



CHILTERN
LEARNING
TRUST



HIGH SCHOOL
Denbigh
A SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE

School Uniform Policy

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Body	Governing Body
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“High achievement for all is our shared responsibility”

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Children's society found that many families struggle to pay the high costs of school uniform which negatively impacts children.
- 1.2 The Children's Society survey showed that nearly a quarter (23%) of parents said that the cost of school uniform had meant their child had worn ill-fitting, unclean or incorrect uniform. This is highly likely to be a common problem in Bedfordshire and within the local context of our schools.
- 1.3 The average annual cost of a secondary school uniform in a Luton based school is £257. This is below the national annual average cost of school uniform at £337, however it is above what most parents consider a reasonable cost at £105 annually.
- 1.4 Unnecessarily high uniform costs were found to negatively influence children's experience of and access to school; this negative impact is particularly pronounced for low income families.
- 1.5 The Children's Society found that one in five families from lower income families cut back on food to pay for school uniforms or borrowed money to purchase the required uniform.
- 1.6 Schools should adhere to the statutory guidance regarding the cost of uniforms and duly consider the guidance on school uniforms.
- 1.7 Where a decision is taken for no uniform, this must be done in consultation with parents/guardians and pupils, to ensure this does not cause any inequity amongst pupils.

2. POLICY RATIONALE AND PRINCIPLES

- 2.1 In light of the above research and taking into account the guidelines recently updated and soon to be compulsory from the DfE, CLT believes that any school uniform policy should have the following principles:
 - 2.1.1 School uniforms are an effective way to ensure equality in the classroom as well as a shared sense of identity and common sense of purpose.
 - 2.1.2 A school uniform policy should give the highest priority to affordability, this helps to reduce unnecessary stress on parents and children. Where possible optional items should be minimised so that a child will not feel left out if the optional items are unaffordable.
 - 2.1.3 Branded items of school uniform increase costs and so should be kept to a minimum. As stated by the DfE, "The term 'branded item' is not just an item with a logo. It is used to describe an item of clothing with distinctive characteristics which make it unique to the school or trust."

- 2.1.4 Where items of clothing are required to have school logos, schools must consider how to keep costs low; this could be through sew-on or iron-on logos or through subsidies (if appropriate). All schools should be able to demonstrate they have obtained the best value for money and pass on any savings to parents.
- 2.1.5 Schools should avoid parents/guardians having to purchase multiple expensive branded school items, or additional uniforms for extra curricular activities.
- 2.1.6 Schools should think about total cost of school uniforms including PE kit and avoid making frequent changes to the school uniform policy. Parents shouldn't be limited to one school uniform supplier. Supermarkets are the most affordable suppliers of uniform items; schools should ensure the majority of items are available to purchase from supermarkets.
- 2.1.7 Schools should offer a re-use or recycling scheme for school uniforms and consider how to address the stigma that may be attached to not purchasing brand new clothes (Please see below for further details).
- 2.1.8 Disciplinary policy should be aware of and take into consideration financial hardship before issuing sanctions for not following uniform expectations. No child should be sanctioned because they cannot afford school uniform or school resources. Disciplinary policy should take extra care to consider financial hardship and the needs of the individual pupil before a sanction is issued. Staff should receive appropriate training on this.
- 2.1.9 Schools should be sensitive to the needs of young people who belong to groups with a particular protected characteristic, without compromising important school policies.
- 2.11 When developing a uniform policy, families must be consulted and reference must be made to this within the policy and on the school's website.

3. EQUALITY STATEMENT

- 3.1 The Chiltern Learning Trust encourages all schools to have a school uniform policy as this helps to ensure equality and is therefore appropriate in a school learning environment; school uniforms should not therefore be negotiable. School uniforms help to avoid the stigma families may experience if they are not able to afford expensive branded items of clothing.

4. OVERVIEW

- 4.1 Uniform standards across the Chiltern Learning Trust and our uniform code is inclusive and smart. Parents are expected to ensure that students arrive at school in the correct uniform and that on the rare occasion where for medical reasons the uniform cannot be adhered to, then a note is provided clearly explaining any temporary change from this code.
- 4.2 We have a clear and focused uniform policy for the simple reason that it enables every child to attend school in an equal and fair way. By maintaining this expectation we ensure that appearance does not advantage or disadvantage any child based on fashion choice, socio-economic wealth or body shape/ size.

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- 4.4 We strongly believe that this basic equality is a fundamental right of children in education and that this is vital to a caring and safe learning environment. For this reason we will not spend time discussing, negotiating or arguing personal views on uniform with parents.

5. VALUE FOR MONEY

- 5.1 The Chiltern Learning Trust believes that our uniform policy and suppliers should offer value for money and that the cost of uniform should never be a barrier to a child attending the school. Therefore, schools within the Chiltern Learning Trust should ensure the following:
 - 5.1.1 We have more than one supplier to provide both competitive pricing and convenience.
 - 5.1.2 Uniform costs and durability are balanced to ensure good value for money.
 - 5.1.3 The school has a system for collecting and storing donated uniforms that have previously been worn but are in good condition. Information about second hand uniforms (including how and when parents can access it) should be published on the school's website.
 - 5.1.4 The school will help families with financial assistance, where appropriate and as needed, when cost is a barrier to their child attending school and meeting our uniform expectations. This can be discussed and agreed on a case by case basis.
 - 5.1.5 The basic school uniform only has very minimal branding and colour ranges to ensure that suitable alternatives can be found in high street stores whilst still meeting our codes.
 - 5.1.6 One uniform is suitable for the whole year and no summer/ winter uniform is required.
 - 5.1.7 No specific requirements of coats or bags other than they are suitable for school and the carrying of books/ kit. PE kit options are available where branded kit is not affordable.

6. UNIFORM RULES

6.1 PERMITTED

For details of Denbigh High School's permitted uniform please refer to the school's website. This can be found under the Community section.

6.2 STRICTLY NOT PERMITTED

- No trainers, boots, Crocs, high heeled shoes, sandals and slipper-style shoes are allowed, this includes black trainers or any shoe the school judges to be a trainer (we withhold the right to make this judgment and advice/ descriptions of appropriate school shoes from shoe retailers will not be accepted).
- No hoodies, sweatshirts or non-school jumpers are to be worn at any time. No knee length/ thigh length socks to be worn at any time.
- No leggings
- No baggy trousers (including flares), jeans, denim trousers, chinos, or non-school trousers
- No baseball caps/hats
- No jewellery/rings/chains/hoop earrings.
- No painted nails, false/acrylic nails.
- No makeup should be worn to school.
- No short/tight skirts

6.3 If there is a medical reason why school shoes cannot be worn, then ideally a doctor's note will be brought to school by the student and the issue resolved as soon as possible. However, we recognise that doctor's notes may incur a charge; we will work with families to resolve this. The school will consider financial support when the cost of shoes/ uniform is prohibitive to students.

6.4 If a student is wearing non-uniform items, the following should happen:

- A discussion will take place between the school and parents to ascertain why the correct uniform has not been worn. This should be supportive and not in the first instance disciplinary.
- If there is no valid reason for a student not to be wearing the correct uniform the school should then take appropriate disciplinary action according to the agreed behaviour policy.
- We always try to work closely with parents to resolve issues in partnership. However, if a student persistently breaks uniform code then repeated issues can result in sanction and/ or exclusion from school.

7. PE KIT

7.1 PERMITTED

Schools in the Chiltern Learning Trust should, where possible avoid branded PE kit items to help reduce the financial burdens placed on parents.

For details of Denbigh High School's permitted PE Kit please refer to the school's website. This can be found under the Community section – School Uniform.

7.2 NOT PERMITTED

- Any other colour garment other than blue
- No branded sportswear or clothing
- No Hoodies.
- No thin/ transparent or “shaped” leggings.
- No fashion styled trainers that are not appropriate for sports.
- Any jewellery or personal item that could be considered dangerous or could be used as a weapon are strictly prohibited and will be confiscated.

8. UNIFORM SUPPLIERS

Schools in the Chiltern Trust should publish the details of approved suppliers but also emphasize that most non-branded items can be purchased through any clothing retailer as long as they are the appropriate colour or style. Families should be able to purchase school uniform locally and easily and should not incur high item or delivery delivery costs.

SCHOOL TIME <https://schooltime.co.uk/schools>

PAGES – <http://www.pages-schoolwear.co.uk>

Non branded items are available at:

Tesco: <https://www.tesco.com/zones/clothing/school-uniform>

Argos: <https://www.argos.co.uk/browse/clothing/school-uniforms/c:812482/>

Asda: <https://direct.asda.com/george/school-uniform/D10,default,sc.html>

9. A COMMON SENSE APPROACH TO GENERAL APPEARANCE

9.1 The school applies a common sense approach to general appearance. This allows us to achieve a balance in our approach to hairstyles, hair colours, piercings and application of make-up. Whilst we do not prohibit specific “styles” of appearance outside of our uniform code we reserve the right to address/ prohibit anything we feel is excessive, inappropriate or extreme.

9.2 Therefore, as a general guide, the following is recommended:

- Piercings should be safe, subtle and discreet.
- Uniform should be worn appropriately and correctly without modification – for example skirts should be of a suitable length and belts should be discreet without large buckles or branding and shirts should be worn tucked in.
- Torn/ damaged items should be replaced within a reasonable time frame. Schools with the Trust should be aware however that many parents are paid monthly and where possible support should be provided if financial hardships are recognized.

- Items of clothing or appearance should not denote affiliation to any politically motivated group or denote extreme views and must not cause offense- this includes coats and jackets.

9.3 The school will not be responsible for the loss/ damage and incurred costs of any prohibited or sanctioned items that includes jewellery, watches, wallets, mobile phones, electronic devices and designer items such as coats or bags. We do not recommend such items are brought into school and are only done so at the students.