

Royal Alexandra & Albert School



Uniform & Appearance Policy

The Governors and staff at The Royal Alexandra and Albert School are committed to providing a safe and happy learning environment, promoting equality and diversity and ensuring the well-being of all members of the community. It is their clear intention to promote good behaviour and to exercise their responsibilities in ensuring the safeguarding and welfare of all students and staff within the community.

Policy applies to	All School students
Governing Body approval required	Yes
Accountable Executive	Deputy Head: Pastoral
Status and Review Cycle	Non-Statutory/ Annual recommended
Last approval	September 2025
Next approval	Autumn 2026

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1. Introduction

A strong sense of belonging is fundamental to students' wellbeing and success. Our school uniform helps to promote this by uniting students as part of a shared identity and community. Furthermore, a consistent and appropriate uniform supports the cultivation of a focused and respectful learning environment. These guidelines are designed to ensure that all students are smartly presented, mentally prepared and ready to engage fully in every lesson, reinforcing our collective commitment to high standards and academic excellence.

2. Limiting the cost of our 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 require 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
- Provides the best value for money for parents and carers

We will do this by:

- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary
- Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics where possible
- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost or long-lasting items, such as ties, blazers and games kits
- Avoiding specific requirements for items students 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 inter school competitions, such as creating posters or labels
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents and carers to acquire second-hand uniform items
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents and carers of any changes
- Consulting with parents, carers and students on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy

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3. Appearance

Uniform must be worn smartly and in full at all times. Informal or careless wearing of the uniform is not appropriate and does not reflect the high standards we expect at our school.

All members of the school community have a role to play in upholding these standards:

- Parents are responsible for ensuring that students leave home each day in the correct and appropriate uniform
- Staff are expected to reinforce and uphold uniform expectations throughout the day
- Students are responsible for wearing their uniform correctly at all times and taking pride in their appearance as representatives of the school

4. Uniform

4.1 Senior School

- Blazer with school crest*¹
- White shirt or blouse with crest[#]
- Grey V neck jumper with maroon stripe (this is optional but no other jumper is permitted)
- Black trousers (not skinny fit or jean material) OR Black pleated skirt (knee-length)
- School tie*²
- Plain black socks with trousers
- Black or natural colour tights or plain black or white socks with skirt
- Black hard leather school shoes (heel not more than 3 cms high)
- Plain black or brown belts only

4.2 Junior School

- Blazer with school crest*¹
- White shirt
- Grey V neck jumpers with maroon stripe (this is optional but no other jumper is permitted)
- Black trousers (not skinny style) OR black pleated skirt (knee-length, not mini)
- Summer dress with white socks
- Black knee length tailored shorts
- School tie*²
- Plain black socks with trousers
- Black or natural colour tights or plain black or white socks with skirt
- Black hard leather school shoes (heel not more than 3 cms high)
- Plain black or brown belts only

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4.3 Summer Uniform

The headteacher may make the decision to move to summer uniform due to weather conditions. During the second half of the summer term all students will be permitted to wear summer uniform the details are outlined below:

	Years 3 to 6	Year 7 to 11	Sixth Form
School Blazer	NOT required	NOT required	The dress code continues to be business casual
White Shirt	Ideally short sleeve *Summer dresses are permitted	Ideally short sleeve	
School Tie	NOT required	NOT required	
Black skirt / trousers	Black shorts / trousers or skirt are permitted	Black skirt or trousers are permitted	
Socks	If wearing a skirt; plain black or white socks If wearing trousers; plain black socks only	If wearing a skirt; plain black or white socks If wearing trousers; plain black socks only	
Black School Shoes	Normal school shoes (no sandals, crocs, open toes shoes, trainers)	Normal school shoes (no sandals, crocs, open toes shoes, trainers)	

4.4 Sports/PE Uniform (Senior & Junior School)

4.4.1 Overview

All students must wear a PE uniform that is aligned with the following guidelines for all PE and enrichment lessons and when representing the school in sporting fixtures/events.

4.4.2 Logistics

Students are not permitted to wear PE uniform for any time other than their PE lessons and Saturday Enrichment unless there are specific circumstances. These will be determined by the Deputy Head: Pastoral in conjunction with other key staff.

Should a student attend a lesson outside of these specified circumstances in PE uniform, there will be a sanction.

4.4.3 Uniform Description

- Maroon/Technical t-shirt^{*3}
- Sublimated games shirt^{*4}
- Black shorts[#] OR black skirt[#] OR black technical leggings[#]

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- Maroon sport socks or white sports socks (no patterns or lines)
- Footwear should only be sports trainers/astro trainers/football boots as appropriate to the activity and advised by staff. Fashion trainers (e.g. converse or similar make), 'Crocs' and sliders are strictly prohibited.

4.4.4 Outerwear Garments

For PE lessons any of the following items may be worn, unless otherwise stated within the lesson: RAAS Surridge Performance Top OR a plain black mid-layer OR drill top.

Base layers may be worn under all PE uniforms and must be plain black.

4.4.5 Sick or Fit, Still in Kit

Should a student be unable to partake in the practical element of the lesson, they are still expected in PE uniform. This is because they are expected to undertake a different role such as coaching or officiating.

4.5 Sixth Form Uniform

4.5.1 Overview

Students should have a dress code which reflects the modern working environment. This should be respectful of culture, heritage and independence in their dress choice whilst recognising they are in a working environment. Sixth Form students must also recognise that they are role models for younger students and are expected to dress and act accordingly.

The Sixth Form Dress Code is gender neutral.

The general term for the Sixth Form Dress Code is 'Business Casual'.

Business casual includes the following:

- Smart trousers, chinos, cords, skirt, jumpsuit or dress
- Collared shirt (short or long sleeve), roll neck or blouse (any colour)
- Blazer or jacket (optional other than for Chapel, open mornings and other events where they are compulsory)
- Optional jumper (not sweatshirt)
- Black or brown leather-style shoes or boots with minimal decoration
- Ear piercings acceptable: small hoops or studs. No large, hooped earrings
- Nose piercing acceptable: studs, but no hoops. Maximum of two
- Rings are acceptable as long as they do not impact work or safety
- No restriction on coat type or material but not to be worn in classrooms
- No restriction on hair style, but should be professionally acceptable
- Hair colour allowed but should be muted
- Clothing should be fitted appropriately
- Clothing for PE, Drama and DT needs to be appropriate

The following are unacceptable:

- Hats and headwear, other than for specific religious reasons

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- Jeans, T-shirts, leather clothing, trainers, leggings, denim
- Logos on clothing bigger than a postage stamp
- Writing or graphic design
- Hoodies, sweaters and the like are not a substitute for a coat and should not be brought to school
- No Trainers - Prohibited brands include Nike, Adidas, Puma and Reebok

4.5.2 PE Uniform for Sixth Form

There is no set uniform for 6th Form PE. However, it must be sports clothing that is appropriate to the activity and weather conditions. Suitable footwear should also be worn. RAAS PE uniform should be worn when representing the school in sports fixtures/events. If students are not wearing appropriate clothing/footwear, then they will be unable to participate and removed to G6 for that lesson. Repeated clothing/footwear issues will be sanctioned by withdrawal of privileges.

4.5.3 Safeguarding for Sixth Form

Like all adults on-site, Sixth Formers can expect to be challenged by staff about their presence in order to keep children safe. Part of the Sixth Form uniform includes lanyards to make them clearly visible to staff and visitors.

5. Special Recognition Ties

Students who have been appointed to specific groups, such as School Council or Prefects, are allowed to wear a specific tie (on award of said tie) denoting their status.

6. Jewellery

For all students in Junior or Senior School, items that do not adhere to the below guidelines will be confiscated and sanctions imposed. Further guidelines may be found in our Rewards and Behaviour Management Policy and operational procedures for returning items are shared with students and parents.

6.1 Junior and Senior school

Guidelines on jewellery apply to all students in the Junior and Senior school. The following jewellery is permitted to be worn:

- a) 1 pair of small plain metal studs, one in each lower lobe
- b) 1 watch
- c) 1 neck chain - not visible

No other jewellery or piercing is allowed. This includes any items worn as bracelets such as 'scrunchies', 'festival bands' or similar. There are times when the above items may need to be removed for certain subjects for health and safety reasons.

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7. Coats

A smart coat or jacket may be worn around school. Coats, hats and scarves must be removed on entering specific locations such as classrooms, Dining Hall and assembly locations.

8. Hair and Makeup

Make up should be subtle and not obvious e.g. no eye shadow, eyeliner or bright lipstick. False lashes are not permitted. Only clear nail varnish and sensible length fingernails are accepted, no acrylic/gel nails.

Hair must be of an appropriate style and should only be a natural colour. It may also need to be tied back for some lessons for health and safety reasons. Facial hair must be shaved or cut in an appropriate manner.

Junior School students should not wear makeup.

9. Tattoos

No student should have a tattoo visible during school time (8:00am – 3.35pm). Offensive tattoos are prohibited.

10. Appearance in School

All students should remain in uniform all day including study periods and time in boarding houses.

11. Appearance in Boarding including evening supper

Students are asked to dress appropriately and with due regard for the environment, age, other people and health and safety. This means they may wear home clothes and are trusted to make the right decisions. If clothing is deemed to be inappropriate, the matter will be raised discreetly by boarding staff.

12. Sanctions

Any student failing to adhere to the Uniform and Appearance Policy will be sanctioned in accordance with the Rewards and Behaviour Management Policy and they may be removed from lessons, and educated in an alternative location, or sent home in order to return wearing the correct uniform.

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The Head of School and SLT will be the final arbiters in all matters.

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