

Crofton Academy Uniform - Frequently Asked Questions

Occasionally, parents/carers have some question regarding the application of the academy uniform policy. We have compiled a list below of the most frequently asked questions relating to the academy uniform policy along with the rationale for the decisions made by staff and governors.

Who sets the uniform policy?

The uniform policy is set and reviewed by the governing body. The academy has always endorsed a uniform that is as simple and affordable as possible. The academy aims to always apply the policy fairly and consistently to everybody. This means that where the policy specifies, for example, 'plain black' the clothing and shoes must be plain without metal/coloured embellishments.

Is the academy allowed to sanction my child for uniform, hairstyles and haircuts?

Provided uniform rules are reasonable and don't infringe on equality legislation, the academy is entitled to enforce our rules in accordance with the academy discipline policy.

What does equality legislation say about uniform?

There are nine protected characteristics under the equalities act. They are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership (in employment only), pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief and sex (gender). The academy has taken this into account as part of the uniform policy e.g. pupils with a disability may be allowed to wear black trainers (depending upon the disability).

What happens if I do not agree?

The academy has rules which are public and transparent. By applying for and accepting a place at the school, parents / carers are agreeing to those rules. The academy has rules to ensure order and discipline. Rules can only be effective if they are applied consistently. Whilst we are willing to listen, we cannot change the rules for individual pupils.

How does hair impact on learning?

Where a haircut is extreme in style or colour and becomes a talking point for pupils in lessons, it then becomes a distraction from learning. As a result, we include in our policy the parameters for haircuts that the academy deems acceptable. Where a hairstyle is not extreme but does breach the academy policy, a haircut itself may not impact on a pupil's ability to learn but a lack of clarity around conduct, appearance and expectation can. To ensure an orderly and productive learning environment, all academy rules need to be applied consistently to all pupils.

How do we make a judgement on acceptable hair length?

Pupils will be sent to Step Up by form tutors during morning registration or during lessons by classroom teachers. There are two members of staff there for consistency. The members of staff will make a judgement about hair length in line with decisions made regarding other students. This ensures consistency in our practice. If for some reason a pupil is not picked up during form time, they will be asked to go to Step Up and wait for a member of staff to check their hair.

Why is not all clothing labelled 'School uniform' allowed?

Some independent sellers will market clothing as school uniform but it may not meet our uniform criteria. We ask all parents/carers to check our uniform policy before buying any items of clothing for school. If you are unsure, we have a number of uniform checking dates or alternatively you can leave the labels on and ask for Mr Pool and Mr Hardcastle to check it for you before the labels are removed.

I have bought uniform from the recommended uniform seller Better and Bright. However, I have been told that it is incorrect for school.

We work very closely with our recommended uniform sellers to ensure that all uniform they sell is suitable for school. However, the uniform is very dependent on the fit and every child is different. Therefore we ask that all uniform is tried on in the shop prior to purchase so that Better and Bright are able to advise you of its suitability.

Why are stretchy skirts not allowed?

The uniform policy specifies tailored skirt or trousers.

How do we check the narrowness of trousers?

We have two members of staff who check uniform consistently. These members of staff will judge the trousers by the fit around the knees and the ankles. This ensures that we have consistency of practice across the school.

How will I know which shoes are recommended?

We work with Wynsors in Wakefield to select the right shoes for school. We ask that shoes are free from embellishments of labels. Shoes that are trainer style are not part of the recommended uniform. However, parents and carers should ensure they take the uniform guidance with them when purchasing any item of clothing.

Why do we use Step Up for uniform?

We try to work with parents / carers wherever possible to remedy a situation. We ask pupils to work in Step Up while this happens. This gives us the time to speak with parents / carers and advise of a suitable solution. This may include until hair has grown back or uniform is purchased / available.