



# Wath Academy

**Wath Academy**

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Our Ref: LRA/BHA

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Dear Parent/Carer,

At Wath Academy, we are extremely proud of our uniform, which is steeped in tradition. We have the highest expectations of our students with regard to our uniform and we feel it is a vital part of school life.

We recognise and appreciate that the overwhelming majority of our students consistently meet our uniform expectations. On a daily basis, less than 2% of students are required to rectify uniform issues which is excellent. We are thankful for your support with this as we firmly believe it has multiple benefits for our students. As we have such high expectations around uniform, we feel it is important to provide absolute clarity as to why we value our uniform as well as provide some reminders for the term ahead.

## **Why our uniform is so important to us**

### **Collective sense of belonging**

- Our uniform creates an identity within the community. The current colours and coats of arms have been used since the 1950s. We are proud of our history; tens of thousands of students have worn the maroon blazer, and this is something we are keen to continue.

### **Equity and Equality**

- We serve a diverse range of students from our community. Having a consistent uniform policy ensures that every one of our students looks professional. Around 30% of our students are 'disadvantaged' with many more facing difficult financial challenges. Alleviating the pressure of having to have the most fashionable trainers, jewellery or clothing items means that students and families do not need to worry about standing out for not being able to afford such items. I am proud to say, when you walk around our academy, you cannot identify students and families with financial challenges. This is due to the consistency of the uniform policy.
- Where families struggle to purchase uniform items, we would advise that they contact us, as we have a stock of previously owned uniform which is in very good condition.

### **Standards**

- Having a uniform policy which promotes high standards prepares students for the day ahead as well as life after school. The routine of ensuring they have their full uniform prepared is a good habit to develop. It promotes organisation, care and pride.
- Students may or may not enter a profession with high expectations around uniform. If they do enter such a profession, then they will be suitably prepared. If not, then the organisational and preparation skills will still be of use.
- Inevitably, students will have interviews for either college, university or a job. Attending these interviews looking professional will be an expectation. Having looked professional

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and being used to wearing a suit will mean our students feel more comfortable than some of their competition.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to remind parents/carers of some aspects of the uniform expectations document.

### **Skirts**

If your child chooses to wear a skirt, it must be the single approved Academy skirt. No other skirt is permitted. When worn, the skirt must be knee-length, with the bottom of the skirt in line with the top of the student's patella (kneecap). To ensure the skirt meets the minimum expected length for the full academic year, it is advised that a skirt which is long enough to cover the bottom of the kneecap is purchased in September to account for students growing. We have a large stock of skirts which include 22, 24 and 26 inch length, which meets the need of all students.

### **Rationale**

We have deliberately been specific around the length as previous policies have stated that the skirt must be 'a reasonable length'. We recognise that this is quite ambiguous, and that reasonable will differ from parent/carer to parent/carer. Therefore, by stating specifically that the skirt must be in line with the top of the students' kneecap we can be consistent.

### **Jewellery**

The following are acceptable:

- One plain and discrete (circular/ball shaped) pair of small silver or gold ear studs worn in ear lobes. The stud must not contain a stone, crystal or diamond.
- One watch.

The following are not permitted:

- Facial piercings (clear spacers or retainers are not allowed at any time).
- Other jewellery – (including rings, bracelets, bangles).
- Sleepers, stretchers, spike earrings or hoops.
- Coloured earrings or earrings with a stone, crystal or diamond.

### **Rationale**

When a student wears jewellery they run the risk of losing it. This can often upset students which causes issues through the day. Additionally, excessive jewellery, particularly piercings, can be a health and safety risk if they get caught or knocked.

Finally, as mentioned above, we don't want students or families to feel the pressure of wearing expensive jewellery to school to fit in with their peers.

### **Make Up**

Make-up must not be visible (if make-up can be seen it must be removed).

The following are not permitted:

- False eyelashes.
- Unnatural looking eyebrows such as HD brows.
- Fake tan or spray tan that does not look natural.

- False nails (including coloured or French polish).
- Painted nails – only clear nail polish is permitted.

## **Rationale**

We recognise that wearing make up for some can help with self-confidence. However, we also understand that the pressure to wear make up in order to look like peers also causes significant issues for students. Having a 'reasonable' amount of make up being permitted would also be challenging due to people's perceptions of reasonableness, hence we have said that make up is not allowed.

Below is a link to our full Uniform Expectations documents which provides all the required information:

<https://www.wathacademy.com/attachments/download.asp?file=1482&type=pdf>

We firmly believe that our uniform expectations are a leveller for all students, they promote high standards and help with vital skills such as organisation, care and pride.

If any of the above are an issue, we expect students to rectify it immediately. We have a uniform stock that we will use to replenish missing items to enable students to go to their lessons. If a student fails to rectify the uniform issue, then they will be placed in the consequences room.

I'd like to thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully

Mr Ransome  
Principal