



School Uniform Policy

Approved by:	Headteacher	Date: May 2023
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Last reviewed on:	N/A – school opening in September 2023 therefore new policy	
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Next review due by:	May 2024	
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1. 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

2. Uniform intention

A school's uniform is part of its identity. Wearing a uniform fosters a sense of belonging to the Academy's community, creating pride in representing our culture and ethos. It also creates an equitable experience for all children and reduces the risk of pressure to follow particular trends.

We expect our pupils to take pride in a smart appearance and follow the uniform expectations below. These apply during normal Academy hours, on the way to and from the Academy, and whenever our pupils are representing the Academy.

We ask that uniform is kept in a good state of repair, without holes or rips. Shirts should always be tucked into skirts, trousers or shorts and top buttons should be fastened. Where pupils have incorrect uniform, they will be provided with a temporary alternative. If there is a reason for incorrect uniform, we ask parents/carers to notify the Academy as soon as possible before the day on which this will first occur.

Pupils are expected to wear their jumpers or cardigans around the Academy and can ask to remove these in lessons. Pupils should leave lessons fully dressed with jumpers or cardigans on. Pupils can wear a coat to and from the Academy and during breaktime if outside in colder/inclement weather, however, they are expected to remove these when in the building.

Where weather requires a uniform adjustment – for example, in the summer with high temperatures – the Academy will notify families of this and ensure pupils know this during their morning tutorial.

3. 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 request changes to swimwear for religious reasons
- ★ 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 to get in touch with Helen Surgeon (info@matfordbrook.academy, FAO Helen Surgeon) who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests

4. 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 to low cost or long-lasting items. where possible
- ★ Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost or long-lasting items.
- ★ Considering cheaper alternatives to school-branded items, such as logos that can be ironed on, as long as this doesn't compromise quality and durability
- ★ Avoiding specific requirements for items pupils could wear on non-school days, such as coats, bags and shoes
- ★ Keeping the number of optional branded items to a minimum, so that the school's uniform can act as a social leveler
- ★ Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups
- ★ Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- ★ Considering alternative methods for signaling differences in groups for interschool competitions, such as creating posters or labels
- ★ Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents to acquire second-hand uniform items
- ★ 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

5. Expectations for Academy uniform

5.1 Our Academy uniform: summary

NB: as Matford Brook Academy's Primary phase grows, the uniform will follow through into Year 7 and above. Parents and carers of pupils in the Primary phase will have a uniform which does not change until Year 9.

Each phase's specific uniform has more details outlined in the sections below.

When you are purchasing items, please do contact us via info@matfordbrook.academy with a picture of the garment if you are at all unsure if it matches the requirement. We will be happy to advise you.

Nursery & Preschool	Reception	Years 7-9	Future: Years 9-11
In Preschool only (not Nursery), official Matford Brook Academy navy pullover/cardigan with logo	Official Matford Brook Academy tartan pinafore In the summer term only , a navy gingham school dress can be worn instead	Official Matford Brook Academy tartan skirt OR pinafore <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four buttons • Adjustable waist • On-knee length (skirts must not be rolled) 	As with Year 7 and... Official Matford Brook Academy navy blazer with logo
Practical, comfortable clothes which are suitable for indoor and outdoor activities (e.g. leggings, shorts, tee shirts)	OR charcoal grey school trousers OR charcoal grey tailored school shorts Straight leg (not 'skinny')	OR charcoal grey school trousers OR charcoal grey tailored school shorts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Straight leg (not 'skinny') 	
	Official Matford Brook Academy navy pullover/cardigan with logo	Official Matford Brook Academy navy jumper OR cardigan with logo	
Weather-appropriate clothing e.g. sunhat and raincoat	Plain navy polo shirt	White school shirt <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short or long sleeve • Collared with top button 	
Indoor shoes to come to Nursery/Preschool in and wellie-boots for outdoor play	Black socks AND/OR black cotton tights	Black socks OR black tights (at least 40 denier)	
	Plain black formal school shoes (trainers/boots are not permitted)	Official Matford Brook Academy tie	
Nursery and Preschool families are asked to provide a change of clothes in case of accidents	Official Matford Brook Academy book bag with logo	Plain black school shoes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Polishable • Trainers/boots not permitted 	
	Plain white PE T-shirt	Official Matford Brook Academy navy and green PE polo shirt with logo	
	Official Matford Brook Academy navy PE shorts with logo OR plain navy joggers	Optional official Matford Brook Academy navy PE shorts with logo OR plain navy joggers	
	Trainers or plimsolls	Navy football socks	
	Optional Matford Brook Academy PE bag with logo or plain PE bag	Optional Matford Brook Academy ¼ zip navy and green PE sweatshirt with logo	
	Weather-appropriate clothing e.g. sunhat and raincoat	Trainers	
		Specialist PE kit (as required)	

5.2 Further details: Nursery and Preschool

We recommend labelling all of your child's uniform and equipment clearly with their name as we cannot accept responsibility for items which are lost or mislaid.

Official Matford Brook Academy navy pullover/cardigan with logo (PRESCHOOL ONLY)

This can be purchased via Price and Buckland, <https://price-buckland.co.uk>.

Nursery children are also able to wear this but it is not compulsory.

Practical, comfortable clothes which are suitable for indoor and outdoor activities

At parents/carers' discretion. We advise not sending children to school in their 'best clothes' as, although we will provide protective garments for messy activities, this won't always be fully preventative.

Clothes should be easy for them to use the toilet independently.

We ask that you provide a full change of clothes in case of accidents.

Weather appropriate clothing

We recommend a sunhat and a raincoat.

Indoor and outdoor shoes

Their indoor shoes can be whatever your child is comfortable in that supports their feet. We encourage shoes that your child can do up themselves, e.g. Velcro, as we will support and encourage them to do this.

Wellie-boots are required for outdoor play.

5.3 Further details: Primary uniform



We recommend labelling all of your child's uniform and equipment clearly with their name as we cannot accept responsibility for items which are lost or mislaid.

Official Matford Brook Academy tartan pinafore

This can be purchased via Price and Buckland, <https://price-buckland.co.uk>.

In the summer term only, a navy gingham/check summer dress can be worn instead. These can be purchased from most supermarkets or other clothing retailers.
Short black leggings/shorts can be worn under skirts. These should not be visible below the line of their pinafore skirt.

Charcoal grey trousers or tailored school shorts

These should be smart school trousers or shorts. Materials such as canvas, cotton, linen, chino or jeans are not appropriate nor are leggings.
These should be a straight leg or tailored fit, not 'skinny'.
These can be purchased from most supermarkets or other clothing retailers.

Official Matford Brook Academy navy pullover or cardigan with logo

This can be purchased via Price and Buckland.

Plain navy polo shirt

Navy only to be worn under the pinafore or tucked in to charcoal grey shorts or trousers.
A polo shirt should be collared, as per the example.
These can be purchased from most supermarkets or other clothing retailers.



Black socks OR black cotton tights

Plain black formal school shoes

These should be plain black and low-heeled with black soles and black laces or Velcro. They should be polishable.
Please avoid sending children in lace-up shoes if they are unable to tie them independently.
Trainers, flip-flops, Ugg style, knee or ankle boots are not permitted.

Official Matford Brook Academy navy bookbag with logo

This can be purchased via Price and Buckland.

Plain white PE T-shirt

This should be a crewneck cotton white T-shirt, as per the example.
These can be purchased from most supermarkets or other clothing retailers.



Official Matford Brook Academy navy PE shorts with logo AND/OR plain navy joggers

The navy PE shorts with logo can be purchased via Price and Buckland.
Joggers should be a dark navy, consistent with the official uniform's colour, and are only to be worn during cold/wet weather or instead of shorts. They are not compulsory.

Trainers or plimsolls

These should be well-fitting with good support and have appropriate grip on the sole (i.e. not 'fashion' trainers).

Optional Matford Brook Academy PE bag with logo OR plain PE bag

The PE bag with logo can be purchased via Price and Buckland.

A bag is required so that any wet or dirty PE kit can be easily brought home.

PE kit should be clearly marked with the pupil's name. We accept no responsibility for valuables (even if they were handed in for safekeeping at the beginning of the lesson).

5.4 Further details: Primary accessories, jewellery etc.

Make-up

Make-up or nail varnish is not allowed in the Primary phase. Pupils will be asked to remove this on arrival.

Fake tattoos/transfers or body art are not allowed in school.

Jewellery

Jewellery, including bracelets, rings and necklaces, are not to be worn in the Academy.

Pupils may have one lobe piercing. This must be a stud (not hoops, 'dangly' earrings etc.) and must either be able to be removed or taped for required activities. If taped, pupils must have their own supply with them for this purpose.

Pupils are encouraged to wear their Academy badges with pride (such as Values badges).

Hair

Hair bobbles, bands and clips must be plain, small and simple. These should be in the Academy uniform colours (navy or green) or a black, white, grey or brown.

Hair extensions and coloured hair that is not a natural colour is not appropriate during term time.

Long hair needs to be able to be tied up for required activities. Pupils must have their own hair ties with them for this.

5.3 Further details: Secondary uniform (for Year 7s starting in September 2023)



We recommend labelling all of your child's uniform and equipment clearly with their name as we cannot accept responsibility for items which are lost or mislaid.

Official Matford Brook Academy tartan skirt or pinafore

This can be purchased via Price and Buckland.

The skirt has four buttons and an adjustable waist. The 4th button must be visible below the jumper or cardigan line.

The skirt length must be on the knee.

The skirt should not be rolled or shortened.

Short black leggings/shorts can be worn under skirts. These should not be visible below the line of their skirt or pinafore.

Charcoal grey trousers or tailored school shorts

These should be smart school trousers or shorts. Materials such as canvas, cotton, linen, chino or jeans are not appropriate nor are leggings.

These should be a straight leg or tailored fit, not 'skinny'.

These can be purchased from most supermarkets or other clothing retailers.

Official Matford Brook Academy navy jumper OR cardigan with logo

This can be purchased via Price and Buckland.

Pupils may choose to wear the jumper and/or the cardigan.

White school shirt

This should be appropriately fitted with either short or long sleeves.

The shirt must be collared, with a top button suitable for a clip-on tie.

These can be purchased from most supermarkets or other clothing retailers.

Black socks OR black tights

Tights should be at least 40 denier.

These can be purchased from most supermarkets or other clothing retailers.

Official Matford Brook Academy tie

This can be purchased via Price and Buckland.

PLEASE NOTE: for our first cohort of Year 7s (those joining in September 2023), each pupil will be provided with a tie as part of their induction to the Academy. Any subsequent ties required will need to be purchased.

Plain black school shoes

These should be plain black and low-heeled with black soles and black laces or Velcro. They should be polishable.

Shoes should be leather, faux leather or patent only. Leather trainers, Converse or similar footwear in leather or faux leather are not permitted.

Boots, canvas shoes and trainers are not permitted.

Small logos (such as Kickers or Dr Martins – though not yellow stitching) are allowed.

Examples of acceptable footwear can be seen below.

Examples of suitable shoes



Examples of unsuitable shoes that are not permitted



PE kit



Official Matford Brook Academy navy PE polo shirt with logo
This can be purchased via Price and Buckland.

Optional official Matford Brook Academy navy PE shorts with logo AND/OR plain navy joggers

Joggers should be a dark navy, consistent with the official uniform's colour, and are only to be worn during cold/wet weather or instead of shorts. They are not compulsory if the pupil has the official PE shorts which can be purchased via Price and Buckland, <https://price-buckland.co.uk>.

Optional Matford Brook Academy ¼ zip navy and green PE sweatshirt with logo

This can be purchased via Price and Buckland.

No other types of sweatshirts/hoodies are allowed.



Navy football socks

These can be purchased from most supermarkets or other clothing retailers. We recommend searching 'dark navy' for a colour-match to the rest of the Academy's PE uniform such as this example from [CityComfort on Amazon](#).

Trainers

These should be well-fitting with good support and have appropriate grip on the sole (i.e. not 'fashion' trainers). Astro trainers are best to purchase as they can be used inside and outside.

Specialist PE kit

Gum shield (compulsory for hockey and rugby).

Shin pads (compulsory for football and hockey).

Moulded boots (plastic studs) are also needed for all pupils who wish to be involved in Football or Rugby teams.

Plain black base layers are allowed under PE kit when the weather is cold (for use in PE only).

A bag is required so that any wet or dirty PE kit can be easily brought home.

PE kit should be clearly marked with the pupil's name. We accept no responsibility for valuables (even if they were handed in for safekeeping at the beginning of the lesson).

5.4 Further details: Secondary accessories, jewellery etc.

Make-up

Make-up is discouraged in the secondary phase. If worn, it should be very discreet and hardly noticeable. Consider:

- Foundation applied lightly and of natural skin tone
- Eyebrows as they naturally appear, not painted on or enhanced
- No eye shadow or eye liner
- Eye lashes with minimal brown or black mascara, no false eye lashes
- No lipstick

False nails are not allowed. Clear nail varnish only is permitted, not coloured or patterned.

Fake tattoos/transfers or body art are not allowed in school.

Pupils will be asked to remove any make-up that does not comply.

Jewellery

Jewellery, including bracelets, rings and necklaces, are not to be worn in the Academy.

Pupils may have one lobe piercing in each ear. This must be a stud (not hoops, 'dangly' earrings etc.) and must either be able to be removed or taped for required activities. If taped, pupils must have their own supply with them for this purpose.

No other piercings or spacers are permitted.

Pupils are encouraged to wear their Academy badges with pride (such as Values badges).

Hair

Hair bobbles, bands and clips must be plain, small and simple. These should be in the Academy uniform colours (navy or green) or a black, white, grey or brown.

Hair extensions and coloured hair that is not a natural colour is not appropriate during term time, nor is patterns shaved into hair.

Long hair needs to be able to be tied up for required activities. Pupils must have their own hair ties with them for this.

Bag

Pupils will need a large school bag/rucksack that can carry A4 books and folders. Handbags are not suitable for this purpose.

6. Equipment requirements

Nursery and Preschool parents and carers will be provided with a separate equipment list for their child.

Pupils should come to school with the following equipment:

Reception (and KS1)	Years 7-11
Official Matford Brook Academy bookbag	A suitable school bag – recommended rucksack – that can carry A4 books and folders
A water bottle	A water bottle
Required stationary will be provided for them in Reception. However, they are welcome to bring a pencil case with colouring pencils, a pencil, rubber and ruler if they would like to	A clear plastic pencil case with the following items: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Black pen(s)• Pencil• Purple pen• Calculator (scientific; CASIO scientific calculator is the recommended model)• Gluestick• Protractors• Ruler (30cm)• Rubber and sharpener• Headphones (that have a 3.5mm cable)• Highlighter(s)
	Pupils will be provided with a sturdy, see-through wallet to keep their key items and documents.

In the secondary phase, pupils are able to proactively borrow equipment that they have forgotten from our pupil services to avoid any equipment demerits.

7. Where to obtain Matford Brook Academy uniform

Uniform items that have a logo can be purchased online from Price and Buckland www.pbuniform-online.co.uk/ They offer a delivery service to home or school. Other items can be purchased from local retail stores including but not limited to Marks and Spencer, Sainsbury's, Tesco, Asda, Matalan and Next.

As the Academy grows we will be offering a secondhand uniform provision.

Shoes can be purchased from local retailers including but not limited to Clarks, Next, Shoe Zone.

7. Expectations of our Academy community

7.1 Pupils

Pupils 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)

Pupils are also expected to contact Helen Surgeon (info@matfordbrook.academy FAO Helen Surgeon) if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics.

7.2 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
- ★ Clearly labelled with the child's name
- ★ In good condition

Parents are also expected to contact Helen Surgeon (info@matfordbrook.academy FAO Helen Surgeon) if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to:

- ★ Their child's protected characteristics
- ★ The cost of the uniform

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 work closely with parents/carers to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

7.3 Staff

Staff 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, but will follow up with the headteacher if the situation doesn't improve.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with through the school behaviour policy.

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

7. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually.

8. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

- ★ Behaviour policy
- ★ Equality information and objectives statement
- ★ Anti-bullying policy
- ★ Complaints policy
- ★ Mobile phone policy