



# The Hinckley

## SCHOOL

### Uniform, Appearance and Equipment Policy 2025-26

Date of last review:	January 2026
Reviewed by:	Kate Grocock, Head of School
Approved by Governors:	February 2026
Frequency of Review:	Annually
Date of next review:	January 2027

Standardised uniforms remove much of the competition around appearance felt by young people and are proven to reduce anxiety. High standards of dress and conduct are important as our young people represent the school in the community. Furthermore, a school uniform is one of the most inclusive strategies a school can implement as it achieves commonality, regardless of background or finances, reducing the pressure to spend money to keep up with fashion trends.

Our school uniform and the related uniform rules are designed to ensure The Hinckley School students appear as smart as those from any other school in the area. When students put on our uniform this is a signal that they will be entering a place of productive learning where we promote our shared values of hard work, kindness and teamwork. In this way, our school uniform provides a sense of belonging for our students. Our uniform expectations are clearly communicated to parents, feature in the home-school agreement and are designed to be affordable, in line with government guidance. Parent cooperation is vital in helping us to maintain high standards of student appearance. Where families may be struggling to meet uniform expectations due to financial or other difficulties, we have some school items which may be borrowed for a short time, and we will work with parents to help achieve a more permanent solution.

To ensure affordability and fairness, the number of required branded uniform items is limited to four. Parents and carers who experience difficulty securing uniform or appropriate school wear are encouraged to contact the school so we can offer support and explore available options. Families are also advised to look out for our preloved uniform sales, planned for early summer and advertised in advance, which provide a low-cost way to obtain high-quality uniform items.

All staff, across the school, are responsible for challenging incorrect uniform. Students who willfully fail to meet the uniform rules will be educated separately from their peers until the uniform has been corrected. They will still be completing purposeful work, but the best place for all students will always be in lessons, learning alongside their peers and benefiting from teaching by subject specialists. Therefore, it is the student's best interest to comply with expectations and for parents to support the school and ensure incorrect uniform is corrected as soon as possible.

This policy has been developed in compliance with the Department for Education's guidance for schools which can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-uniform>

### **The uniform for all students in Year 7-11 consists of:**

- **Black blazer with The Hinckley School badge.**
- **The Hinckley School clip on tie.**

- **Formal plain black trousers or formal plain black stitch-down pleated, knee length skirt.** Trousers and skirts should be made from suit material, not denim or jersey. Jeggings or leggings are not permitted. Students rolling their skirt to make it shorter will be expected to return it to the correct length.
- **Plain collared smart white shirt/blouse.** Polo shorts and visible t-shirts or vests are not permitted.
- **Plain black ankle length socks.** No colours, stripes or logos.
- **Plain black tights.** Leggings, knee and thigh length socks are not permitted.
- **Optional plain black knitted V-neck jumper,** worn beneath the school blazer. Round-necks, other colours, hoodies or branded sweatshirts are not permitted and will be confiscated. PE quarter zip tops are only to be worn in PE sessions.
- **Plain, entirely black, waterproof (not canvas) footwear, with a black sole.** No white or coloured trim, soles, laces or logos are permitted.
- **Outdoor coats, preferably waterproof are optional and can be worn over blazers** if students wish to wear them in cold weather, when moving outside between lessons and at break and lunch times. An additional jumper, jacket or coat must not be worn as a substitute for the blazer and must be removed when inside. Any jackets, hoodies or sweatshirts worn in place of a school jumper or blazer will be confiscated. In cases of prolonged hot weather, a decision may be made to allow students to attend school without their blazers, but this will be by a headteacher announcement only and communicated to parents.

### **All students are required to bring the following equipment every day:**

- Fully stocked pencil case (including pens, pencils, rubbers, pencil sharpener, ruler, protractor, compass, highlighters)
- Calculator
- Reading (for pleasure) book. This can be borrowed from the school library.
- Lanyard/ID Card, issued by the school and an essential safeguarding item

These items should be carried in an appropriate school bag that is large enough to hold all relevant equipment, books and folders.

### **Lanyards**

All students will be issued with a school ID card and lanyard once they join the school, these must be worn at all times. This is for identification and safeguarding purposes. Replacement parts can be ordered online via Parent Pay. Students are required to use their lanyards when purchasing food and for printing their work.

## General Appearance

- 1. Headphones and AirPods are not permitted** and should not be visible at any point on the school site.
- 2. No extreme fashion hair colour/style is allowed** – This is classed as hair that stands out in the crowd or is dyed to an unnatural colour. The Hinckley School remains the sole arbitrator of what is deemed as acceptable on the school site.
- 3. There should be no jewellery worn, except for a single stud in each ear.** Students will be asked to remove jewellery and, if this happens repeatedly, the jewellery will be confiscated, and parents will need to arrange to collect it.
- 4. There should be no facial piercings whatsoever.** Children may wear one stud in each ear only. Any child attending school with a nose, lip, brow, tongue or any other facial piercing, will be expected to remove it. This includes fresh piercings which may heal up, as retainers are also not allowed.
- 5. False eyelashes and obvious makeup are not permitted.** Students will be asked to remove false eyelashes and given facial wipes to remove excessive makeup. Any makeup worn must be discreet. This will be at the sole discretion of school staff.
- 6. Nail polish, and false or acrylic nails are not permitted.** For health & safety reasons, students with long/false nails will be asked to immediately cut their nails or be educated away from their peers until this is done.
- 7. If students write or draw on their hands or body, they will be asked to remove it.**
8. Scarves (except for scarves worn for religious purposes), gloves and coats are not to be worn in lessons.
- 9. Hats and hoods should not be worn at any time inside the school building.** They are only permitted outside in cold or wet weather.

Please note this list is not an exhaustive one. If you are unsure, please contact your child's form tutor for clarification.

Our students are expected to arrive on the school site in full uniform. Parents will be contacted to bring uniform items into school if a student arrives without appropriate uniform. Students will be educated away from their peers until they are in correct uniform.

Each morning Tutors will check the uniform and where students do not conform the following action will be taken:

- The student will be asked to step away from the line-up and will be escorted to the uniform bank to borrow uniform in exchange for an item of their own property. This is necessary to encourage students to return school property which we cannot afford to replace.
- Their tutor will issue a uniform detention.
- If the incorrect uniform cannot be corrected by borrowing from the uniform bank, parents will be contacted to bring appropriate uniform to school.
- While waiting for uniform issues to be resolved, students will be educated separately from their peers. Therefore, we ask parents to resolve issues within 24 hours and to encourage student compliance.

## **PE Uniform**

### **Full (compulsory) PE kit is defined as:**

- The Hinckley School PE T Shirt
- The Hinckley School PE Shorts
- Black socks
- Hard wearing training shoes of any colour for indoor and astro turf lessons.

Studded boots for grass-based lessons.

### **Optional additional items for PE kit are:**

- The Hinckley School Quarter Zip Mid Layer with school badge.
- Plain black long sleeve 'skin' sports base layer. – These must only be worn underneath the school PE t-shirt, not as a stand-alone item. These can be purchased from any retailer. These must not feature any visible logos or fashion detailing i.e. mesh or patterned panelling. These must be a sports 'skin' material.
- Plain black long leg 'skin' sports base layer - These must only be worn underneath the school PE shorts, not as a stand-alone item and be compliant in the same way as the item listed above.
- No PE items other than those listed above are permitted. No jogging bottoms, leggings or hoodies.

## **Students excused from PE**

If students are excused from taking part in PE lessons, they must still bring their kit to change into so they can referee, coach or take part in some other way. Parents must either email the class teacher prior to the lesson or call in to the school reception and give a verbal excuse that will be emailed to the teacher through the receptionist. Children cannot excuse themselves from taking part in practical PE lessons. Medical exemption required for a long period (several weeks or more) will require a doctor's note.