



AYLESBURY
GRAMMAR SCHOOL
Founded 1598

UNIFORM POLICY

This policy is updated and approved by the Governing Body every three years.
This version was agreed by the Full Governing Body on 5 May 2023. The next update will be due by May 2026.

SIGNED: _____

Richard Williams (Chair of Governors)

UNIFORM POLICY

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Uniform plays a valuable role in contributing to the culture and nurturing of character at Aylesbury Grammar School.
- 1.2 We believe our uniform:
- instils a sense of belonging and identity in the School community;
 - supports positive behaviour and discipline;
 - protects students from social pressures to dress in a particular way;
 - nurtures cohesion and promotes good relations between different groups of students;
 - enhances participation and enjoyment of sport when students feel comfortable in their PE clothing; and
 - supports effective attitudes and approaches to learning.

2. Aims

- 2.1 This policy aims to:
- Set out our approach to requiring a uniform that is of an affordable cost and offers 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
 - Be fair and reasonable

3. Legal duties under the Equality Act 2010

- 3.1 The Equality Act 2010 prohibits discrimination against an individual based on the protected characteristics, which include sex, race, religion or belief, and gender reassignment.
- 3.2 The School will carefully consider any written request that is made to vary the policy to meet the needs of any individual student (e.g. to accommodate their religion or medical conditions).

4. Cost and Financial Aspects of School Uniform

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 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 parents' ability to 'shop around' for a low price.

4.3 We will make sure our uniform:

- is available at a reasonable cost
- provides value for money for parents/carers

5. Expectations of the School Community

5.1 **Students** - are expected to wear the correct uniform at all times (other than specified non-school uniform days) and take pride in their appearance. This is applicable:

- on the school premises
- travelling to and from school
- at out-of-school events or on visits that are organised by the School, or where they are representing the School (if required)

5.2 When an injury requires the temporary wearing of a non-uniform item, students should carry a note of explanation from a parent/carers, addressed to the Tutor, and to be shown to teachers.

5.3 **Parents** – Parents/carers are expected to make sure their child has the correct uniform, PE and Games kit, and that every item is:

- Clean
- Clearly labelled with the child's name
- In good condition

5.4 Parents are also expected to contact the Headmaster if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to:

- their child's protected characteristics
- the cost of the uniform

5.5 Parents are expected to lodge any complaints or objections relating to the school uniform in a timely and reasonable manner.

5.6 Disputes about the cost of the school uniform will be:

- resolved locally
- dealt with in accordance with our school's complaints policy

5.7 The school will work closely with parents to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

5.8 **Staff** - Staff will closely monitor students to make sure they are in the correct uniform. They will give any students and families breaching the uniform policy the opportunity to comply, but will follow up with the appropriate pastoral leader if the situation doesn't improve.

5.9 Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with by the appropriate pastoral leader in accordance with the Behaviour Policy

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

5.11 **The governing body** - will review this policy and make sure that it:

- is appropriate for our School's context
- is implemented fairly across the school
- offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all students

6. Uniform Expectations for Years 7 to 11

6.1 **General Appearance** - The general expectation is for students to take pride in their appearance. Shirts must be neatly tucked in and ties done-up with top buttons fastened.

6.2 **Hairstyle** - Hairstyles that the Headmaster judges to be extreme will not be permitted. Hair should be tidy, should not be artificially coloured to an unnatural colour nor should it be dyed with extreme contrasting colours. Hair beyond shoulder length should be tied back at all times. It is advised for parents/students to consult with the Head of Year should they be considering a potentially extreme hairstyle.

6.3 **Facial hair** - Students should be clean-shaven, unless an exemption has been granted for strong religious or medical reasons. Parents/carers who seek such an exemption should write to the Headmaster.

6.4 **Piercings** - No visible piercings or earrings are permitted, even if covered with a plaster. Earrings for religious purposes must be discreet and approved by the Headmaster in writing.

6.5 **Jewellery and other aspects of appearance** - nail varnish, make-up, visible tattoos are not permitted. Discreet jewellery for religious reasons may be worn under shirts but must be removed for PE/Games. From Year 10 a single discreet ring may be worn. Belt buckles must always be discreet.

6.6 Any jewellery worn when participating in sports represents a risk of injury to the wearer and other players. For this reason, such items are expected to be removed. If the wearer does not wish to take off any items for religious or cultural reasons then they will be required to cover the item securely with a sweatband or tape for the duration of the activity to minimise the risk of injury to themselves and others. Such items are removed at the student's own risk.

6.7 **Sport and PE uniform** - We believe that the School crest on the playing kit contributes to the students' sense of pride. It also facilitates the returning of property lost on away fixtures.

6.8 The sports clothing contained in the uniform checklist have been carefully selected to:

- ensure safety (e.g. safety studs, gum shields)
- maximise flexibility of use across different sports (e.g. shorts that can be worn for PE and Games)
- ensure durability
- take account of different climatic conditions

- 6.9 Representative sport squad members are often given the option to purchase their own kit.
- 6.10 Students whose uniform is unsatisfactory may be sent home to remedy the situation.
- 6.11 All items must be labelled.
- 6.12 Adjustments to uniform for individual students, following discussion and agreement, in line with the Equalities Act, will be agreed in writing by the Headmaster.

7. Uniform Checklist for Years 7 to 11

7.1 Everyday wear

Item	Compulsory	Optional	Any Retailer	Notes
School Blazer Black with school crest on the breast pocket	Yes		Yes (see notes)	The School has researched different blazers so that the item offered is of high quality and durable. Though these are more expensive than other brands, it is envisaged that most boys will only require two/three blazers during the seven years between Year 7 and Year 13 which is less than if the blazer is a less durable brand. A School crest can be purchased individually to be sewn on a plain black blazer in an alternative brand.
School Tie Black with silver and claret stripes	Yes			
Shirt White (unpatterned)	Yes		Yes	
Pullover Black V neck pullover (plain with no logos or writing)		Yes	Yes	
Trousers Plain black	Yes		Yes	Suit style trousers. Cords, jeans, chino style and striped or patterned material are not permitted
Socks Plain black	Yes		Yes	
Shoes Black	Yes		Yes	Shoes must be lace up or slip on (velcro is acceptable). Suede shoes,

				boots and trainers or similar are not permitted. Shoes must be polishable. https://www.ags.bucks.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/AGS-Uniform-update-footwear-guidance-September-2022.pdf
Outdoor Coat Advised to be water/splash proof		Yes	Yes	Students should look smart when wearing outdoor dress. Leather or suede jackets or denim coats are not permitted. Hoodies are not permitted as an outdoor coat.

7.2 PE and Games

Item	Compulsory	Optional	Any Retailer	Notes
PE Trainers Non-marking gym training shoes	Yes		Yes	Black soles are not suitable to protect the floors of our Sports facilities
PE Socks Plain white	Yes		Yes	
House PE Shirt	Yes			
School PE Shorts Plain black with crest	Yes			
Games Shorts Plain black for outdoor sports	Yes		Yes (unbranded)	Games shorts should be durable for sports such as rugby
Outdoor Rugby/Football Boots	Yes		Yes	
Games Socks Claret	Yes		Yes	
Outdoor School Games Shirt	Yes			With collar (black with claret stripe on reverse)
Gum Shield	Yes		Yes	Gum shields are compulsory for rugby. Parents will be notified of an optional fitting service provided by a company which visits the School each year.
Swimming Trunks Plain black	Yes		Yes	No loose, bermuda style shorts.

Cricket Shirt Plain white		Yes	Yes	Summer only
Cricket Trousers		Yes	Yes	All teams representing the school play in white trousers, though for practices and games lessons, PE shorts may be worn.
Base Layers Plain black, grey or white		Yes	Yes	Base layers - top and bottom may be worn as appropriate
Water/showerproof Sports Top Plain black with School crest		Yes		Optional item for PE/Games and may be worn around School

8. Uniform Expectations for Sixth Form

- 8.1 We expect all Sixth Form students to wear school uniform to and from school, during the school day, and for most school activities, and to take pride in their appearance.
- 8.2 When an injury requires the temporary wearing of a non-uniform item, students should carry a note of explanation to show teachers.
- 8.3 **General Appearance** - The general expectation is for students to take pride in their appearance. Shirts must be neatly tucked in and ties done-up with top buttons fastened.
- 8.4 **Hairstyle** - Hairstyles that the Headmaster judges to be extreme will not be permitted. Hair should be tidy, should not be artificially coloured to an unnatural colour nor should it be dyed with extreme contrasting colours. Hair beyond shoulder length should be tied back at all times. It is advised for parents/students to consult with the Head of Year should they be considering a potentially extreme hairstyle.
- 8.5 **Facial Hair** - Students should be clean-shaven, unless an exemption has been granted for strong religious or medical reasons. Parents who seek such an exemption should write to the Headmaster.
- 8.6 **Piercings** - Earrings are not permitted, even if covered with a plaster. Earrings for religious purposes must be discreet and approved by the Headmaster in writing. Discreet transparent placeholders are acceptable to be worn in an ear piercing. These should be removed for safety reasons if participating in sports.
- 8.7 **Jewellery and other aspects of appearance** - nail varnish, make-up, visible tattoos are not permitted. Discreet jewellery may be worn under shirts but must be removed for Sixth Form Games. A discreet ring may be worn. Belt buckles must always be discreet.

- 8.8 Any jewellery worn when participating in contact sports represents a risk of injury to the wearer and other players. For this reason, such items are expected to be removed. If the wearer does not wish to take off any items for religious or cultural reasons then they will be required to cover the item securely with a sweatband or tape for the duration of the activity to minimise the risk of injury to themselves and others. Such items are removed at the student's own risk.
- 8.9 **Sport and Games Uniform** - We believe that the School crest on the playing kit contributes to the students' sense of pride. It also facilitates the returning of property lost on away fixtures.
- 8.10 The sports clothing contained in the uniform checklist have been carefully selected to:
- ensure safety (e.g. safety studs, gum shields)
 - maximise flexibility of use across different sports
 - ensure durability
 - take account of different climatic conditions
- 8.11 Senior representative sport squad members are often given the option to purchase their own kit.
- 8.12 Students whose uniform is unsatisfactory may be sent home to remedy the situation.
- 8.13 All items should be labelled with the child's name
- 8.14 Adjustments to uniform for individual students, following discussion and agreement, in line with the Equalities Act, will be agreed in writing by the Headmaster.

9. Uniform Checklist for Sixth Form

9.1 Everyday wear

Item	Compulsory	Optional	Any Retailer	Notes
School Blazer Black with school crest on the breast pocket	Yes		Yes (see notes)	The School has researched different blazers so that the item offered is of high quality and durable. Though these are more expensive than other brands, it is envisaged that most boys will only require two/three blazers during the seven years between Year 7 and Year 13 which is less than if the blazer is a less durable brand. A School crest can be purchased individually to be sewn on a plain black blazer in an alternative brand.
School Tie Black with silver and claret stripes	Yes			

Colours/Honours/ Learning Honours Tie Claret with silver stripes Black with silver stripes Silver with black stripes		Yes		Special ties are presented by the school to those who are awarded their Colours in any main school game (Claret with Silver stripes), Honours (black with silver stripes), and Learning Honours (Silver with black stripes).
Shirt Plain single colour (unpatterned)	Yes		Yes	
Pullover Plain single colour V- neck pullover (plain with no logos or writing)		Yes	Yes	
Trousers Plain black	Yes		Yes	Suit style. Cords, chinos, jeans type and striped or patterned material are not permitted
Socks Plain black	Yes		Yes	
Shoes Black	Yes		Yes	Shoes must be lace up or slip on. Suede shoes and trainers or similar are not permitted. Shoes must be polishable. https://www.ags.bucks.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/AGS-Uniform-update-footwear-guidance-September-2022.pdf
Outdoor Coat Advised to be water/splash proof		Yes	Yes	Students should look smart when wearing outdoor dress. Leather or suede jackets or denim coats are not permitted.

9.1 Sixth Form Games (for those involved)

Item	Compulsory	Optional	Any Retailer	Notes
Trainers Non-marking gym training shoes	Yes		Yes	Black soles are not suitable to protect the floors of our Sports facilities
Sixth Form Games T-Shirt	Yes			Plain black sports t-shirt with AGS crest.

Sixth Form Games Shorts Plain black	Yes		Yes	Games shorts should be durable and suitable for the sport being undertaken Plain black sports shorts with discrete, minimal branding may be worn For former Year 11 students of AGS can make use of PE/Games shorts and this is advisable
Sixth Form Games Socks	Yes		Yes	Outdoor sports - claret football/rugby socks to be worn when competing Indoor sports socks For former Year 11 students of AGS can make use of PE/Games socks and this is advisable
Outdoor Rugby/Football Boots	Yes		Yes	
¼ Zip Mid-Layer Plain black		Yes		Plain black ¼ Zip Mid-Layer with AGS crest.
Tracksuit bottoms Plain black		Yes	Yes	Plain black tracksuit bottoms (cotton/fleece lined jogging bottoms are not permitted) Plain black tracksuit bottoms with discrete, minimal branding may be worn
Base Layers Plain black, grey or white		Yes	Yes	Base layers - top and bottom may be worn as appropriate
Water/showerproof Sports Top Plain black with School crest		Yes		Optional item for Sixth Form Games and may be worn around School

10. Policy governance

10.1 This policy will be updated and agreed by the Full Governing Body every three years.