



Davenant Foundation School

School Uniform Policy

Last Reviewed: September 2024

Next Review: September 2025

This policy has been reviewed and to the best of our knowledge we do not feel that it impacts on any group or individuals' equality rights within our school community

Policy Details

Policy Name	Exams Access Arrangements Policy	Committee Responsible	Standing
Status	Statutory	Committee Person i/c	Mr Adam Thorne
Produced by	ATE	First Agreed	
Date Produced	May 2024	Last Review Date	September 2024
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Contents:

[Statement of intent](#)

1. [Legal framework](#)
2. [Roles and responsibilities](#)
3. [Cost principles](#)
4. [Equality principles](#)
5. [Complaints and challenges](#)
6. [School uniform supplier](#)
7. [Uniform assistance](#)
8. [Non-compliance](#)
9. [School uniform](#)
10. [Adverse weather](#)
11. [Labelling and lost property](#)
12. [Monitoring and review](#)

Statement of intent

Davenant Foundation School believes that a consistent school uniform policy is vital for:

- Promoting the ethos of a school.
- Providing a sense of belonging and identity.
- Setting an appropriate tone for education.

For the purposes of this policy, “**uniform**” includes the following elements of students’ appearance:

- Clothing, including the school uniform itself, variations of the school uniform such as PE kits, and other clothing worn at school, e.g. non-uniform.
- Hairstyles and headwear.
- Jewellery and other accessories.
- Cosmetics such as makeup and nail polish.

This policy lays out the measures the school has taken to ensure a consistent, fair and inclusive uniform policy, and to implement a uniform that reflects the needs of all students, is affordable, and provides the best value for money for both the school and students’ families.

We believe that students learn most effectively and achieve their best outcomes when they are dressed in a way that sets an appropriate tone for education.

In writing and updating this policy, we have sought to:

- Engage with parents/carers and students.
- Consider how this policy might affect groups represented in the school, especially those who share protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010.
- Consider how comfortable the uniform will be for students.
- Take a sensible approach to allow for exceptions to be made, e.g. during adverse weather.
- Ensure that the uniform is suitable and safe for students who walk or cycle to school.
- Choose a PE kit which is practical, comfortable, appropriate to the activity involved and affordable.
- Ensure the policy is easy to access and understand.

1. Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Human Rights Act 1998
- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Equality Act 2010
- Education Act 2011
- The UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)
- Data Protection Act 2018
- Education (Guidance about Costs of School Uniforms) Act 2021
- DfE (2021) 'Cost of school uniforms'
- DfE (2021) 'School Admissions Code'
- DfE (2021) 'School uniforms'
- Equality and Human Rights Commission (2022) 'Preventing hair discrimination in schools'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Complaints Procedures Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Equality Policy

2. Roles and responsibilities

The governing board is responsible for:

- Establishing, in consultation with the headteacher and school community, a practical and smart school uniform that accurately reflects the school's vision and values.
- Ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible, inclusive, and does not disadvantage any student because of their protected characteristics or socio-economic status.
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of parents/carers, students and the wider school community regarding changes to the school's uniform.
- Ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible and affordable.
- Demonstrating in this policy how best value for money has been achieved.
- Ensuring compliance with the DfE's '[Cost of school uniforms](#)' guidance.
- Processing and approving all eligible School Uniform Assistance Application Forms.

The headteacher is responsible for:

- Enforcing the school's uniform rules on a day-to-day basis.
- Ensuring that teachers understand this policy and what to do if a student is in breach of the policy.
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of the school community in regard to the school's uniform and making appropriate recommendations to the governing board.
- Providing students with an exemption letter as appropriate, e.g. for a student who has a broken arm and requires a loose-fitting shirt.

Staff are responsible for:

- Ensuring that students dress in accordance with this policy at all times.
- Where appropriate to their role, disciplining students who are in breach of this policy.
- Ensuring that students understand why having a consistent and practical school uniform is important, e.g. school identity.

Parents/carers are responsible for:

- Providing their children with the correct school uniform as detailed in this policy.
- Informing the headteacher if their child requires an exemption to the uniform rules for a period of time, with a reason why.
- Ensuring that their child's uniform is clean, presentable and the correct size.

Students are responsible for:

- Wearing the correct uniform at all times, unless the headteacher has granted an exemption.
- Looking after their uniform as appropriate.
- Understanding and respecting why a school uniform is important to the school, e.g. school identity and community.

3. Cost principles

The school will develop its uniform policy in relation to the following starting principles:

- The school will seek to ensure that the uniform is affordable. In so doing, the school will consider the total cost of school uniforms, taking into account all items of uniform or clothing parents/carers will need to provide while their child is at the school.
- The school will seek to keep the use of branded items to a minimum.
- The school will seek to ensure that uniform supplier arrangements give the highest priority to cost and value for money, including the quality and durability of the garment.
- The school will seek to ensure that second-hand uniforms are available for parents/carers to acquire.

Principles in practice

In accordance with the 'School Admissions Code', the headteacher will ensure that the school's uniform requirements do not discourage parents/carers from applying for a place for their child.

The school will assess the overall cost implications of its uniform policy regularly, including prior to making any changes to the school uniform. When evaluating whether costs are reasonable and proportionate, the school will take into account the opinions and situations of:

- Economically disadvantaged parents/carers.
- Parents/carers with multiple children who are, or will be in the future, students at the school.

- Parents/carers of younger children, as they are likely to grow quickly and require new sets of uniform more frequently.
- Parents/carers of students with protected characteristics that may impact their ability to access the uniform.
- LAC and PLAC.

The school will evaluate the cost of its uniform based on the overall collection of uniform items that parents/carers would need to purchase for a student, rather than on the cost effectiveness of individual items; this will include consideration of the fact that parents/carers will need to purchase multiples of certain items, e.g. shirts and socks, to ensure their child can come to school in clean uniform every day.

The school will keep variations in school uniform for different groups of students, e.g. year group-specific items or house colours, to a minimum to ensure that students can get the most wear out of their uniform and that parents/carers can pass some items down to younger siblings.

The school will keep branded uniform items to a minimal level that is reasonable for all members of the school community. The school defines a branded uniform item as any item of clothing that cannot be purchased at a range of retailers, e.g. supermarkets, due to the item's logo, colour, design, fabric or other unique element. Where the school requires an item of branded clothing, it will assess how prices can be kept as low as possible and put measures in place to facilitate this. This may include:

- Offering sew- or iron-on logo patches for blazers and jumpers that can be bought at non-specialist retailers, instead of requiring specific branded jumpers.
- Ensuring branded items are longer-lasting and unlikely to be grown out of quickly, e.g. ties.
- Making donated second-hand uniform available for purchase at a lower price.

The school will meet the DfE's requirements and recommendations on costs and value for money. Care will be taken to ensure that school uniform is affordable for all current and prospective students, and that the best value for money is secured through reputable suppliers.

The school will work with multiple suppliers to obtain the best value for money possible. Any savings negotiated will be passed to parents/carers where possible. The school will not enter into exclusive single-supplier contracts or cash-back arrangements. More information on supplier processes can be found in the '[School uniform supplier](#)' section of this policy.

The school will not make frequent changes to uniform requirements and will take the views of parents/carers and students into account when considering any changes.

4. Equality principles

The school takes its legal obligation to avoid unlawfully discriminating against any student very seriously.

In line with the above, the school will aim to ensure that its uniform policy is as inclusive as possible so that all students can access a school uniform which is comfortable, suitable for

their needs, and reflects who they are, while avoiding any direct or indirect discrimination on the basis of protected characteristics or socio-economic status.

The school will ensure that parents/carers and students are consulted over any changes to school uniform, and that, where appropriate and with students' consent, views and advice are sought specifically from students, and parents/carers of students, who:

- Are transgender or non-binary.
- Are of a religious or cultural background that has specific dress requirements.
- Have SEND and/or sensory needs.

Parents/carers' concerns and requests regarding school uniform and amendments to it are handled on a case-by-case basis by the headteacher and governing board, and always in accordance with the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.

Information on how the school ensures its uniform policy does not discriminate against students with specific protected characteristics is outlined below.

To avoid disproportionately impacting students of a certain gender, the school will ensure that the cost of uniform is as equal in price as possible across items for all genders.

This includes:

- Adhering to the procedures laid out in the '[Cost principles](#)' section of this policy.
- Not directly requiring students of a certain gender to buy additional uniform, e.g. by requiring female students to buy both trousers and skirts.
- Not indirectly requiring students of a certain gender to buy additional uniform, e.g. by offering football in PE to only male students and requiring they buy football boots to participate.
- Not holding students of different genders to different uniform standards, e.g. by banning certain hairstyles for only one gender.

Religion belief and race

The school will endeavour to meet all requests for amendments to the uniform for these purposes; however, the needs and rights of individual students will be weighed against any health and safety concerns appropriate to the circumstances, e.g. if safety headgear needs to be worn.

SEND and medical conditions

To avoid disproportionately impacting students with SEND or medical conditions, the school will ensure its uniform policy takes into account the needs of these students. This includes:

- Ensuring the school uniform uses soft, stretchy fabrics and avoids intricate buttons or hard seams.
- Allowing variations to the standard uniform for students whose medical conditions may impact how they dress, e.g. students with casts who require loose-fitting clothing or students with hair loss-related conditions who wish to wear head coverings.

Where the needs of these students cannot be met in the standard uniform policy, individual adaptations to the uniform will be considered and permitted wherever possible.

The school will ensure that it works with a supplier that acts in accordance with the school's values and principles on equality and inclusion.

5. Complaints and challenges

The school will endeavour to resolve all uniform complaints and challenges locally and informally, in accordance with the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.

The school will refer individuals who wish to complain to the Complaints Procedures Policy and request that they follow the procedures outlined therein.

When a complaint is received, the school will work with the complainant to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

The school has an agreed procedure in place with its uniform supplier to deal with complaints about the supply and quality of uniforms.

In considering a complaint, parents/carers should be aware that teachers can sanction students for breaching the school's rules on appearance or uniform. The school expects this to be carried out in accordance with the school's published behaviour policy. The school aims to deal with student non-compliance in a proportionate and fair way.

6. School uniform supplier

The school's current school uniform supplier is:

- **Forest Casuals**
- **144 Loughton High Road**
- **IG10 4BE**
- **Tel: 020 8508 2848**

The governing board will ensure that a written contract is in place with the supplier for branded items. The school will retender the uniform contract every **five years**, whether changes to the uniform are made or not, in line with the Tendering and Procurement Policy.

The governing board will be able to demonstrate how uniform is procured at the best value for money. The headteacher will work to ensure that the items are procured as cheaply as possible without compromising on the quality, e.g. by requesting standard-style items from the supplier rather than more intricate and unique designs.

The school will not sign contracts with suppliers before requesting visualisations and samples of proposed uniform.

7. Uniform assistance

If you are facing hardship, please contact the school for further assistance.

The school will hold second-hand school uniforms for parents/carers to access; access to these uniforms will be made available upon request made to the headteacher.

Parents/carers will be invited to donate their child's uniform when they no longer need it as long as there are no names embroidered on.

8. Non-compliance

Staff will be permitted to discipline students for breaching this policy, where relevant to their role, in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy.

The headteacher, or a person authorised by the headteacher, will be permitted to ask a student to briefly go home to remedy breaches to the school's uniform. When deciding whether to allow a student to return home, the member of staff will consider the student's age and vulnerability, the length of time it will take, and the availability of the student's parents/carers. A parent/carer will always be contacted before sending the student home – if contact with the student's parent/carer cannot be made, the student will remain in school.

Where a student has been sent home to rectify uniform breaches, the absence will be recorded as 'authorised'. If a student repeatedly breaches uniform rules, or takes longer than necessary to rectify the absence, the absence will be recorded as 'unauthorised'.

Parents/carers will be notified of students' breaches of school uniform in all cases.

9. School uniform

Clothing

The school uniform is as follows:

Item	Optional or required	Branding	How to acquire
Black Blazer	Required	School badge must be fixed on breast pocket	Blazer can be from school supplier and from regular retailers. Badge from school supplier
Plain Black jumper	Optional	No branding	Available from school supplier and from regular retailers
White Shirt	Required	No branding	Available from school supplier, and from regular retailers
Black trousers	Required	No branding	Available from school supplier, second-hand from school office and from regular retailers

Black skirt	Required	Specialised kilt skirt	Available from school supplier
School Tie	Required	School tie	Available from school supplier
Sensible, plain black shoes	Required	No branding	Available from regular retailers (see Davenant website for images of acceptable shoes)
Plain navy blue or black Coat/Jacket	Optional	No branding	Available from regular retailers

Students who are wearing skirts will also be required to wear plain **black tights or black ankle socks**. Black jeans will not be permitted.

Physical Education

Parents/carers are responsible for ensuring their child brings their PE kit to school when needed. Please visit Davenant website for a comprehensive list of the required (mostly branded) PE kit for both male and female students.

House Kit

All through the school year there is a series of House Competitions that students can take part in. When representing their House we like all students to wear their House T Shirt (available from Forest Casuals) alongside our normal uniform. See Davenant website for further detail

Jewellery

Jewellery is not permitted except for watches. Students may also wear a **small** ear stud – only plain gold or plain silver studs are allowed.

Bags

Students must use an appropriately-sized waterproof bag to carry their books and equipment. It must hold A4-sized workbooks comfortably without causing any damage.

School bags featuring inappropriate images, slogans or phrases will not be permitted.

The school will discourage students from bringing valuable bags to school. The school will not be liable for lost or damaged school bags.

Hairstyles and headwear

Hair colour must be natural and styling appropriate for school.

Makeup and cosmetics

Make-up, nail varnish and/or fake tan is not permitted

10. Adverse weather

Students will be advised not to wear any jumpers or blazers during heatwaves. If outside during break times, students not wearing sun-safe clothing will be advised to stay in an area protected from the sun.

For cold temperatures, this includes wearing **scarfs, gloves, coats and hats when outside, warm jumpers and trousers, or skirts and thick tights.**

11. Labelling and lost property

Parents/carers will be advised to ensure that all students' clothing and footwear is clearly labelled with their name and year group.

Any lost clothing, shoes or other larger items will be taken to the lost property cupboard. There is a team of parent volunteers who attend the school on a Wednesday lunchtime when students can visit the cupboard to look for lost property. Any clearly named items will be returned by the volunteers to Student Reception who will contact the relevant people.

All lost property, including named items where attempts have been made to return to the individuals, will be retained for **one month** and will be disposed of if not collected within this time or if possible, placed into the second-hand uniform sale.

12. Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed **annually** by the chair of governors and the headteacher. The next scheduled review date for this policy is **September 2025.**

The school will engage with parents/carers and students when reviewing this policy.

Any subsequent changes to this policy will be communicated to all staff, students, parents/carers and other relevant stakeholders.