



Ashfield Boys' High School

Uniform Policy

Introduction

The School Uniform Policy at Ashfield Boys' High School establishes clear guidelines to foster an inclusive learning community that provides a safe nurturing environment. The policy emphasises the importance of school uniform in promoting school identity, supporting student equality, and preparing pupils to thrive in future professional environments. The policy is designed to ensure that all students, regardless of their background, feel safe, welcome, acknowledged, and nurtured. The policy also highlights the supports available to families in need and provides options for pre-worn uniforms. This policy will be reviewed and updated regularly in consultation with all stakeholders to ensure it remains relevant and effective.

Rationale

The aim of this policy is to ensure a clear understanding of the need for a school uniform.

School uniform can play a valuable role setting an appropriate tone; instilling pride; supporting positive behaviour and discipline; encouraging identity with, and support for, the school ethos; ensuring pupils of all races and backgrounds feel welcome; protecting children from social pressures to dress in a particular way; and, nurturing cohesion and promoting good relations between different groups of pupils. Many schools also believe that school uniform supports effective teaching and learning. (DENI Circular 2011/04 – Revised June 18)

- **Promote a sense of school identity:** Instil a sense of pride and belonging among students by creating a unified school identity through consistent uniform standards.
- **Support equality and inclusivity:** Ensure that pupils from all backgrounds, races, and cultures feel welcome by eliminating socio-economic pressures related to clothing.
- **Encourage positive behaviour:** Reinforce good behaviour by setting clear expectations around dress code, helping students focus on learning rather than personal attire.
- **Enhance school safety and security:** Facilitate easy identification of students and staff, enhancing security within the school premises and ensuring students' clothing choices align with health and safety standards.
- **Promote cohesion, respect, and sense of belonging:** Foster a harmonious school environment where students from diverse groups feel united, respected, and treated fairly and equally.
- **Support high quality teaching and learning:** Minimise distractions in the classroom related to personal appearance, allowing students to focus on their learning, and teachers to focus on engaging pupils.

Meeting uniform requirements

- **Transparency** – pupil and parental views on uniform arrangements sought and considered when reviewing the policy.
- **Affordability** – careful consideration has been given to ensuring that the school's uniform is cost effective, the majority of it is generic and available from multiple suppliers, and compulsory items are kept to a minimum.
- **Equality** – all pupils are expected to wear uniform and PE kit when required.
- **Practicality** – adaptations made for pupils who require reasonable adjustments.

- **Participation & Wellbeing** – sports kits provided for teams and pre-worn uniform available in the school's uniform hub to support pupils and families.

School uniform

Compulsory items -

- **Blazers:** All pupils must wear the appropriate school blazer with school badge. The blazer should be worn for the full school year.
- **Trousers:** All pupils must wear black school trousers.
- **Shoes:** Plain black shoes are to be worn by all boys. Shoes with white or coloured logos / sports motifs will not be permitted, and laces should be black also.
- **Shirts:** White shirt; tucked in, top button done up.
- **Tie:** All pupils must wear the appropriate school tie for their Year Group – Junior School (8-10), Senior School (11&12), Sixth Form.

Optional items –

- **Ashfield Boys' own 'v' neck school jumper**
 - **Junior School (8-10)** – mid grey
 - **Senior School (11&12) & Sixth Form** – black
- The school jumper is not permitted to be worn as an alternative to the school blazer.

***Please Note that our school jumper and school ties can only be purchased from the following suppliers:**

- **Lyttle's**
- **School Days**
- **David Crawford's School Wear**
- **Gowdy's**

Other uniform requirements

- **Jewellery:** One small stud earring is permitted.
- **Hair:** Shoulder length hair must be tied back for health and safety reasons in practical classes.

PE uniform

Compulsory items –

- ABHS Nike Branded Shorts
- ABHS Nike Branded T-Shirt
- Nike Royal Blue Matchfit Cushioned Socks
- Trainers / gym shoes (All black versions are now also permitted to be worn as school shoes)
- Football boots and shin guards (advised for playing football)

Optional items –

- ABHS Nike Branded $\frac{3}{4}$ Zip Top
- ABHS Branded Skinny Tracksuit Bottoms

***Please Note that our PE kit can only be purchased from the following suppliers:**

- Kitking
- School Days

Cost

Financial assistance is available through the Education Authority's School Uniform Allowance Scheme for certain pupils at grant-aided post-primary schools, towards the cost of school uniforms and appropriate clothing suitable for PE. The eligibility criteria are the same as those used for free school meals.

Additionally, a range of laundered, pre-worn uniform is usually available, from the school's uniform hub, available via Mrs Kerrigan.

School Trips

Full school uniform must be worn when pupils are going on a school trip, unless alternative arrangements have been made by the lead teacher.

Non-compliance with School Uniform Policy

Where a pupil is not adhering to the School Uniform Policy, staff will make discreet enquiries as to why this is the case with the hope of rectifying the issue. Where there is no genuine reason for non-adherence, or where there is frequent non-adherence, the pupils Uniform Card may be signed. 3 signatures on any pupil Uniform Card will result in a consequence being issued.

Please note that acceptance of a place in Ashfield Boys' High School, requires acceptance of our School Uniform Policy. The Principal's decision on what is appropriate is final.