

Uniform Policy

September 2025

Date of Approval:	June 2025
Approved by:	LAB
Date of next Review:	June 2026

Rationale

At Washington Academy we believe that the academy uniform:

- Gives students a pride in and a sense of belonging to the academy
- Identifies students as belonging to Washington Academy thereby deterring truancy
- Heightens the reputation of the academy in the community
- Gives students an equality of appearance thereby discouraging competition
- Encourages discipline and a work ethic amongst students.

The wearing of academy uniform

It is expected that the full academy uniform will be worn appropriately at all times in the academy and on the way to and from the academy as an expression of belonging to Washington Academy. In particular where students are representing the academy at events, on visits and in public places, it is expected that the uniform be worn in such a manner as to reflect the pride and sense of identity of the students. It is expected that shirts will be tucked in, badges clearly displayed on blazers and jumpers. Items of non-academy uniform should not be worn as they may obscure or detract from the smart presentation and recognition of students in their uniform.

In order to achieve our collective vision for the academy and subscribe to the rationale outlined above, no other items of clothing should be worn in conjunction with the academy uniform as stated above.

Those students who for any reason contravene these expectations will be challenged to rectify the issue and may be sent home to change into uniform to return to the academy immediately. This element of policy is in line with Department for Education (DFE) guidelines and does not constitute exclusion, rather an authorised absence. Students who do not present for school, meeting our expectations may be isolated until full uniform expectations are met. There are forms of dress which are unacceptable in the academy, including in physical education classes, on the grounds of, or for reasons related to, the maintenance of good order and discipline and/or Health and Safety, and are therefore not allowed.

These are items of clothing which:

- could cause offence (such as anti-religious symbolism or slogans which might be regarded as political or carrying a message at odds with the values of the academy)
- could cause health and safety concerns, such as loose fitting clothing, extended nails (nail art), painted nails, shell suits and jackets of flammable material
- could cause damage to flooring
- carry advertising particularly for alcohol or tobacco or other drug use
- could inflict injury on other students or be used by others to do so

Valuable items and unnecessarily expensive articles of clothing or jewellery should not be brought to the academy. The Headteacher and LAB (local Authority Board) of Washington Academy have considered the cost of providing academy uniform to meet the new DFE requirements set out in September 2022 where schools were required to remove unnecessary branded items from their uniform requirements and allowing parents to shop around and purchase uniform items from high street stores.

The items of the academy uniform can be purchased directly from our academy supplier. (Little Gems, 11 Brockwell Road, Crowther Industrial Estate, Washington, NE38 0AF)

Our uniform requirements are as follows:

MAIN ACADEMY UNIFORM (2025 - 2026)	
Boys & Girls	Guidance
COMPULSORY Grey blazer with current embroidered academy logo	Blazer must be worn when travelling to and from school and at all times throughout the school day. Students can remove their blazer once in the classroom. Sleeves must be worn at full length. Sleeves should not be pushed back or folded. Blazers must not be replaced with an alternative jacket, hoody or tracksuit top. Outdoor garments should be worn over the blazer to school and removed before entering the school building.
COMPULSORY Formal Plain White Collared School Shirt (tucked in)	Collared Shirts need to have sufficient length to enable them to be easily tucked into the students' trousers or skirt. Long or short sleeve shirts are allowed. Students must ensure that the top collar button is fastened at all times. Students are not to wear coloured vests beneath shirts. No fashion shirts/blouses are allowed.
COMPULSORY School Tie	All year group students wear the same school tie. The Washington Academy school tie must be worn at all times throughout the school day. Ties will be required to have 7 stripes showing in the length and a full Windsor knot at the top button of the shirt. Please see the video guide on our website to support your child in learning this important life skill.
COMPULSORY 100% Plain Black Polishable Shoes	All shoes must be flat, 100% plain black formal polishable shoes with closed toe and not backless. All footwear must not have any coloured, metallic attachments or obvious branding. Trainers or trainer style shoes will not be accepted as a substitute formal school shoes.
COMPULSORY Formal Black Trousers OR Black pleated Formal Skirt	Approved black school trousers must be smart fitting with concealed black zips and loose at the ankle as to not appear like leggings. Flares, Jeans or jean style trousers are not allowed. Trousers should not have patch jean like pockets. Chinos and leggings are not acceptable. Skirts must be pleated formal skirts and be 100% black of suitable length. Suitable length is just above the knee. Elasticated tube skirts and skirts without pleats are not allowed
OPTIONAL Blue embroidered jumper or tank top	The blue jumper or tank top is an optional item. Students can choose whether to wear the jumper or tank top under their blazer. This jumper can only be purchased from the uniform supplier. The wearing of the jumper or tank top does not replace the wearing of the blazer.
Socks, Tights & Belts	All skirts must be worn with tights. No patterned tights. Plain, thick black tights (40 denier or above) only. No knee length socks or socks with bows or other decorations are allowed. Belts must not be used as a fashion statement; they must be plain and black.
Hairstyles	Hairstyles are expected to be conservative in their style and if coloured, it must be a natural shade. No extreme two tone or outlandish colours.
Make Up	Make up should be natural/ neutral. Coloured nail varnish and/or false nails are not allowed. False eye lashes are not natural and therefore not permitted in school.
Jewellery	The only items of jewellery permitted is a wrist watch. Earrings are not allowed. Facial piercings are not allowed. Tongue piercings are not allowed.
Hats/ Caps, Scarves & Gloves	Baseball caps, other hats, scarves and gloves are not permitted to be worn inside the building; however, we do accept that students may want to travel to and from school wearing these items. Religious adjustments will be made upon discussion with a senior member of staff.

PE UNIFORM (2025-2026)	
Boys & Girls	Guidance
COMPULSORY Navy Blue polo shirt.	All students must wear a plain navy-blue polo shirt. The polo shirt must be plain and not have any branding.
COMPULSORY Plain navy tracksuit/ jogging bottoms OPTIONAL Sports leggings with the academy logo can be worn instead of the navy tracksuit/ jogging bottoms or shorts. Tracksuit bottoms or shorts with the Washington Academy logo can be worn as an optional item	All students must wear plain navy blue tracksuit or jogging bottoms. These must be plain and not have any branding. No leggings other than academy branded leggings. No other branded shorts or tracksuit bottoms can be worn.
COMPULSORY Footwear	Must be sports trainers.
OPTIONAL Plain navy hoodie or sweatshirt	Students are permitted to wear a plain navy hoodie or sweatshirt. This does not require the academy logo and must not be branded.
OPTIONAL Hooded top with embroidered academy logo or 1/4 zip jumper or hoodie with embroidered academy logo	The hooded top & 1/4 zip jumper are optional items. Alternative sports hoodies cannot be worn.
OPTIONAL Plain football socks	Sports socks can be worn
Important information to also note:	Long hair must be tied up. No jewellery should be worn.

Washington Academy has the same high expectations around PE kit as we do around school uniform. It is expected that:

1. Students are expected to attend lesson with a full PE kit every PE lesson
2. If students attend lesson without PE kit they will be expected to wear spare kit
3. When students borrow kit this will be recorded on class charts as 'uniform-borrowed PE kit'
4. Should students be awarded 3 'uniform-borrowed PE kit' on Class charts, this will automatically issue a detention
5. If students refuse to borrow kit this will be recorded on Class charts as 'uniform – refused PE kit'
6. This will result in the student being relocated and a detention being issued
7. Should this become a persistent problem, parents will be asked to attend a meeting with Head of PE and Head of Year.

Equipment

All students at Washington Academy must carry a school bag capable of carrying reading books and a pencil case. The pencil case must include a minimum of two pens blue or black, 2 pencils, rubber, ruler. Bags and equipment will be checked daily. Students who do not have the necessary equipment may receive a sanction in line with this behaviour policy