



School Uniform Policy

At Abbot's Lea School we hold very high aspirations for our students. With that, we have – unapologetically – high expectations of what they are capable of with regards to their learning, communication, interaction and social belonging.

As such, we believe that all students represent the school and as such are the ambassadors of the school whilst on site and in the wider community.

We believe that our students are influential role models for those round them and as such should be presentable at all times.

All students are in the ongoing process of preparation for employment and as part of that, our school uniform forms an integral part of their learning to embrace “other than personal” preferences with regards to the dress code.

As such, we believe that our students' learning of accepting social and organisational rules, including wearing an agreed school uniform, is a part of their learning of essential life skills that may be essentials for their future employability.

Aims

Our aim in having a school uniform for the students is to ensure:

- Clear guidelines are laid down for the families and the students with regards to the expectations of dress code and presentation during term time activity
- That through such dress code, all students appear smart
- That through a shared school uniform, students share the belonging to the school community and show this when on site or offsite
- That wearing a school uniform helps us safeguard our students when out on community visits

Expectations

- All families will follow specific uniform list and ensure that their child has all of the items of the uniform required
- All families will ensure that their child only wears the items specified and no other items
- All families will ensure that their child is presentable in line with the expectations
- All families will ensure that their child only brings to school items that are permitted at school
- All families struggling to source or execute this policy will seek support from the school
- All students will adhere to the expected standards of uniform and presentation.

- Students can choose whether they wear boys' or girls' typical items or the combination of the two styles.

Value for money consideration

To ensure our families get the best value for money when purchasing school uniform, Abbot's Lea School undertook a cost comparison exercise. We compared prices of Whittakers Schoolwear, our current provider of school uniform with two popular local suppliers and one national supplier. Plain and un-badged items were not included in this comparison, as parents can already purchase these items from many retailers.

The findings of the comparison exercise were taken to the senior leaders meeting to review, scrutinise and consider all of the data.

An agreement was reached, to continue using Whittakers Schoolwear our current supplier of school uniform, based on their data compared to the other 2 popular local suppliers' and 1 national suppliers data. It was apparent, Whittakers Schoolwear came out as being the best value of school wear for money.

As a business, Whittakers Schoolwear pride themselves on their relationship with our school, on their flexibility and on their wraparound service:

- They have a large physical shop for customers to view and try on uniform
- They have our uniform in a quiet corner in the shop with its own till point
- They have an easy to navigate online shop with all sizes and prices listed
- They offer a deliver and collect service to the school for parents who find this easier
- They have a sizing set at school for parents to use before ordering.(when permitted due to government guidelines and the school risk assessment)
- They hold try on events at school for parents to pre-order uniform to be delivered for Back To School (when permitted due to government guidelines and the school risk assessment)
- They offer quiet time shopping for those pupils who feel uncomfortable with people when they will open early or stay open late upon request
- They offer an alteration service for those pupils who may need different sized items

All prices of the uniforms for 2023-24 are based on the smallest size for that age group in the key stage. Larger sizes will be more expensive – please refer to the full price list document. These are predominantly badged items.

Plain items (not requiring Abbot's Lea School logo), such as white shirts, black shorts/trousers and white polo shirts can be purchased from local large supermarkets or departmental stores and generally at a slightly lower cost.

ALS operates a free of charge Uniform Swap Shop and so, we invite families to donate good quality used items and take advantage of the many free, good quality and often brand new items – please send items to the Office and contact our Office if you need an item – we will send it home with your child, if available.

School uniform by Key Stage (prices as of February 2024)

EARLY YEARS AND KEY STAGE 1

ALS blue POLO SHIRT from £7.00

ALS navy SWEATSHIRT from £10.00

ALS navy CARDIGAN from £11.00

ALS navy JOGGERS from £13.00

ALS TARTAN SKIRT from £12.00

ALS navy blue two-piece WATERPROOF SUIT from £16.99

ALS navy JACKET from £26.00

ALS maroon INFANT BACKPACK £11.99

BLACK SCHOOL SHOES OR ALL BLACK TRAINERS

KEY STAGE 2

ALS blue POLO SHIRT from £7.00

ALS navy SWEATSHIRT from £10.00

ALS navy CARDIGAN from £11.00

PLAIN DARK FORMAL GREY SCHOOL TROUSERS - from any supplier

ALS TARTAN SKIRT from £12.00

ALS navy JACKET from £26.00

ALS maroon JUNIOR PACKPACK £12.99

ALS navy two-piece WATERPROOF SUIT from £16.99

BLACK FORMAL SCHOOL SHOES OR LEATHER/LEATHER-LIKE PLAIN TRAINERS WITH BLACK SOLES AND NO LOGOS

KEY STAGE 3 AND KEY STAGE 4

ALS blue POLO from £7.00

LIGHT BLUE FORMAL SHIRT OR BLOUSE – from any supplier

ALS navy BOYS BLAZER from £29.00

ALS navy GIRLS BLAZER from £29.00

ALS navy PULLOVER from £19.50

ALS TIE £4.99 (clip on or 52")

PLAIN DARK FORMAL GREY SCHOOL TROUSERS - from any supplier

ALS TARTAN SKIRT from £12.00

ALS navy JACKET from £26.00

ALS maroon JUNIOR BACKPACK £12.99

BLACK FORMAL SCHOOL SHOES OR LEATHER/LEATHER-LIKE PLAIN TRAINERS WITH BLACK SOLES AND NO LOGOS

KEY STAGE 5

WHITE FORMAL SHIRT or BLOUSE – from any supplier, or

ALS white KS5 BADGED POLO from £12.50

BLACK FORMAL SKIRT

BLACK FORMAL TROUSERS

ALS black BLAZER from £28.00

ALS SCHOOL TIE £4.99 (clip on or 52")

BLACK FORMAL SCHOOL SHOES OR LEATHER/LEATHER-LIKE PLAIN TRAINERS WITH BLACK SOLES AND NO LOGOS

PE KIT FOR ALL KEY STAGES:

WHITE POLO SHIRT

NAVY OR BLACK SHORTS (WILL BE NAVY ONLY FROM SEPTEMBER 2024)

NAVY OR BLACK JOGGERS (WILL BE NAVY ONLY FROM SEPTEMBER 2024)

WHITE SPORTS SOCKS

WHITE, NAVY OR BLACK TRAINERS (these must be “running shoes” type, and not fashion trainers or football boots)

SWIMMING (WHERE APPLICABLE): swim suit and towel

NO FOOTBALL SHIRTS OR OTHER EXTERNAL SPORT TEAM KIT AT ANY TIME

Non uniform and dress-up days:

- The Headteacher may approve some non-uniform days each year
- Non uniform days should follow the ethos of the staff dress code with a ‘casual’ twist.
- Therefore denim, trainers, hoodies, t-shirts and fashion boots are acceptable on those days
- On ‘themed’ dress days such as ‘Wear it Pink’, the dress code is to be applied with the exception of the coloured or themed item/s.

Nails, Hair and Jewellery:

- Students' nails should be natural (no extensions are permitted), they should be short and smooth to allow safe physical interactions with tasks and people
- Hair should be either short or if long, tied back at all times. Hair must be of natural-looking colour with no shaved "slits" or designs. No hats should be worn indoors
- We discourage students' wearing jewellery. If jewellery is worn, it must be kept to a minimum, and removed for PE purposes or on instruction of the school staff. Piercings are a personal choice, but at school, no facial or tongue jewellery may be worn.

Personal items and liability for loss or damage:

- All uniform items must be clearly labelled with a student's full name
- Students should not bring valuables into school
- Mobile phones brought into school will be stored by the class team for the entire duration of the day
- The school is not liable for loss or damage to any item of uniform or personal possessions brought into school by the students

NON COMPLIANCE

We recognise that some students will need support to comply with the expectation of wearing a school uniform.

We therefore also anticipate that there might be incidents when they do not yet comply with those expectations.

This section sets out the process which will be followed to secure compliance:

- If a student arrives at school not wearing their full correct school uniform, the class team will support them by completing a uniform non-compliance correction slip, making it clear what is incorrect or missing and what needs to be corrected. This slip will be expected to be delivered by a student that day to their family/carers.

At the same time, the student will be supported by being offered to utilise the Free Uniform Swap Shop items to ensure compliance on that day. The student will be welcome to keep those items and re-use them for as long as they fit.

- The next day, we expect full compliance.
- If on the second day a student is still non-compliant, another slip will be completed and a call made by the class team to the family to discuss this and offer any support needed to secure compliance on the following day.
- The next day, we expect full compliance.
- If on the third day a student is still non-compliant, or is non-compliant again, this will be escalated to the Assistant Headteacher who will be requiring family/carers to attend a meeting regarding the non-compliance to agree a formal action plan for compliance.
- The matter should then be resolved with full compliance.
- If non-compliance continues, an escalation to the Senior Leadership Team will take place and the non-compliance will be addressed as a review of non-compliance and

persistent non-conformity to the school rules and managed accordingly, including a review of suitability of placement via emergency EHCP review process.

The Headteacher has a final decision-making in this matter and there is no further right of appeal beyond this regarding uniform policy compliance.