

Ixworth High School Uniform Policy

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1. Aims

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 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
- Allow for reasonable adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents/carers to get in touch with , 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 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
- Considering cheaper alternatives to school-branded items, such as logos that can be ironed on, as long as this doesn't compromise quality and durability
- 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 leveller
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- Considering alternative methods for signalling 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 with 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 will be changing 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.

There is **no expectation** that parents will need to replace branded items with non-branded items and students can continue to wear branded items that are no longer a requirement.

If you are struggling to access any item of uniform 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

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

Our PE uniform requirements are listed below:

For all students, leggings are only allowed to be worn if skorts, shorts and 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 (recommended as the only jumper permitted in PE)	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 not be transparent and must not 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 equipment: Gum Shield Shin pads	Optional but highly recommended	No	Any
GCSE PE/BTEC Sport optional variance:	Optional for those with GCSE and Btec PE	Yes	Specialist

Black, Emerald and White shirt with school logo	only		
Black, Emerald and White Sports jumper with logo			

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

01284 754276

enquiries@aubyndavies.co.uk

81 St Johns Street, Bury St Edmunds

Suffolk, IP33 1SQ

Birds of Dereham: www.birdsofdereham.com

01362 692941 | 01362 699130

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
Amazon:	www.amazon.co.uk
Asda:	www.asda.com
John Lewis:	www.johnlewis.com
Lidl:	www.lidl.co.uk
Marks and Spencer:	www.marksandspencer.com
Morrisons:	www.morrisons.com
Next:	www.next
Sainsburys:	www.sainsburys.com
Tesco:	www.tesco.com

5. Expectations for our school community

5.1 Pupils

Pupils are expected to always wear the correct uniform (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 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 Deputy 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.

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 headteacher if the situation doesn't 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.

5.4 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
- 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