

Mildenhall College Academy - Academy Uniform Policy

Academy Uniform must be worn correctly at all times. All clothing should be clean, smart and marked with the student's name.

Uniform requirements for all students.

- The Mildenhall College Academy Blazer with pre-embroidered academy badge (available only from our on-line stockists).



- Plain black, **formal** trousers. These should display a sharp crease front and rear. Additional pockets or zips are not permitted. Belts must be plain black leather with a discreet buckle. **Tight or elasticated/stretch fit or fashion style trousers such as denim jeans, jean style trousers, narrow fitted trousers or cords are not acceptable. External jeans-style pockets on the rear of the trousers are considered informal and not acceptable. Pockets or additional zips/studs are not permitted on trousers.**



- The Mildenhall College Academy mock-kilt skirt as an alternative to trousers. It is optional and available **only** from the academy's on-line suppliers. **It must be worn an inch below the knee. No other skirt, however similar it may look, is acceptable. Repeated failure to wear the skirt at the correct length will result in the privilege of wearing this item being removed.**



- When wearing the academy skirt black tights must be worn.

- A plain white **traditional** long or short sleeved shirt with standard collar and white buttons. **Shirts must be buttoned to the neck (both girls and boys) and tucked into trousers or skirts at all times.**



- The Mildenhall College Academy tie. Available from our on-line stockists. These are clip-on.



- Students **MUST** wear **LOW-HEELED**, sensible, **PLAIN BLACK** footwear. **TRAINERS MUST HAVE NO PATTERNS, STRIPES, COLOURS OR FLASHES) which includes the logos on the tongue and the side of the shoe, the sole of the shoe must also be black).** Such trainers are difficult to find in the shops, so school shoes are both preferred and recommended. Below are examples of suitable footwear.



- When wearing trousers only plain black socks will be permitted. These must be long enough to cover the ankle completely. **White, patterned or coloured socks of any description are not permitted.**

Optional

- The Mildenhall College Academy black V-neck jumper or cardigan may be worn under the blazer during cold weather. This is only available from the academy's on-line suppliers. **No other garments e.g. cardigans, sweatshirts, hooded tops, coloured jumpers are acceptable.**



Academy PE Kit

Indoor / Summer Kit	House Polo Shirt, black sports socks, black shorts or black academy skorts and suitable indoor training shoes.
Outdoor Kit	House Polo Shirt, Academy Black Fleece, Black Football socks, Black shorts or black tracksuit bottoms or black academy skort or black sports leggings. Outdoor training shoes, football boots, shin pads, gum shields (optional).

The Academy House Polo Shirt and Academy Black Fleece can be purchased from the online shop. The skorts, shorts and tracksuit bottoms are optional items which have our logo on them. Should you wish to buy shorts or tracksuit bottoms from other stockists then please make sure they are completely black.

If you are to be excused from PE you must ALWAYS bring a note from home explaining the reason why. If it is a long term condition (more than two weeks) then medical evidence from a Doctor or Hospital must be obtained. This must be given to your PE Teacher before the start of the lesson.

If you are to be excused from active participation you must still bring your PE kit, as there are things within the lesson that you can do.

You can help umpire matches, coach small groups or help keep scores. You may be able to take part in another group's lesson. There are also health and hygiene reasons for this. If you forget your kit, you will receive a consequence and persistently not bringing kit could result in further sanctions. It is academy policy that you should borrow clean kit to participate if you fail to bring your own. If you refuse the clean kit which is offered to you then a 'GM' will be awarded for defiance.

If you are struggling to purchase PE kit then please speak to Mr Goodenough who may be able to assist with the purchase of new kit.

Additional Uniform Requirements:

- A suitable waterproof rucksack or bag large enough to take A4 folders and a range of books should be used to carry books and equipment. Handbags and or 'messenger bags' (small crossbody strap bags from sports manufacturers) are not permitted and will be confiscated.
- For health and safety reasons, jewellery is limited to a wristwatch. For students with serious medical conditions a medical bracelet or medical necklace (if required) can be worn. Only one stud per ear if the ears are pierced. **No rings, chains, tongue studs, nose studs or visible body piercing/tattoos are ever permitted. If a student chooses to have additional piercings these must be done at the beginning of the summer holidays as holes may close up when we ask for piercings to be removed. Retainers are not allowed and it is not acceptable for piercings to be covered with a plaster.**
- An outdoor coat with no attachments e.g. studs or chains, may be worn over blazers. **Coats are not to be worn inside academy buildings at any time. This includes lessons, assemblies, corridors or when queuing for food or eating in the Dining Hall.**

Personal Appearance

- Hair should be neat and a student's natural colour, **with no extremes in style such as shaved heads or sudden contrasts in length or obviously distracting styles i.e. no cut which is less than a 'grade 2' or shaved patterns in the hair (including tram-lines). In addition, there should be no extreme highlighting, e.g. red, pink, blue, bleached blonde, or 'dip dyed' hair. Hair clips must be discreet and not overtly patterned or jewelled. It is for the academy to determine what constitutes an extreme style.**

Headwear may be worn for cultural or religious reasons. It should cover the hair only and never the face. It should not extend beyond shoulder length and must not cover the academy crest or tie. **All hair adornments (including clips, slides, 'scrunchies', Alice/hairbands) must be discreet and not overtly patterned.**

Caps or beanie hats (and other unacceptable items) are not permitted in the academy.

- Long hair should be tied or pinned back in practical subjects.
- If worn, make-up must be very discreet.

Students who disregard for the Academy Uniform Policy will be expected to change into academy uniform and may have sanctions applied.

Should your child receive Free School Meals and find purchasing uniform challenging then please contact the academy and we will do our best to help you.

Appendix 1

Academy Uniform – Buy with confidence

Note to parents:

Do NOT trust 'school wear' signs in shops. In many cases, these encourage parents to part with money (often a lot of money) for fashion items which will not be acceptable in the academy. This guidance is designed to save you time and money.

Academy Uniform must be worn correctly at all times. All clothing should be clean, smart and marked with the student's name.

It is a valuable part of a child's education to learn to present him or herself publicly in a neat and appropriate manner. This is especially so in a formal environment such as the academy or place of work. The high standards of appearance we expect at Mildenhall College Academy have a positive impact upon the standing of our academy within the wider community.

This document is simply a reminder of existing requirements so that you can purchase clothing and haircuts for your children with confidence.

We would never change our policy without first advising you of this. We would never communicate changes without a letter and an announcement on the academy website.

Uniform requirements for all students

Regulation Academy Uniform and PE Kit: This can be purchased online from:

www.yourschoolwear.co.uk

Frequently Asked Questions about uniform (FAQs)

What happens if I cannot send my child into academy with correct uniform despite making every attempt to do so?

If for any reason an item of uniform is damaged and cannot be worn, a note from a parent or carer must be written in the academy planner and shown to the House Office where we will offer a clean alternative and students can go to lessons as normal. If students refuse to borrow replacement's they will be removed from general circulation. Any parent experiencing severe financial hardship when purchasing uniform should contact Mr Goodenough

Why don't you allow certain hairstyles or fashion items in academy?

Date written: March 2019

We would like to cultivate an atmosphere where individuality and depth of character are expressed through academic and social creativity rather than appearance. Although allowing children to follow trends might seem harmless, it can have negative consequences for those children who cannot afford the latest fashion items or whose parents maintain stricter control over appearance. Many parents do not wish to send their children into an environment where the latest superficial and costly trends are permitted. The associated pressure to copy these can be a source of unnecessary anxiety, conflict with peers and family and, sadly, bullying. We also believe strongly that the tradition of uniform cultivates a stronger feeling of community, togetherness and high standards.

The presentation of the students also reflects the reputation and standing of the academy in the wider community. It is a parent's right to choose the academy their child attends. At Mildenhall College Academy we are clear that we offer high standards of dress, conduct and learning. A student who deliberately lowers standards has a detrimental impact not only on themselves, but also every other student.

Appearance doesn't affect learning, why are you doing this?

We disagree with this statement. Dressing formally is part of a learning process in readiness for adult life which is why we have a dress code for staff. Regardless of which career or pathway our children chose, they will benefit from understanding that formal environments require a different standard of dress than informal environments. The academy is a formal environment. Our collective experience of working in many different schools and over many years, has demonstrated that poor academic outcomes generally go hand in hand with a wider culture of low expectations and poor conduct. We do not think this is good enough for our children.

What will happen if my child refuses to follow the academy's expectations?

We will contact you so that you can put in place the required support from home. In the academy, choosing not to follow our simple guidelines regarding uniform and hairstyle will initially result in the loss of social time for the student. House Leaders and the SLT will decide upon further action if the matter cannot be rectified in the short term. You will be informed of the concern and of the action being taken.

Should there be continued refusal to meet our expectations, sanctions will be put in place.

There are other students in the academy with extreme hairstyles/uniform issues, what is happening to them?

We try hard to be consistent in our approach but there will always be occasions when issues are not immediately brought to our attention. Simply because a student has not yet been challenged, does not mean an item of fashionwear or a particular hairstyle has become acceptable.

What do I do if I don't agree with your policy on hair styles or fashionwear?

We would hope that by choosing the Mildenhall College Academy to educate your children, you will have already considered this prior to enrolment. However, if you feel the application of our policy in individual circumstances has been unfair or unreasonable (outside the scope of this policy), then you can write to the Principal asking for a meeting. We have set out our expectations clearly. We feel they are reasonable and have communicated them clearly to all parents in this document. We believe our approach is in the interest of the whole academy, the wider community and that students will profit by them in the long term.

Staff Member Responsible:	RG
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