

Ark Pioneer
Academy

Uniform Policy

2022-23

PURPOSE

This policy outlines the Ark Pioneer Academy uniform.

Date of last review:	March 2023	Author:	Principal
Date of next review:	July 2023	Owner:	Principal
Type of policy:	<input type="checkbox"/> Network-wide <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tailored by school	Approval:	Project Board (V1)
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ARK MODEL

Component	Element
<input type="checkbox"/> Strategic Leadership & Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring, Reporting & Data <input type="checkbox"/> Governance & Accountabilities <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching & Learning <input type="checkbox"/> Curriculum & Assessment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Culture, Ethos & Wellbeing <input type="checkbox"/> Pathways & Enrichment <input type="checkbox"/> Parents & Community <input type="checkbox"/> Finance, IT & Estates <input type="checkbox"/> Our People	Behaviour model

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1. Our expectation: High standards of appearance at all times

Why do we have a compulsory school uniform?

All Ark Pioneer pupils wear full school uniform. Our uniform reflects our values and reinforces our academy's culture of high expectations, pride in our appearance and academic achievement. It is one way in which we will identify ourselves as an academy community and it promotes a strong and cohesive academy identity, supporting high standards in all areas of academy life.

We have a compulsory academy uniform for several reasons:

- a Uniforms unite the academy. Pupils make a commitment that when they put on their Ark Pioneer uniform they will actively support our ethos and community.
- b Uniforms reduce distractions. We are focused on achieving success. When pupils are allowed to wear their own clothing, there is potential to talk about fashion and styles rather than learning.
- c Uniforms help ensure equality in the academy. Whether families have high incomes or low incomes, the pupils come to the academy looking the same way. This supports in reducing any pressure to purchase certain types of items or brands to wear to school, including for example new bags every year. Please see the section below for further details.
- d Uniforms look professional, in that pupils look neat and ready to learn. Our suit-like uniform also helps prepare pupils for professional life and enhances their sense of formality.

How do we ensure our uniform represents value for families?

Our uniform blazer is plain navy with red lining. We have deliberately not included our school logo on the blazer, so that if a pupil needs a formal blazer to wear to a personal occasion, they can wear their uniform blazer and not have the extra cost.

Our white shirt can be long or short sleeved, whichever is more comfortable to the child, and purchased from any shop.

Our pupils have a school bag, which they keep for 5 years of secondary school. This reduces the pressure to buy new bags following any new fashion trend or linked to any branding for parents over the time from Y7 to 11.

Our pupils wear PE kit to school on their PE day and if they have PE enrichment. This means parents get value from purchasing the PE kit as it is regularly worn more than once per week. Our pupils also wear their normal school jumper or blazer over their PE kit. They remove this when exercising. Finally, our approach to leggings reduces the pressure to buy new branded sports leggings regularly and creates a sense of belonging in all pupils.

For outdoor clothing we recommend plain and without large logos or patterns. We explain the rationale to all pupils. This reduces pressure on families to have branded jackets following a particular style which they feel they must change year on year.

We discuss the uniform in full with parents during the transition to secondary school. We have numerous ways in which we support any family who needs help with uniform – see this set out below in section 4.

How do we address issues where our Uniform Policy is not adhered to?

In the event that pupils are not dressed in the correct uniform or are not wearing the uniform appropriately, we will review the case individually.

If pupils are missing an item of uniform, we will lend pupils items where possible and/or contact parents/carers to ensure the uniform is worn fully and professionally. The articles of uniform available on site includes items of main school uniform, academy plimsolls and items of PE kit should a one-off situation require it.

A sanction may be issued through the check system in their planner, in keeping with the academy Behaviour Policy in the case where a child is deliberately not complying with uniform regulations.

Special circumstances:

- a. There are very few reasons why a pupil should not be wearing academy uniform. If there are extenuating circumstances, parents and carers should share the reason with their child's Head of Year, either in person or by letter. The academy will always be considerate and discrete in trying to establish why a pupil is not wearing the correct uniform.
- b. There will be occasions when the academy decides that the academy uniform is not appropriate, for instance when taking part in a physical activity day, wearing different clothes due to a fund raising event or due to extreme weather. Parents and carers will be notified in advance of the revised dress code on these days.

Racial equality and equal opportunities

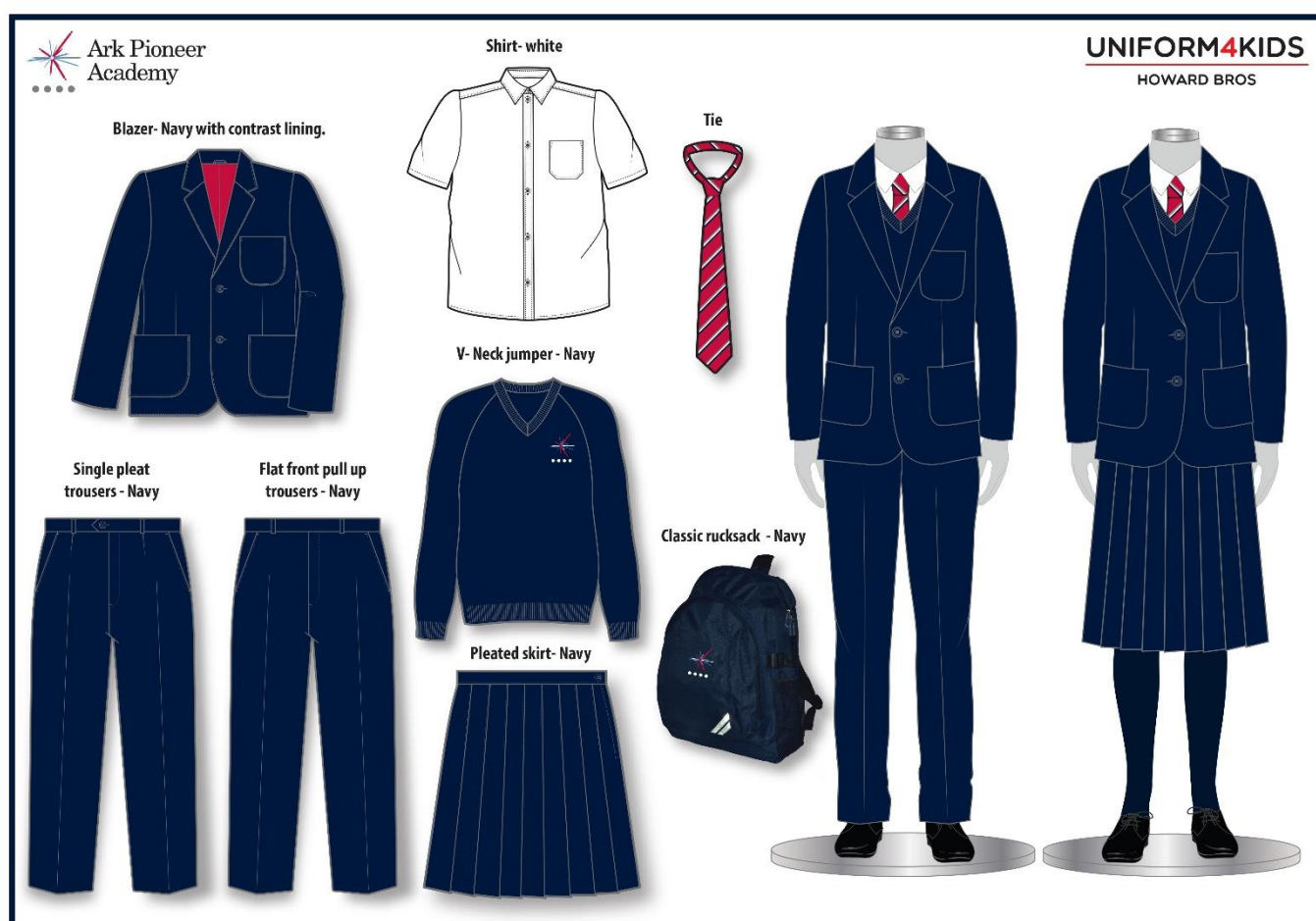
All children have equal access to wearing the academy uniform regardless of their culture, race, religion, gender, disability or ability. We ensure that the set uniform respects other policies such as Equality, Race relations, sex discrimination and allows for individual sets of circumstances of all groups and individuals. Ark Pioneer Academy is committed to creating a positive climate that will enable everyone to work free from racial intimidation and harassment in order to achieve their full potential.

2. Uniform details

The school uniform is set out below. If you require any support with purchasing uniform please contact info@arkpioneer.org There is more detail on this in section 4, including second-hand items, grants and school support.

Uniform

- **Blazer:** Navy with red lining
- **Tie:** Striped red Ark Pioneer tie, worn at an appropriate length down to the navel
- **Jumper:** Navy knitted V neck with school logo
- **Trousers:** Navy school trousers with pleated front
or
Skirt: Navy pleated front skirt; Worn with navy knee length socks or navy tights. A full length skirt is available if pupils wish to wear this for religious reasons.
- **Shirt:** Any plain white with collar; Long or short sleeved and tucked in at all times, with the top button done up
- **Navy tights/long socks (worn under skirt)** Navy tights worn with the school skirt or long navy socks to the knee
- **Dark socks (worn under trousers)** Black or navy only
- **Plain black shoes:** No trainers, boots or high heels; laces must be black (further details below)
- **Plain jacket:** No branding or pictures; all jackets must be zipped – no hooded jackets that have to removed over the head are permitted
- **School rucksack:** Navy rucksack with school logo.



PE Kit

There is a variety of PE kit to ensure pupils feel comfortable when getting involved in fitness and sports activities. Pupils can wear any combination. PE kit is worn into school at least 1 day a week when pupils have PE lesson and also when they have a PE enrichment. Many pupils wear more than once per week.

- **Tracksuit:** Ark Pioneer branded top
or
- **Polo shirt:** Ark Pioneer branded navy polo shirt
with
- **Skort:** Ark Pioneer PE skort
- **Or Shorts:** Ark Pioneer PE shorts
- **Or Tracksuit:** Ark Pioneer branded top
- **Or Sports leggings** Ark Pioneer leggings

Please note pupils can also wear their normal school jumper or blazer over their PE kit. They remove this when exercising.

- **Trainers:** Must be appropriate for sports. No converse trainers
- **PE bag:** Navy PE bag with school logo



Outdoor clothing

- a) Pupils should bring appropriate outdoor clothing during cold or wet weather; any outdoor clothing should be plain, avoiding large branding and worn on top of the academy blazer, not underneath or as an alternative to the blazer
- b) Pupils should bring an umbrella during wet weather
- c) Hats, scarves, and gloves must be plain and avoided large brand logos; they can be worn when weather appropriate, but should not be worn inside the academy building

Footwear

Pupils must wear closed-toe, hard-soled, black, plain shoes with a flat sole. All laces need to be black. Footwear with flashing lights are not appropriate for school. Boots are not allowed. Please see examples below.

Acceptable shoes:



Inappropriate shoes:



Hats, headscarves or headwear

Pioneer is a diverse community. We recognise that different cultures prescribe different levels of importance to hairstyles, hair colouring and headwear. The academy's approach is designed to recognise this, whilst ensuring that there are clear boundaries, and a professional ethos in the academy. Pupils' eyes should not be obscured or covered, so that the teacher can judge their engagement with learning and their participation in discussions and practical activities.

Hairstyles

Pupils' hair should be neat and professional at all times for smartness, appearance and health and safety. Any pupil with long hair should ensure it is not in front of their eyes or face so that, as shared above, each teacher can judge their engagement with learning and their participation in discussions and practical activities.

Pupils may not wear designs or words cut into their eye brows or hair.

Fingernail polish and make-up

Pupils are not allowed to wear fingernail polish or false nails. Make-up is not allowed.

Any make-up or nail varnish that is worn will be required to be removed.

Jewellery and accessories

Pupils may not wear any jewellery except for one watch (no sound effects, games or smart watches) and if they wish, one or more pairs of stud earrings. Earrings may be required to be removed for PE, and as such this should be considered when getting any new piercings.

The academy will be unable to take any responsibility for any jewellery that are lost.

Accessories that are seen to be contravening these rules will be confiscated and returned to parents. In some cases, the academy may make the decision that items will need to be collected by parents rather than pupils.

Body piercing or tattoos

Body piercing is prohibited, with the exception ear piercing, as mentioned above.

Naming clothing and property

Please ensure all clothing and property is clearly marked so that lost articles may be easily traced and returned. The academy cannot accept responsibility for loss or damage to pupils' property and valuables. Clothing labels are available from the uniform shop.

Lost property

All mislaid items are placed in the lost property area in the dining hall. Pupils can access this before school and at break or lunch. Parents should ask the academy office if you wish to look through items. We endeavour to return all named property and remind parents and pupils about labelling regularly.

3. Current uniform supplier & price list

Local uniform shop

Our uniform is available from this local supplier:

Howard Brothers

30 The Broadway, Mill Hill, NW7 3LL

Tel: 020 8959 4987

Their opening hours are: Monday – Saturday 9am – 5.30pm

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A reminder that from Friday 7th October to May they will resume the winter opening hours of:

Monday-Thursday: 9am-5.30pm

Friday: Closed

Saturday: 9am-5.30pm

Sunday: Closed

Around these days parents/carers can still order online.

Online orders

You can also purchase online at www.uniform4kids.com Online orders can be delivered to school for your child to collect, or delivered direct to your home.

<https://www.uniform4kids.com/collections/ark-pioneer-academy/ark-pioneer-schoolwear>

All up to date prices are available on the website.

Concerns or queries

Should you have any concerns or queries about uniform, please contact info@arkpioneer.org and we will ensure this is raised with the supplier.

4. Support in purchasing our school uniform:

Second Hand Uniform available:

We have items of second hand uniform available from school including the main uniform and PE kit – please enquire with info@arkpioneer.org for more information on how to access this. This includes obtaining items for a small donation or at no cost depending on family's needs.

Donations welcome any time at the front office, which we regularly promote in our parent update. Thanks to everyone who supports this.

Support for families that need help purchasing the uniform or any school equipment:

Should any family need support in order to purchase school uniform or any equipment pupils need, please get in touch via info@arkpioneer.org for more information. We will discuss various options including:

- Local authority uniform grant
- School based uniform subsidies

This is in addition to second hand uniform as set out above.

Uniform items at discounted prices:

We sell navy tights at a discounted price from our pupil Equipment Shop for all pupils who wish to buy them. This shop also sells items of equipment such as scientific calculators.