Marches Academy Trust

Uniform Policy

DOCUMENT CONTROL

Policy Owner	Head of Marketing & PR
Scope	All Staff, Members, Trustees, Governors and Clerks
Last Updated	Summer 2026
Effective from	Summer 2026
Next planned reviewed date	Spring 2027
Status	APPROVED
Date of approval	18.05.26
Summary of last revision	Summer 2026 – policy amended to focus on shared principles and schools will continue to show detailed uniform items on their own websites. Greater flexibility around hair styles, hair colour, nails, jewellery and makeup, as long as nothing is offensive or unsafe. Uniform rules are less restrictive and more consistent across schools. Footwear rules are clearer and more practical, allowing all black shoes or trainers. Summer uniform arrangements are simpler and focused on comfort during hot weather. Strengthened commitment to affordable uniform, including second hand and pre loved items where available. Staff are encouraged to take a supportive and understanding approach if uniform issues are linked to financial difficulty.
Related Policies/Documents	▪ Behaviour Policy & Procedures (incorporating tackling bullying, inclusion, personal development, support, and use of reasonable force & physical intervention) ▪ Equality information and objectives statement ▪ Complaints policy
Policy control survey	Please complete this survey and provide feedback if you have had to use this policy • https://forms.office.com/r/HMeZtB29Si

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1. Introduction & policy aims

1.1 At Marches Academy Trust (the Trust), we pride ourselves in being smart, well-presented and ready for learning. It is our policy that all children and young people (CYP) wear school uniform when attending school, or when participating in school-organised events outside normal school hours. We ask CYP to take a pride in their personal appearance.

1.2 Our policy on school uniform is based on the notion that school uniform:

i. promotes a sense of pride in the school

ii. engenders a sense of community and belonging towards the school

iii. is practical and smart

iv. sets an appropriate tone for education

v. identifies the CYP with the school

vi. prevents CYP from coming to school in fashion clothes that could be distracting in class

vii. makes CYP feel confident in their appearance

viii. makes CYP feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance ensuring that no child is unfairly discriminated against

ix. facilitates activities with specialised and appropriate clothing such as sports-specific attire

x. is designed with health and safety in mind

xi. is of reasonable cost and offers the best value for money for responsible adults; and

xii. supports the school's commitment to inclusion.

1.3 Within this policy, adults responsible for the care of CYP are referred to throughout as responsible adults, taken to mean those with parental responsibility for the child or young person and may include parents, carers, kinship carers, corporate parents, or guardians.

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

2.1 The Equality Act 2010 prohibits discrimination against an individual based on the protected characteristics, which include sex, race, religion or belief, and gender reassignment.

2.2 To avoid discrimination, our schools will:

i. avoid listing uniform items based on sex, to give all CYP the opportunity to wear the uniform they feel most comfortable in or that most reflects their self-identified gender

ii. make sure that our uniform is reasonably priced for all CYP

iii. allow all CYP to have long hair (though we reserve the right to ask for this to be tied back)

iv. allow all CYP to style their hair in the way that is appropriate for school yet makes them feel most comfortable

v. allow CYP to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons

vi. allow CYP to wear headscarves and other religious or cultural symbols

vii. allow for adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking CYP or their responsible adults to get in touch with school staff who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests.

3. Limiting the cost of school uniform

3.1 Our Trust 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.

3.2 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 responsible adults' ability to 'shop around' for a low price.

3.3 We will make sure our uniform:

- is available at a reasonable cost; and
- provides the best value for money for responsible adults.

3.4 We will do this by:

i. carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary

ii. avoiding specific requirements for items that CYP could wear on non-school days, such as coats, bags and shoes

iii. keeping the number of optional branded items to a minimum, so that the school's uniform can act as a social leveller

iv. avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups

v. considering alternative methods for signalling differences in groups for interschool competitions, such as creating posters or labels

vi. making sure that arrangements are in place for responsible adults to acquire second-hand uniform items

vii. avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on responsible adults of any changes; and

viii. consulting with responsible adults and CYP 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

The following items of uniform are mandatory and must be purchased from our uniform supplier:

Primary School Uniform:

- school jumper/cardigan

Secondary School Uniform

- branded v neck jumper
- branded blazer (Idsall only)
- school tie
- branded PE t shirt
- branded PE jumper (Shrewsbury Academy only)

For all other uniform items and dress code, please refer to our school websites.

4.2 **Where to purchase it**

We have developed a purchasing system with details on all of the school websites detailing our preferred supplier for branded uniform. Non-branded uniform can be purchased from numerous retailers online or the high street.

4.3 **Pre-loved Uniform**

We know that uniform can be an expensive requirement for our families. With this in mind, we want to help our school community by making good quality, preloved uniform easily available to everyone. Many items of uniform have a longer life beyond the point when our CYP have outgrown them and could be re-used by another child. As well as saving family's money, re-using uniform also reduces our impact on the environment and is in line with our Trust's sustainability ethos.

To support our scheme, we are asking families to donate any unwanted items of uniform that could be worn by another child. Donations can be handed in to the school office. If there are items that you are interested in, we ask that you respond directly to the school with your required size to reserve items. Our school staff will then make contact directly with you, to arrange collection.

5. Expectations for our school community

5.1 Children & Young People

CYP 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).

CYP are also expected to contact the school directly if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics.

5.2 Responsible adults

Responsible adults 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; and
- in good condition.

Responsible adults are also expected to contact the school directly if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their child's protected characteristics.

5.3 Staff

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

In cases where it is suspected that financial hardship has resulted in a child not complying with this uniform policy, staff will take a mindful and considerate approach to resolving the situation.

5.4 The Trust

The Trust will review this policy and make sure that it:

- is appropriate for our schools' context
- is implemented fairly across schools

- takes into account the views of responsible adults and CYP; and
- offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all CYP.

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

6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Trust.

7. Appendix 1 - Code of Dress

Primaries
Required Uniform (Branded)
Branded jumper or cardigan

Required Uniform (Non Branded)
Polo shirt – without logo
Polo shirt – with logo
Black/grey trousers
Black/grey shirt
Black/grey shorts
Black/grey pinafore
Footwear – All-black footwear (shoes or trainers), with black soles & black fastenings, suitable for daily wear.

Optional Uniform
Base layers
Summer dress may be worn in the summer term

Other Uniform Policies
Coats - Coats are to be practical without lots of logos or slogans. Tracksuit tops, hoodies, denim and leather coats are not permitted
Hair - No haircut, colour or accessory should be offensive, which we define as – a reasonable person in the school community would find disrespectful, insulting or hurtful to others. Examples would be a political symbol shaved into a haircut or a cut that becomes closely linked to an extreme affiliation. Beyond this, hair may be any colour or colours, style and cut. Hair accessories such as bows, bands or clips may be worn.
Makeup – No makeup should be worn in school.
Nails - No nail polish or artificial nails should be worn in school.
Jewellery - Stud earrings only.
Belts - Plain black belts may be worn if used for its functional purpose not for fashion and not visible below the top of the jumper when worn.
Footwear – All-black footwear (shoes or trainers), with black soles & black fastenings, suitable for daily wear.

Secondaries
Required Uniform (Branded)
Branded jumper
Branded blazer (Idsall only)
Branded Year 10/11 jumper
School tie
School PE t shirt

Required Uniform (Non Branded)
White shirt
Black trousers

Black shirt
Black shorts
Footwear – All-black footwear (shoes or trainers), with black soles & black fastenings, suitable for daily wear.
Black PE shorts/skort (SJT, Idsall and Marches)
Blue PE shorts/skort (SA and Grove)
Socks – SJT – yellow, Marches – red, Grove – blue, SA – blue, Idsall – green/black
Football boots
Shin pads
Mouth guard

Optional Uniform
Base layers
Plain black jumper – not hoodie for Marches, SJT
Branded PE mid layer
Plain blue jumper – Grove

Other Uniform Policies

Coats - Coats are to be single colour and plain without patterns, logos or slogans. Tracksuit tops, hoodies, denim and leather coats are not permitted. Hoods should not be worn unless the weather warrants this.

Hair - No haircut, colour or accessory should be offensive, which we define as – a reasonable person in the school community would find disrespectful, insulting or hurtful to others. Examples would be a political symbol shaved into a haircut or a cut that becomes closely linked to an extreme affiliation. Beyond this, hair may be any colour or colours, style and cut. Hair accessories such as bows, bands or clips may be worn.

Makeup – Year 7 and 8 – no makeup should be worn. Year 9 and up – modest, natural look makeup can be worn. In all years, any style of false eyelash may be worn.

Nails - All nail colours and types of artificial nail can be worn. In all cases the length of the nail should only go to the end of the finger as a maximum. Nail embellishments should be flat to the nail.

Jewellery - Stud earrings only, of any number are permitted in the ear. Studs should be capable of being removed for PE or other occasions. Stretcher or flesh ring style ear piercings should be flat to the ear. Necklaces should be placed under the shirt. Rings and bracelets that can be removed for PE, DT or other lessons, may be worn.

Belts - Plain black belts may be worn if used for its functional purpose not for fashion and not visible below the top of the jumper when worn.

Facial Piercings - A single discrete stud may be worn in the nose if it can be removed for PE lessons or other occasions. As a result, timing of piercings should be planned for the long summer break only.

Summer Uniform - In the summer term some small edits to our full uniform policy are made to allow students to dress comfortably when hotter days appear. Smartness is still important and so the following is followed: In the summer term students do not need to wear or bring to school their school jumper. On colder days, we expect the school jumper to be worn first before a coat. A coat without the jumper is not acceptable. Shirts should be tucked in and may be short or long sleeved. Ties should be worn down to the waist. Tights do not have to be worn with skirts in the Summer Term, short plain (no logos or embellishments) socks in grey, black or white may be worn in their place.

Footwear – All-black footwear (shoes or trainers), with black soles & black fastenings, suitable for daily wear.