

PADDINGTON ACADEMY

Uniform Policy

2025-26

Date of last review	October 2025	Review period	1 year
Date of next review	October 2026	Owner	DRI
Type of policy	Statutory	Approval	LGB
SLT member in charge	DRI		

At

Paddington Academy, we expect our students to wear their uniform with pride so that they can demonstrate themselves as smart, proud and confident members of our community. This means that we expect all students to be dressed in the correct uniform, worn in the correct way, at all times. Please be aware that students are expected to always wear this correct uniform, in the correct way while:

- On the school premises
- Travelling to and from school
- At out-of-school events or on trips that are organised by the school, or where they are representing the school

Students must be in full uniform to attend lessons at the Academy. If your child is not appropriately dressed, where possible this will be dealt with in school but if the uniform cannot be immediately corrected they may be placed into Reflection or they may be sent home to correct their clothing. Special dispensation for uniform for medical reasons will only be granted on the receipt of a medical note written by a professional on letter-headed paper and only granted by the Principal.

Our school has a duty to make sure that the uniform we require is affordable, in line with statutory guidance from the Department for Education on the cost of school uniform. We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that have to have a school logo or a unique fabric/colour/design) cannot be purchased from a wide range of retailers and that requiring many such items limits parents' ability to 'shop around' for a low price.

With this in mind, we will make sure our uniform is available at a reasonable cost and provides the best value for money for parents/carers. We will do this by:

- Re-tendering our contract with our uniform supplier every 5 years to ensure the best available prices for branded items
- Carefully considering which items with distinctive characteristics are important for school identity and reviewing this at regular opportunities
- Reducing any items with distinctive characteristics as a result of the above review
- Ensuring that some uniform elements are optional and providing parents with a list of unbranded alternatives that can be purchased from any supplier and reducing the number of optional uniform items over time
- Avoiding specific requirements for items pupils could wear on non-school days, such as coats and shoes
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups

- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities (please note that PE lessons are not “extra-curricular activities” as this is part of the statutory curriculum for students)
- Considering alternative methods for signalling differences in groups for interschool competitions, such as creating posters or labels
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents to acquire second-hand uniform items
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents of any changes
- Offering financial support to parents for whom purchasing uniform is a significant financial burden
- Consulting with parents and pupils on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy

Uniform Supplier: Price & Buckland

At Paddington Academy, our uniform is supplied by Price & Buckland. Price & Buckland are an online supplier who do not have a physical shop which helps to keep the costs for uniform as low as possible. Uniform must be purchased through Price & Buckland with no other supplier being acceptable. You can access the Price & Buckland uniform shop from our website here: www.paddington-academy.org by clicking on the ‘parent’ section of the website and then selecting ‘uniform’. Alternatively, you can access Price & Buckland directly through their website here: <https://www.pbuniform-online.co.uk/paddington>. Our uniform contract with Price & Buckland will be re-tendered every 5 years to ensure that our students and parents continue to receive the very best value for money.

Unbranded items such as a white shirt or reverse collar blouse, navy or black socks or tights and black leather polishable shoes with black soles and black laces do not need to be purchased from Price and Buckland and can instead be purchased from any high street retailer.

Pre-worn uniform

We understand that school uniforms can be expensive, and we will always do what we can to support families in providing their child with a full school uniform. With this in mind, we run a shop selling second-hand uniform in very good condition. To support this, please remember that the school accepts donations of second-hand uniform that is in good condition from parents and students. Donations are gratefully received through our reception team at school and will be used to support other students and families in need. If you require additional support, please contact the office at office@paddington-academy.org so that we can then identify what help is available based on individual circumstances. PE Days

Students are permitted to wear their PE kits to school on the day when they have their timetabled PE lesson each week.

This is in part to promote healthy lifestyles amongst our students as well as to maximise the time spent doing sport in PE lessons by removing the need for students to change. However, there are other benefits to this too as this helps to even out the wear and tear on school uniforms making them last longer. If students are injured or unwell, they are still required to wear their PE kit as they will take part in the lesson via coaching, officiating, or assessing their peers.

If students do not bring the correct PE kit to their lesson (this could be one item or the full kit) they will be issued with an afterschool detention and we will aim to provide pre-worn replacement kit so that this can be corrected. If students arrive to school in their PE kit on days where they do not have PE they will be sanctioned with an after school detention and be expected to change into their full school

uniform immediately. It may be that we provide pre-worn replacement uniform but if the uniform cannot be immediately corrected they may be sent home to correct their clothing.

Make up, Jewellery and Hair styles

Make up is not permitted at Paddington and this including (but not limited to) items such as lipstick, foundation, blusher, eye liner, fake eye lashes, eye shadow or any other make-up which is used for cosmetic purposes. Student nails should also be natural and not false, gel or painted nails. Where students are found to be wearing make-up such as the above, we will insist on immediate correction and staff will confiscate these items if brought into school. Parents will then be required to attend school to collect these items, they will not be handed back to students at the end of the school day. If it is not possible to correct make-up infringements a student may be placed into the Reflection room or may be sent home to correct this before returning to school.

Students must not wear jewellery of any kind (with the one exception to this being watches which must not be electronic /smart watches which are banned by the examination boards) and this includes piercings even if the piercing or stud is clear or transparent or made of plastic. If parents wish for their children to have visible piercings this must be done during the summer break to ensure the piercing has healed prior to returning to the Academy in September so that the piercing can be removed throughout the entirety of the school day. Any piercings must be removed, even if they have recently been done.

Hair should be of a natural colour and in a sensible and professional style. Students are not permitted to have slits cut into either their hair or their eyebrows or any other designs.

Wearing make-up, jewellery (including piercings), nail varnish or false nails or a hair style which does not meet the above expectations will result in a referral to Reflection with the expectation being that the issue is corrected immediately.

Coats and hoodies

Coats must be of a neutral, dark colour and should have minimal logos on them. Coats should be waterproof to protect students from the rain and items such as; hoodies, tracksuit zip tops, denim jackets or other non-waterproof jackets are not permitted and will be confiscated immediately.

Paddington Academy Bag (compulsory in year 7 and year 8 only)

Students in year 7 and year 8 are expected to wear a Paddington Academy bag which contains the school logo. This bag can only be purchased from our uniform supplier (Price & Buckland). This bag is long lasting and many of students will keep the same bag that they purchased in year 7 throughout year 7 and year 8. Students in older year groups can choose to wear a Paddington Academy bag but they do not have to and can choose any other neutral, dark coloured bag. This bag must be adequate bag for carrying all books and equipment. For this reason, we recommend a sturdy rucksack or bag for school and handbags do not meet this expectation.

Appendix: Uniform Guidance