



Three Towers

An Alternative Provision Academy

Expanding Horizons

School Uniform & Personal Appearance Policy

Approved: April 2026

Review: April 2027

1 Introduction

School uniform plays a key role in promoting pride, self-confidence and a feeling of belonging within school and contributes to our learner's wellbeing, removing the additional pressures of deciding what to wear and added stress of meeting the expectations of their peers.

In addition, following our uniform rules prepares our learners for either returning to mainstream school, college or entering the world of work where they are required to either wear a uniform or follow a dress code which cannot be customised.

We also explain to learners that all staff at Three Towers have a dress code we must all follow, whether we agree with it or not.

2 Aims

This policy statement aims to:

- set out our approach to requiring a uniform that is of reasonable cost and offers the best value for money for parents / carers;
- explain how we will avoid discrimination in line with our legal duties under the Equality Act 2010;
- clarify our expectations for school uniform and personal appearance.

3 Statutory requirements

The [Equality Act 2010](#) prohibits discrimination against an individual based on the protected characteristics, which include: age, sex, sexual orientation, disability, race, religion or belief, pregnancy & maternity and gender reassignment.

To avoid discrimination, our school will:

- avoid listing uniform items based on sex, giving learners the opportunity to wear the uniform they feel most comfortable in;
- ensure that our uniform costs are equitable for all learners;
- allow all learners to
 - have long hair although we reserve the right to ask for this to be tied back;
 - style their hair in the way that makes them feel comfortable whilst being appropriate for school;
 - request changes to swimwear for religious reasons, or if they are feeling discomfort; wear headscarves and other religious garments;
 - wear headscarves and / or other religious garments;
- allow for reasonable adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking learners or their parents to get in touch with their Head of House, who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests e.g learners with sensory and / or physical needs, depending on specific needs.*

**These will be considered on a case-by-case basis.*

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; and
- provides the best value for money for parents / carers.

We will do this by:

- following statutory limits for compulsory branded items of uniform and PE kit to a maximum of:
 - 3 or fewer items for learners in Key Stages 1 and 2
 - 4 or fewer items for learners in Key Stages 3 and 4, if 1 item is a tie
- carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary and limiting these items where possible;
- limiting compulsory branded items to our school sweatshirt which is low-cost and/or long-lasting;
- providing all new single registered learners with a branded school sweatshirt;
- ensuring that our uniform maximises that amount of existing school uniform that can be worn for new single registered learners, or medical needs learners;
- allowing dual-registered learners in Key Stages 1 and 2 attending on intervention places to wear their mainstream school uniform;
- avoiding specific requirements for items learners could wear on non-school days, such as coats, bags and shoes (see section 5);
- avoiding different uniform requirements, including branded items for:
 - for extra-curricular activities e.g. sport, drama;
 - particular times of the school year e.g. branded summer uniform;
- providing opportunities to acquire second-hand items in a timely manner for both current and prospective learners;
- providing items of uniform that can be loaned to learners on a temporary basis;
- avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents of any changes;
- consulting with parents and learners on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy;
- avoiding single-supplier contracts, to make sure generic items can be purchased from a range of retailers;
- review this policy annually to ensure the cost of our school uniform is reasonable and provides the best value for money.

5 Uniform Requirements

All our learners are expected to wear school uniform travelling to and from school as well as when attending lessons just as they would be in their mainstream school.

5.1 Single-registered learners

As learners have often been to more than one school, we have tried to ensure that our uniform expectations do not require significant additional costs to parents / carers and wherever possible reflect the expectations of the mainstream schools who we work alongside as it is our aim to return our learners to mainstream provision.

Almost all of our uniform can be bought at supermarkets and high street shops. In addition, we have a small stock of second-hand uniform available.

New single registered learners are provided with a school sweatshirt on joining the school. Additional Three Towers sweatshirts can be bought either from us or directly from AC Sports in Pemberton.

All single registered learners **must** wear:

- Black or dark grey tailored trousers;
- Plain white school shirt;
- Black Three Towers sweatshirt;
- Sturdy plain black shoes – no trainers, dolly shoes, crocs or boots;
- Sensible, waterproof outdoor coat.

Learners are **not allowed** to wear:

- leggings, sports/tracksuit or jeans/jeans type pants;
- track suit pants underneath school pants;
- coloured t-shirts underneath or instead of school shirt;
- sweatshirts / hoodies in place of the Three Towers branded sweatshirt.

For PE learners should wear plain black, grey or navy shorts or tracksuit bottoms and a plain white t-shirt with trainers. PE kit can be provided if required.

Outdoor clothing is provided for those learners who have outdoor education on their timetables.

Learners attending offsite vocational or work experience placements are expected to follow the dress code stipulated by the alternative provider as they are best placed to ensure that the clothing is appropriate to the activities being undertaken and do not pose a health and safety risk to the learner. If specialist uniform is required, it will be provided for learners e.g. Rigga boots for construction.

Learners attending remote lessons must be suitably dressed and wear their Three Towers sweatshirt. When attending onsite sessions learners are expected to wear full school uniform.

Optional summer uniform

This may be worn from after the Easter holiday to the October half term break. Learners may wear tailored, knee length, black school shorts as shown in the photos below instead of black/grey school trousers. These are available in store and online from many retailers including Sainsburys, Asda, Tesco, M&S and Amazon. The shorts should be worn with their white shirts; white, black or grey socks and plain black full shoes.

Please be aware cycling or sports shorts are not allowed and learners arriving in these will be sent home to change.



5.2 Dual-registered primary-aged learners who attend part time on an intervention place

Dual registered primary-aged learners wear their mainstream school uniform on the days they attend Three Towers. Sturdy traditional school shoes and a sensible outdoor coat are required in line with the learners' mainstream school uniform expectations. For PE, learners again should wear what would be expected at their mainstream school.

Please refer to your child's school uniform policy for further guidance.

5.3 Personal Appearance

All learners must comply with the following uniform requirements

- 5.3.1 **Hair** styles must be of a natural colour, of reasonable length (minimum No 2 if shaved and without patterns). Long hair must be kept clear of the eyes at all times for health & safety reasons and must be tied up when doing PE, science, cooking etc.
- 5.3.2 **Jewellery** is suggested to be limited to a wrist-watch and a ring. For Health & Safety reasons any other jewellery should be worn under clothes and removed for PE lessons. **TTAPA will not accept any responsibility for lost jewellery.**
- 5.3.3 **Earrings** – a maximum of two small stud-type earrings per lobe is allowed. Hoops or other earring piercings are not allowed. Earrings must be removed for PE and swimming. Ear stretchers are NOT allowed
- 5.3.4 **Other piercings including facial piercings** (nose, lips, eyebrows, tongue etc.) are not allowed. They must be removed for school. No plastic versions or plasters covering such piercings are allowed.
Please note that all piercings have to be removed for school irrespective of when they were done. Therefore we advise new piercings are done at the start of the school summer holiday so that they are sufficiently healed to be removed once term starts. Absence from school to allow piercings to heal will not be authorised.
- 5.3.5 **Make-up, false lashes and false nails.** Make up and false lashes if worn should be subtle. False nails are allowed however for health & safety reasons they must be of a sensible length ie no longer than 5mm past the end of the finger and of a natural colour (French polish or nude colours only)

5.4 Blended/Online Learners:

Learners attending online lessons must be suitably dressed and wear their Three Towers sweatshirt. When attending onsite sessions learners are expected to wear full school uniform.

6 Expectations of our school community

6.1 The Local Governing Committee (LGC) will review this policy annually and make sure that it:

- is appropriate for our school's context;
- is implemented fairly across the school;
- takes into account the views of parents and learners;
- offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all learners.

The board will also make sure that the school's uniform supplier arrangements give the highest priority to cost and value for money.

6.2 Staff closely monitor learners to make sure they are in correct uniform. They will give any learners and families breaching the uniform policy the opportunity to comply but will follow up with leadership team if the situation does not improve.

Persistent refusal to meet uniform expectations, including refusal to remove piercings is dealt with under the Behaviour & Relationships Policy.

In cases where it is suspected that financial hardship has resulted in a learner not complying with this uniform policy, staff will take a mindful and considerate approach to resolving the situation. This is in line with the statutory [guidance](#).

6.3 Parents / 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 the Headteacher 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.

6.4 Learners 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 (those who do not will be required to either change into spare uniform or return home to change and then return);
- at out-of-school events or on trips that are organised by the school, or where they are representing the school (if required).

Learners are also expected to discuss with the Headteacher if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics.

7 Monitoring Arrangements

This policy will be reviewed by the headteacher annually. At every review, the policy will be approved by the local governing committee.

8 Links to other policies

This policy should be read alongside:

- *Behaviour & Relationships Policy*
- *Complaints Policy*
- *For dual-registered learners – main school uniform policy*

UNICEF - UNCRC

The UN Convention of the Rights of the Child sets out human rights of every person under 18 and applies to every child without discrimination, whatever their ethnicity, gender, religion, language, abilities or any other status, whatever they think or say, whatever their family background (Article 2). Articles directly relating to this policy are:

2 (Non-discrimination)	28 (Right to education)
12 (Respect the views of the child)	29 (Goals of education)
13 (Freedom of expression)	31 (Leisure, play and culture)
14 (Freedom of thought, belief & religion)	