Headteacher / Acting Headteacher or member of the senior leadership team may ask a pupil to go home briefly to remedy a serious breach of the school's rules on appearance or uniform. This will count as an authorised absence for as long as the absence is strictly necessary. The parent/carer of the child will be contacted in this instance. If it is not possible for pupils to go home to change they will have lessons in IMPACT until such time as they conform to the policy.

Schools can refuse to allow a pupil to come into school for failing to wear the uniform or maintain the appearance required by the school. This is not a suspension. A suspension is refusing to admit to the school; in the case of a breach of uniform the school is willing to admit the pupil but insist that they are properly dressed.

The school is always the final arbiter of what constitutes appropriate and acceptable dress and appearance.