

Denefield School School Uniform Policy

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Review cycle	Triennial
Policy control sheet updated	Yes
Type of policy	Statutory
Policy owner	Headteacher
Location of policy	Website

School Uniform Policy

Status

Statutory

Aim

Denefield has its own distinctive uniform. There are good reasons for this. The most important is that our students come from a wide variety of backgrounds and uniform helps us create a sense of our school as a community. Moreover, smart appearance is very important for students' self-esteem, and this will inevitably have an impact on their behaviour and the quality of their learning. Some of our students, understandably, like to show they can keep up with the latest trends in teenage fashions. This puts other students, and their parents who have limited resources, under unnecessary pressure. A school uniform removes these distractions and allows students to concentrate on their learning.

We ask parents to resist reacting to each change of fashion where school uniform and hairstyles are concerned. Often what is fashionable is unsuitable for wearing at school. We have kept our uniform as simple as we can with the maximum number of standard items easily obtainable at reasonable prices from many retail and mail order outlets. School branded items are obtainable online from our uniform suppliers, [Price & Buckland](#), and at on-site sales events.

At Denefield we are committed to providing a safe and inclusive environment. We set high standards and expect all students to show respect for the school uniform and to wear it with pride.

Through our school uniform, we aim to promote a spirit of identity with, and support for, the school ethos, nurture community cohesion and promote equality and good relations between different groups of students, encourage tolerance and respect and protect students from social pressures to dress in a particular way.

Purpose

This policy sets out a standard approach to decisions about the enforcement of school uniform. We believe that uniform should be inclusive at all levels – socially, culturally and religiously and that it should consist of clothing and accessories that are practical and safe for use in school. The uniform should be easily available and branded items kept to a minimum.

The wearing of correct uniform is compulsory at Denefield and students who do not comply with the expectations will not be allowed their social time and, on occasion, to participate in lessons.

Roles and responsibilities:

The Headteacher will:

- implement the School Uniform Policy within the school.
- make any final decision regarding questions of uniform compliance.
- if necessary, send students home to change into correct uniform.

The Trust Board will:

- have due regard for the Public Sector Equality Duty and will review the school uniform to ensure that it does not discriminate or disadvantage students with protected characteristics.
- monitor, review, and evaluate the School Uniform Policy through reports to the standards committee.

All staff will:

- ensure that students are correctly dressed in lessons and around the school site, as well as on those educational visits where uniform is a requirement.

Tutors will:

- monitor students' compliance with this school uniform policy.
- follow up any issues of non-compliance by detaining students at break and lunch times and contacting parents/carers.

Students will:

- attend school appropriately dressed in correct uniform.

Parents/carers will:

- ensure their child attends school appropriately dressed in correct uniform.
- support the authority and discipline of the school.
- discuss any uniform concerns with staff when necessary.

Enforcement

For minor breaches of School Uniform Policy, staff may use some or all of the following sanctions:

- a student may be required to remove excess items of jewellery or non-compliant clothing if this can be done safely and decently. Students may also be required to change into the emergency footwear provided by the school if they are wearing boots, trainers or any other type of inappropriate shoes.
- the student may be isolated during break and lunchtimes, and on occasion during lessons, until they agree to comply with the uniform rules; and

- the student may be required to wear uniform items provided by the school or may be sent home to dress appropriately in accordance with the organisation's expectations.

Where there are severe breaches of School Uniform Policy, the student may be held in isolation until the end of the school day.

Sixth Form dress and non-uniform days (Years 7 – 11)

Sixth Form students are not required to wear uniform but are required to comply with the Sixth Form dress code, to reflect their more senior status in school. In addition, non-uniform days are occasionally used to raise charitable funds for national and international good causes. In these circumstances, the clothing worn by students must still comply with the following principles:

- It must be safe and practical for school use;
- It must not promote unacceptable messages – drugs, violence, racism etc. The Headteacher will decide on limits of acceptability;
- It must not conceal identity; and
- It must not be indecent.

Complaints

Any complaints about school uniform, dress codes or other aspects of appearance should be made in the first instance to the Headteacher.

If the complaint is not satisfactorily resolved, the complaint should be brought to the attention of the Chair of the Trust Board through the Clerk to Governors in accordance with the school's complaints procedures.

Trustees will not hear complaints against staff relating to fair enforcement of the policy.

Requests to vary the uniform requirements for particular reasons, such as medical or religious needs, will always be considered carefully.

Arrangements for monitoring and consultation

Our uniform policy is reviewed every three years; the review includes consideration of uniform items, supply, cost, and value for money. Parents are consulted regularly through the termly Parents' Forum meetings; students are consulted through House, School, and Sixth Form Councils.

Second Hand Uniform

We are happy to accept donations from parent/carers and we do hold a limited amount of donated second hand uniform kept on school site, please contact us if you require assistance.

Old School Uniform (OSU) – online service

Denefield has registered with Old School Uniform, you can access our page [here](#).

It was started in 2019 and was built to offer parent/carers and schools the opportunity to give away or sell their unwanted school uniform items free of charge.

Their online site is totally free, and they charge no commission on anything sold, we are happy to recommend their service to our parents.

Denefield Uniform and Sixth Form Dress Code

All items of clothing and equipment should be clearly named.

Designer logos and fashion items are not acceptable.

For health reasons, students also need a comfortable rucksack with wide shoulder straps to carry their books and folders. This should, preferably, be plain black, dark grey or navy blue. No other type of school bag is permitted.

Jumper

V-neck, long sleeved, black with electric blue trim and school logo.

Polo shirt

White with school logo.

Trousers

Plain black, full length to cover ankles, suitable for business wear. ***Jeans, flares, tight trousers, or leggings are not allowed:*** see the school website for acceptable examples.

Shorts

Tailored plain black knee length shorts, no logos. No other style of shorts can be worn tailored shorts must be worn with school shoes and socks, and not trainers. They can be worn from Easter until October half term, terms 5, 6 and 1.

Skirt

Denefield tartan skirt, **must be worn correctly with no modifications permitted, for example, it may not be rolled over at the waistband to alter the length;** this is the only acceptable school skirt.

Socks/tights

Socks must be black or white, tights must be black or natural. ***Socks and tights may not be worn together.***

Shoes

Plain black with minimal decoration, firm-soled, water resistant and polishable. Heels should be of a sensible height to ensure safety when moving around the school. Doctors have recommended no more than 4cm.

Boots, including ankle boots (eg Kicker boots or any other brand), are not allowed. Converse - style shoes or boots are not allowed. Trainers, trainer-like shoes such as Nike Air Force One, pumps and other casual footwear are also not acceptable uniform.

Outdoor coats

An outdoor coat in a plain, medium to dark colour would be most appropriate. ***'Hoodies', denim, leather or fur jackets are not acceptable as an alternative to a coat and must not be worn to school.***

PE kit

For reasons of safety and hygiene, students must wear appropriate kit for the activity they are undertaking.

Compulsory items:

Black/electric blue polo shirt with school logo

Football style black shorts - plain with no logos/branding, Denefield shorts or skort – no cycling shorts

Black football/rugby/hockey socks

White sports socks

Moulded football/rugby boots. These are suitable for both grass and the 3G pitch surface and students therefore need just one pair of boots. (Please note that the following types of footwear are **not** suitable for the 3G pitch: trainers, metal tipped studs, plastic screw in studs or AstroTurf boots).

Sports trainers – no Converse, Vans, canvas plimsolls or similar

Gum shield

Shin pads

Optional items:

Reversible black/electric blue long sleeve sports shirt with school logo

Black/electric blue skort

Black tracksuit bottoms - plain with no logos/branding

Black leggings - plain with no logos/branding. Leggings may **not** be worn at school unless for PE.

Black crew neck sweatshirt - plain with no logos/branding

Jewellery

Nothing of any great value should be worn as the school cannot take responsibility for its loss. Items should be discreet, and students should not wear anything that could be a danger in lessons such as PE, science or D&T. Students may wear one necklace, one bracelet, one ring, **one stud in each earlobe maximum. No facial jewellery, other than studs in ears, may be worn. One small, clear plastic retainer is tolerated in the nose, but this should not be easily detectable. All jewellery must be removed for PE.**

Make-up

A discreet amount of make-up may be worn, but this should not be obvious. False eyelashes are not allowed. **Nail varnish should not be coloured.** Acrylic and gel nails are not allowed.

Hairstyles

Parents/carers are asked to help us maintain the right atmosphere in school by encouraging hairstyles that are appropriate for a place of work. **Extreme hair colours and styles are not acceptable.**

- Hair must be of a natural colour.
- Where hair is clipped or shaved it must be a minimum of grade 1 at the back and sides and a minimum of grade 3 at the top.
- No designs, patterns or tramlines are permitted.

Non-compliance

The wearing of correct uniform is compulsory at Denefield and students who do not comply with the expectations will not be allowed their social time, and on occasion, to participate in lessons.

If you are ever in doubt about any item, please contact the school before making a purchase.

Sixth Form

Denefield Sixth form students are role models for younger students, and their standards of dress are an important part of the culture of our Sixth Form. We are a Sixth Form based on a school site that has high standards of dress as a part of their values and ethos, and we expect Sixth Form students to lead the community by example, reflecting these standards. We also believe that the way we dress influences our mindset, which feeds into the belief that a focused working day allows students to live rich and varied

lives in their own time. We have a dress code that stops short of a prescriptive uniform, with the aim to have a smart appearance that allows a degree of personal expression.

It is impossible to cover all bases here. The Head of Sixth Form, and Sixth Form team, will make the final decision as to whether an item of clothing falls within the spirit of business-like dress.

Our intention is to allow freedom of expression within these boundaries. For example, coloured or patterned trousers, provided they are smart in cut and material, would be acceptable.

There will be concessions to 'summer dress' to ensure comfort.

Outer layers for subjects which have a practical element (Sciences, Art, Product Design) will be available to protect clothing.

What is allowed

Smart, work-oriented and comfortable shoes (including plain black trainers or plain black canvas shoes with no logo)

Smart trousers or skirt

Smart dress

Smart collared shirt and tie, blouse or smart top (high neckline and covered shoulders)

A jacket/blazer OR jumper OR cardigan with no visible logo (no leather or denim jackets)

Sports coaching students are permitted to wear their Reading kit only on training and match days. They should only wear what is provided for them, and not sports clothing of their own choice.

What is optional

Full suit (trouser or skirt suit)

Smart outdoor coat

Bow tie or ribbon

Closed-toe sandals in summer

Smart boots in winter

What is not permitted

Denim or any ripped clothing

T-shirts, sweatshirts or hoodies

Clothing with slogans or logos that aren't subtle

Clothing that is overly revealing, including exposing bare midriff or chest

Hats and other headwear (except for parentally confirmed religious or medical reasons)

Skin-tight trousers (fitted trousers are acceptable) combat trousers, shorts or cut-offs

Strappy tops or vests

Sportswear e.g. tracksuits, hooded tops

Leggings or jeggings

Facial piercings or extremes of hair style/unnatural hair colour

Who/what was consulted

The Senior Leadership Team

Department for Education: *Cost of School Uniforms November 2021*

Equality Act 2010

Links to (see school website for current versions of these policies)

Attendance & Punctuality Policy

Behaviour & Discipline Policy

Equality Policy

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy