



**Penketh  
High School**



## **PENKETH HIGH SCHOOL**

### **School Uniform 2025/2026**

<b>Policy owned by</b>	<b>J Carlin</b>
<b>Date Approved by Local Governing Body</b>	<b>October 2025</b>
<b>Signature of Chair to Local Governing Body</b>	<b>M Bryan</b>
<b>Signature of Academy Principal</b>	<b>J Carlin</b>
<b>Date of Next Review</b>	<b>August 2026</b>

## **1. Statement of Purpose/Objectives**

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. Process**

The Equality Act 2010 prohibits discrimination against an individual based on the protected characteristics, which include age, sex, disability, race, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity, 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 uniform costs for items purchased directly at school are 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 a way that is appropriate for school (not extreme) and makes them feel most comfortable.
- Allow pupils to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons or if they are experiencing discomfort related to their sex, gender, or gender reassignment.
- Allow pupils to wear headscarves and/or other religious garments.
- Allow pupils with sensory or physical needs to make reasonable adaptations to their uniform depending on their specific needs in discussion with the school.
- Allow for reasonable adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents/carers to contact Mrs Ogg, who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

## **3. 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 (DfE) on the cost of school uniform.

We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as some branded items, or items that need 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/carers' 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 where possible for example, by only asking that the blazer, worn over the jumper and pupils' PE top features the school logo.
- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost and/or long-lasting items, such as ties
- Considering cheaper alternatives to school-branded items, such as logos that can be ironed/sewn on, if this doesn't compromise quality and durability.
- Avoiding specific requirements for items pupils could wear on non-school days, such as coats and bags.
- Keeping the number of optional branded items to a minimum, so that the school's uniform can act as a social leveller.
- Except for the school tie that serves each pupil for their full five years at school, avoiding different uniform requirements for different year groups.
- Except for the PE kit, 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/carers to acquire second-hand uniform items through our internal uniform shop.
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents/carers of any changes
- Consulting with parents/carers and pupils on any proposed significant changes to the main school uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy.

#### **4. Our school uniform**

##### **Main School Uniform**

- Black blazer & badge.
- White shirt.
- Black tailored trousers – jeans and chinos are not allowed or Graphite tartan knee-length tailored skirt.
- If wearing a skirt black knee-length socks/plain black opaque tights should be worn.
- Black v necked jumper (optional).
- Black shoes. Trainers and pumps will not be allowed.
- Year group tie – which will remain the same colour for the five years at the school.

##### **Year tie colours:**

- Year 07 – Silver stripes
- Year 08 – Blue stripes
- Year 09 – Gold stripes
- Year 10 – Green stripes
- Year 11 – Red stripes

##### **Extreme Hair Styles**

Although the school does not wish to inhibit students who wish to express their individuality, we do not accept that extreme hair styles are appropriate in a school environment. We would therefore discourage parents from allowing their children to adopt such styles. The school reserves the right to judge a hairstyle as 'Extreme'. Brightly coloured hair accessories are not allowed.

### **Make-up**

Pupils are allowed a light application of make-up. If the school deems a pupil to be wearing too much make-up, the pupil will be asked to remove it. Pupils are not permitted to wear false eyelashes. Nail varnish or false nails are not allowed.

### **Piercings/Jewellery**

Pupils are allowed one stud earring in each ear. They are not allowed ear stretchers. Facial/tongue piercings are not allowed in school for health and safety. No other jewellery is to be worn.

### **Technology and Art and Design**

- Simple black apron

### **PE Kit**

Orders for PE kit can be placed through school PE department.

- Black and Red polo shirt, with embroidered school logo or Rugby jersey with embroidered school logo
- Black sweatshirt, with embroidered school logo (optional)
- Black games skirt or black shorts
- Black socks
- Black jogging bottoms (optional)

### **School Bags**

All pupils should bring a rucksack style bag to school in order that they can safely transport equipment, materials, and resources as necessary.

### **Coats**

Due to the nature of variable weather conditions, pupils should bring a coat to school as necessary to keep them warm and dry as they travel to and from school and as they navigate external areas of the school during the day.

### **Where to purchase our uniform**

Parents and carers may choose to purchase uniform items from Warrington Schoolwear Centre located on Buttermarket Street. Alternatively, parents and carers may choose to purchase individual items from high street retailers or supermarkets. Whilst pre-embroidered blazers can be purchased from Warrington Schoolwear Centre, they also supply badges that can be sewn on to non-embroidered blazers purchased elsewhere.

The school PE kit can be purchased directly through Penketh High School.

Parents and carers can contact their child's Head of Year to discuss making an appointment to access our uniform swap shop, located in school.

Pupils joining the school in Year 7, eligible for Pupil Premium, can contact Mrs J Thompson to discuss financial support.

## **5. Our school uniform.**

### **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 Mrs C Lomax if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics.

### **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/carers are also expected to contact Mrs C Lomax 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/carers 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.

### **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 does not improve.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with by the pupils Head of Year, Mrs C Lomax, or Mrs R Taylor. This may lead to responses outlined in our school Climate for Learning (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.

### **Governors**

The governing board will review this policy and make sure that it:

- Is appropriate for our school's context.
- Is implemented fairly across the school.
- Considers the views of parents/carers and pupils.

- Offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical, and safe for all pupils.

The board will also make sure that the school's uniform supplier arrangements give the highest priority to cost and value for money, for example by avoiding single supplier contracts and by re-tendering any contracts at least every 5 years.

## **6. Monitoring arrangements**

This policy will be reviewed annually. At every review, it will be approved by policy committee representing the governing body.

## **7. Links to other policies**

- Climate for learning (behaviour policy)
- Equality information and objectives
- Complaints policy