

**Ixworth High School  
Uniform Policy**

**Document Control:**

<b>Document Owner:</b>	<b>Mr M Jackson</b>		
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## 1. Aims

Ixworth High School is very proud of our uniform. It creates a sense of belonging in our students, clearly identifying them in comparison to other schools. The uniform is deliberately a business dress and is expected to be always worn correctly. The policy below lays out the schools aims and expectations.

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. Our school's legal duties under the Equality Act 2010

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 our uniform costs 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 and makes them feel most comfortable
- 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
- Allow for reasonable adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents/carers to get in touch with the School, 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 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 have addressed this in the design process with the minimum number of branded items contained within the uniform.

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, features the school logo
- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost and/or long-lasting items, such as ties
- Avoiding specific requirements for items pupils could wear on non-school days, such as coats, bags and shoes
- Keeping the number of optional branded items to a minimum, so that the school's uniform can act as a social leveler
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups
- 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
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents/carers of any changes
- Consulting parents/carers and pupils on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy

#### 4. Expectations for school uniform

##### 4.1 Our school's uniform

###### Branded Items

From September 2024 we changed our school uniform whilst reducing the number of branded school uniform items required. These branded items will now also be available from multiple suppliers allowing parents to choose the most convenient and cost-effective solution for their needs. Additionally, the School PE Kit was updated with more durable materials, reducing the costs further for families.

There is **no expectation** that parents will need to replace branded items with non-branded items and students can continue to wear obsolete branded items that are no longer a requirement until such time as the legacy of the old uniform is phased out.

If you are struggling to access any uniform item during the school year, please contact the school office for guidance and support.

**Our school uniform requirements are listed below:**

Item	Status	Branded	Retailer
Grey school blazer with logo	Required	Yes	Specialist
White formal shirt or blouse with top button	Required	No	Any
Charcoal/dark grey Trousers or Pleated skirt	Required	No	Any

Emerald and white striped School tie (Normal or clip-on)	Required	No	Specialist
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All black, polishable shoes or ankle height boots	Required	No	Any
Plain dark socks	Required	No	Any
Black tights	Optional	No	Any
Charcoal/dark grey tailored shorts (May half- term-Oct half term unless stated otherwise)	Optional	No	Any
Charcoal/dark grey V-neck jumper	Optional	No	Any
White thermal/baselayer	Optional	No	Any

Coats – Coats are not permitted to be worn inside the school building at any time. When outside, the coat is an addition to the uniform, a Blazer etc is still an expectation unless the school has stipulated otherwise.

Religious Head coverings – Where Head coverings are worn for religious reasons, these should adhere to the school colours and remain in a dark Grey/Charcoal/Black shade only.

Further specific guidance to support students with meeting the requirements of this uniform policy can be found on our website - <https://www.ixworthhighschool.org/our-school/information-for-parents/uniform>

#### Our PE uniform requirements are listed below:

For all students, leggings are only allowed to be worn if skorts, shorts or tracksuit bottoms are over the top.

Item	Status	Branded	Retailer
Black and Emerald PE shirt with logo	Required	Yes	Specialist
Plain black shorts	Required	No	Any
Black and Emerald PE jumper with logo	Optional	Yes	Specialist
Running trainers	Required	No	Any
Plain White sports socks	Required	No	Any
Plain black Skorts	Optional	No	Any
Plain black tracksuit trousers	Optional	No	Any
Plain black sports legging (must <b>not</b> be transparent and must <b>not</b> be worn on their own)	Optional	No	Any
Running trainers	Required	No	Any
Football boots (recommended for winter and spring weather)	Optional	No	Any
Thermal and climate control base layers	Optional	No	Any
Plain Black knee-high sports socks	Optional	No	Any

Specialist rain and wind jacket	Optional	No	Specilaist
Specialist equipment: Gum Shield Shin pads	Optional but highly recommended	No	Any
GCSE PE/BTEC Sport optional variance:	Optional for those with GCSE or Btec PE	Yes	Specialist
Black, Emerald and White shirt with school logo  Black, Emerald and White Sports jumper with logo	only		

## 4.2 Where to purchase

Below are the contact details for local specialist suppliers with both online and retail shops who supply school uniform all year round.

### **Aubyn Davies: [www.aubyndavies.co.uk/schoolwear/ixworth-school](http://www.aubyndavies.co.uk/schoolwear/ixworth-school)**

01284 754276

[enquiries@aubyndavies.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@aubyndavies.co.uk)

81 St Johns Street, Bury St

Edmunds Suffolk, IP33 1SQ

### **Birds of Dereham: [www.birdsofdereham.com](http://www.birdsofdereham.com)**

01362 692941 | 01362 699130

[enquiries@birdsofdereham.com](mailto:enquiries@birdsofdereham.com)

Unit D, 13 Yaxham Road, Dereham

NR19 1HB

### **Supermarkets and high street retailers**

This section provides links to a range of alternative retail and supermarket suppliers. Stock availability may vary depending on the supplier and time of year.

Aldi: [www.aldi.co.uk](http://www.aldi.co.uk)

Amazon: [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk)

Asda: [www.asda.com](http://www.asda.com)

John Lewis: [www.johnlewis.com](http://www.johnlewis.com)

Lidl: [www.lidl.co.uk](http://www.lidl.co.uk)

Marks and Spencer: [www.marksandspencer.com](http://www.marksandspencer.com)

Morrisons: [www.morrisons.com](http://www.morrisons.com)

Next: [www.next](http://www.next)

Sainsburys: [www.sainsburys.com](http://www.sainsburys.com)

Tesco: [www.tesco.com](http://www.tesco.com)

### **4.3 Jewellery, Hair and Make-Up**

#### **Jewellery:**

- Only one stud per ear lobe is permitted
- No other piercings are permitted.
- Rings are not permitted
- A single charity band may be worn on a wrist or bracelet but must be discrete.

#### **Hair:**

- Hair must be of a natural colour, with no contrasting colours added.
- Hair may not be extreme in style (Ask the school first if in doubt, the school will hold discretion in these areas)
- Lines etc are not permitted in hair or on eyebrows.
- Discrete and subtle hair accessories only.

#### **Make-Up:**

- Y7 & 8 should not be wearing any make-up
- Y9-11 may wear discrete make-up only.
- Fake nails, fake eyelashes, eyebrow slits or hair extensions are not permitted.

## **5. Expectations for our school community**

### **5.1 Pupils**

Pupils are expected to always adhere to the uniform policy (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 their Form Tutor if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics.

### **5.2 Parents and Carers**

Parents and carers are expected to ensure 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
- Is replaced promptly when damaged, lost or no longer fits

Parents/carers are also expected to contact the School if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to:

- Their child's protected characteristics
- The cost of the uniform

This must be accompanied by a detailed explanation of why this request is being made and should be considered. Please note, submitting a request does not mean that it will be accepted, and full uniform and kit expectations must be followed during this process.

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 but will not compromise on the schools standards and expectations.

### **5.3 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 Head of Key Stage if the situation does not improve.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with in accordance with the 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. Parents should inform the school of any barriers to adhering to this policy.

## **5.4 Governors**

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

- As appropriate for our school's context
- Is implemented fairly across the school
- Takes into account 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 contracts at least every 5 years.

## **6. Monitoring Arrangements**

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Deputy Headteacher. At every review, it will be approved by Education Committee.

## **7. Linking Policies**

This policy is linked to our:

- Behaviour policy
- Equality information and objectives statement
- Anti-bullying policy
- Complaints policy