



NORTHAMPTON SCHOOL

'Nurturing Success'



Appearance and Uniform Policy

Approved by: The NSB Trust Board

To be reviewed annually

Rationale/Purpose

The purpose of this guidance is to support the development of a school uniform policy, which is sensitive to the needs of children, parents and the school and reflective of cultural dress protocols within the community. The school will act fairly and reasonably, bearing in mind our duties under the Human Rights Act 1998, the Equality Act 2010 and anti-discrimination legislation.

The ethos of Northampton School is determined by many areas of school life. However, the values and expectations of the school are underpinned by the smart appearance of our students.

It is Northampton School's policy that all learners **must** wear their full uniform when attending school or when participating in a school-organised event outside normal school hours. The school will provide a complete list of items needed on the school website. This sense of belonging is encouraged from the very beginning of a student's career at the school, and we believe that wearing school uniform is an essential part of that relationship. We expect parents/carers to give their full support to the school in implementing the school policy.

We aim to be proud of our students, who are the ambassadors of the school, and we are sure that they will grow to be proud of their association with Northampton School. The policy sets out the requirements, but the Headteacher or their representative will decide on issues that are not covered by this policy or where there is an element of interpretation required. Health and safety is of paramount importance. Any breach of the Appearance and Uniform Policy will result in a sanction following the school's behaviour policy. If any student or parent has any doubt that a change in appearance, for example hairstyle, may not comply with school policy then they must ask the school for guidance before any change is made.

Northampton School reserves the right to change the uniform but would only do so in consultation with students and the parental body. Parents would be given at least a term's notice.

Aims

Our policy on uniform is based on the principles that the school uniform:

- Promotes a sense of pride in the school, in line with our ethos, values and beliefs.
- Creates a sense of 'community' and 'belonging' to the school.
- Sets an appropriate tone for behaviour and supports positive behaviour.
- Is practical, comfortable and smart.
- Identifies learners with the school and encourages identification with the school.
- Prevents learners from coming to school in fashion or 'designer' label clothes that could be distracting or create a sense of competition.
- Promotes equality in terms of appearance and helps nurture cohesion between different groups of learners.
- Is regarded as suitable for school and good value for money by most parents/carers.
- Promotes the school's care for the health and safety of its learners.

All of these aims are derived from the DfE's non-statutory guidance for schools in developing their school uniform policy.

Uniform

Northampton School's uniform is black and red. The uniform has been developed with the DfE's recent statutory guidance on the cost of school uniforms in mind and much of the uniform can be purchased from major stores.

The DfE statutory guidance now states that, from September 2026, secondary schools should limit the number of **compulsory branded items** of uniform and PE kit to 4 or fewer, if one is a tie.

Northampton School has identified 4 compulsory branded items of uniform which are:

Blazer with badge; Tie; ¾ zip PE top; PE polo shirt.

The school also has a number of other branded items, available through SWI, that many parents choose to purchase but which are not compulsory.

The school has a number of other compulsory items of uniform, however, these are not branded with the school's logo and therefore can all be purchased from alternative retailers.

Please see further details below:

Items that can only be purchased from the school provider are marked *.

Items that can only be purchased from the school directly are marked +.

Optional items that can be purchased from the school provider are marked #.

The following are compulsory items of school uniform:

- Black blazer
 - EITHER with a Northampton School crest badge attached (*)
 - OR by purchasing a Northampton School crest badge and attaching this separately (+)
- White school shirt (with a collar suitable for the tie)
- Northampton School tie (+)
- EITHER black trousers (tailored in a classic fit, no stretchy or jersey fabric, no skinny fit, no slim fit, no combat style, no flares)
- OR a Northampton School tartan skirt (*)
- If wearing trousers, non-branded black or dark grey socks (no white socks)
- If wearing the skirt, plain black tights or plain non-branded white or black ankle socks.
- Sensible black leather-type full shoes (should be able to polish them), flat soled or heels no higher than 3cm. These should not be trainer style, hi tops or ballet style pumps. No trainers, boots or canvas pumps, hi-tops or obviously branded shoes (e.g. Nike, Vans, Converse etc.). Appropriate shoes for working in Food Technology/Design and Technology classrooms mean these must be a full shoe that covers all of the foot rather than ballet style pumps.

If you are in any doubt about items of uniform, please make contact with the school first to check if the item is acceptable.

The following are optional items of school uniform:

- Black V-neck jumper (Plain, no logos, not round neck)
- Belts should be plain black with no studs

Physical Education Kit

The following are compulsory items of PE kit:

- Northampton School ¼ zip fleece top with logo (*)
- Northampton School polo shirt with logo (*)
- Northampton School black and red socks
- Plain black shorts/skort (no branding)
- White sports socks (no-branding)
- Trainers - non-marking sole for indoor use
- Football boots with moulded safety studs
- Shin pads

The following are optional items of PE kit:

- Plain black tracksuit bottoms (no branding)
- Northampton School black shorts/skorts with logo (#)
- Northampton School black leggings (#)
- Gum shield (only compulsory if attending extracurricular rugby or hockey clubs)

PLEASE NOTE that it is compulsory to wear football boots with moulded safety studs on the All Weather Pitch. Trainers or boots with screw-in studs are not allowed to be worn on the AWP for PE lessons or matches as this damages and degrades the pitch.

Jewellery

As a general rule, the school does not expect children to wear jewellery.

- Students may wear **two** items of discreet jewellery and a wristwatch. Smart watches are prohibited items and must not be brought into school.
- Earrings must be studs, a small drop or a small hoop. Any earrings that are not studs must be no more than 1.5cm. All earrings must be removed for PE and Dance (a pair counts as one item). Hoop earrings larger than 1.5cm are not allowed for health and safety reasons.
- If a ring is worn, it must be discreet and must be removed in practical lessons
- If a necklace is worn, it must be tucked into the shirt and removed in practical lessons
- If a bracelet is worn, it must be discreet and removed in practical lesson
- No other facial piercings are acceptable (including, nose, tongue, lip, cheek, eyebrow).
- Medic alert bracelets and necklaces may be worn and need to be visible.
- The only badges permitted are official school badges, students must wear their House badge on their blazer.
- No other jewellery is permitted.

Hair

- Hair must remain appropriate for a professional working environment, no shorter than No 2. A fade is acceptable if the hair remains to office standard and remains no shorter than a 2 on top. No shapes or lines cut in e.g. zigzags, mohican.
- Long hair (that touches shoulders) must be tied back for practical lessons (DT, Dance, Drama, PE). It is the responsibility of students to provide hair ties/bands.
- Hair bands used to tie hair back should be plain in nature.
- At all times hair must not cover an eye or eyes.
- Hair should be kept clean and tidy.
- Hair should not be dyed using unnatural colours or be styled with extensive flashes of colour.

Make Up and Nails

- Discreet make-up only is allowed (no bright lipstick, no eye shadow, no eye liner, no false eyelashes, no false nails)
- Clear or subtle nail varnish is allowed. Students **must not** wear nail varnish when they have Food Technology lessons.
- No BIAB Gels and Acrylic nails due to health and safety in practical subjects.

Headwear

- In cold weather a plain scarf, hat or similar in a tasteful design may be worn to and from school but not around the school.
- Plain caps may be worn in hot weather but removed when directed on the school site.
- Sunglasses may be worn in certain circumstances determined by the school.

General Uniform

- Sweatshirts, hoodies and similar must not be worn over or under the uniform.
- Hoodies must not be worn to or from school
- The school tie should be worn at an acceptable length (where it touches the top of trousers/skirt)
- Skirts, when worn by students, must be of an appropriate length and not excessively short with the top rolled over. As a guide skirts should be no more than 10cm above the knee.
- Shirts must be plain white and tucked in.
- Gloves may be worn in cold weather, but they must be taken off when inside school.
- Coats should be tasteful with no provocative logos. Coats must be removed inside the school buildings.
- School uniform in its entirety must be worn in, to and from school.
- The school advises that cyclists wear cycle helmets and high visibility jackets/bands.

School Uniform – Quick Guide

Item	Compulsory/Optional	Purchase from
Blazer with school badge	Compulsory	SWI (with badge embroidered on Any supplier but with badge purchased from NS and sewn on by parents/carers
Black trousers	Either trousers or NS tartan skirt are compulsory	Any supplier
NS tartan skirt		SWI
NS tie	Compulsory	NS
Black/dark grey socks (if wearing trousers)	Compulsory	Any supplier
Black tights or white ankle socks (if wearing skirt)	Compulsory	Any supplier
White formal shirt	Compulsory	Any supplier
Black polishable shoes	Compulsory	Any supplier
Black v-neck jumper	Optional	Any supplier
Plain black belt	Optional	Any supplier

School PE kit – Quick Guide

Any items of PE kit bought outside of the school supplier must be unbranded or only have small discreet logos.

Please check with the school if you are unsure as to whether an item meets our expectations.

Item	Compulsory/Optional	Purchase from
Item	Compulsory/Optional	Purchase from
NS ¾ zip fleece top	Compulsory	SWI
NS polo top	Compulsory	SWI
Sports socks for winter sports (Black with a red hoop/turnover at the top)	Compulsory	SWI / Any supplier
Plain black shorts or plain black skirt	Compulsory	Any supplier
NS black shorts or NS black skirt	Optional	SWI
NS leggings	Optional	SWI
Black leggings	Optional	Any supplier
NS tracksuit bottoms	Optional	SWI
Black tracksuit bottoms	Optional	Any supplier
White ankle socks	Compulsory	Any supplier
Trainers (non-marking)	Compulsory	Any supplier
Football boots	Compulsory	Any supplier
Shin pads	Compulsory	Any supplier
Gum shield	Compulsory	Any supplier

Nearly New Uniform

The school does have some items of nearly new uniform, from parental donations or unclaimed lost property. This uniform has been quality checked and washed and is for sale at a reduced price.

Currently, as Northampton School is still relatively new, we do not have many items in stock.

Any parents wishing to enquire about and purchase nearly new uniform will need to make contact with NS reception, in the first instance, to check stock availability.