



Ark Victoria
Academy

**Uniform
Policy
September
2022**

Our academy uniform is important to us. It is one way in which we identify ourselves as an academy community and it promotes a strong and cohesive identity, which supports high standards in all areas of academy life. Our uniform policy reflects our values and reinforces our culture of high expectations, pride in our appearance and academic achievements. It promotes harmony between different groups in the academy and enhances self-esteem and a sense of personal security.

Academy uniforms and dress codes unite the academy community and support equality – whether families have high incomes or low incomes everyone wears the same. Whether a pupil leaves Ark Victoria for a formal or informal employer or other education provider they will have developed a sense of pride in how they present themselves and the importance of being ready to work.

1. Equality and equal opportunities

- 1.1 All children have equal access to wearing the academy uniform regardless of their culture, race, religion, gender, disability, or ability. Our uniform is gender neutral. We ensure that the set uniform respects other policies such as equality, race relations, sex discrimination and allows for individual sets of circumstances for all groups and individuals. Ark Victoria academy is committed to creating a positive climate that will enable everyone to work free from discrimination and harassment in order to achieve their full potential. Consideration has been given to how the uniform can be adapted for those who have a disability or who wish to express a cultural, religious, or racial identity within the framework of an academy whilst fostering cohesion, safety, and a sense of community.
- 1.2 We will do all we can to ensure that this policy does not discriminate, directly or indirectly. We shall do this through regular monitoring and evaluation of our policies. On review, we shall assess and consult relevant stakeholders on the likely impact of our policies on the promotion of all aspects of equality, as laid down in the Equality Act (2010). This will include, but not necessarily be limited to: race; gender; sexual orientation; disability; ethnicity; religion; cultural beliefs and pregnancy/maternity. We will use an appropriate Equality Impact Assessment to monitor the impact of all our policies and the policy may be amended as a result of this assessment.

2. Expectations

- 2.1 We have taken care to ensure that our uniform is affordable and to minimise the number of items that need to be purchased from a particular supplier. Items marked as such must be purchased from our supplier and parents should take care when buying other items to ensure that they meet our expectations.
- 2.2 Items marked as * should be purchased from our school uniform provider Clive Mark. Details of how to order uniform is in [appendix A].
- 2.3 Pupils not in the correct uniform may not be able to attend lessons until the uniform has been corrected. Parents may be contacted to bring the correct items to school, or the pupil may be sent home to get changed.

3. Uniform

- Blazer* - AVA branded blazer **from KS2 (Year 3) and above**

- **Shirt – Nursery, Reception Y1 and Y2** smart white polo shirt; **Year 3 onwards** White school shirt - must be tucked in
- **School Tie* - Nursery, Reception Y1 and Y2** no tie; **Year 3-Year 11** AVA tie
- Navy smart trousers or skirt or navy jogging bottoms for **Nursery only**. – skintight trousers or leggings are not allowed to be worn or worn under skirts)
- **Jumper * – Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2** Blue Branded sweatshirt; **Year 3 onwards** Plain Navy jumper or cardigan
- Alternatively, a navy salwar kameez may be worn with the school blazer
- In the summer term blue gingham dresses or navy smart, school uniform style shorts may be worn in **Nursery and Primary**
- **School bag* - Nursery and Primary** an AVA Book Bag
- Tights and socks – Navy or black tights (plain) or black socks
- Plain black smart shoes: No trainers or boots. Laces must be black. No heels, if unsure contact your child’s head of year prior to purchasing.
- Headscarves – should be Navy blue only

Uniform Item	Nursery requirement	Reception requirement	Year 1 – Year 2	Year 3 – year 6	Secondary
Blazer *	NR	NR	NR	School Branded	School Branded
Shirt	White polo shirt	White polo shirt	White polo shirt	White school shirt	White school shirt
School Tie *	NR	NR	NR	School Branded tie	School Branded tie
Trousers/Skirt	Navy smart skirt/trousers/joggers	Navy smart skirt/trousers	Navy smart skirt/trousers	Navy smart skirt/trousers	Navy smart skirt/trousers
Jumper *	Blue School Branded sweatshirt	Blue School Branded sweatshirt	Blue School Branded sweatshirt	Plain Navy jumper or cardigan	Plain Navy jumper or cardigan
School Bag *	School Branded book bag	Rucksack/large bag			
Tights/socks	Navy/black plain tights or black socks				
Shoes	Plain black smart shoes				
Headscarves	Navy	Navy	Navy	Navy	Navy

PE Kit

- Navy tracksuit bottoms
- Plain Navy T shirt
- Navy school branded sweatshirt *
- Navy shorts
- Black football or trainer socks
- Black Pumps/Trainers: Must be appropriate for sports. No converse style trainers.
- PE bag *

PE Uniform Item	Nursery requirement	Reception requirement	Year 1 – Year 2	Year 3 – year 6	Secondary
Tracksuit bottoms	NR	Navy	Navy	Navy	Navy
Navy T- shirt *	NR	Navy plain T-shirt	Navy plain T-shirt	Navy plain T-shirt	Plain Navy T-shirt

School Branded sweatshirt *	NR	School Branded sweatshirt	School Branded sweatshirt	School Branded sweatshirt	Navy sweatshirt
Shorts	NR	Navy	Navy	Navy	Navy
Football/trainer socks	NR	Black	Black	Black	Black
Pumps/Trainers	NR	Black	Black	Black	Black
PE Bag	NR	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Outdoor clothing

Pupils should bring appropriate outdoor clothing during cold or wet weather. Any outdoor clothing should be worn on top of the academy blazer, not underneath or as an alternative to the blazer. Coats, hats, scarves, and gloves can be worn when weather appropriate but may not be worn inside the academy building. **Nursery pupils are required to keep a pair of wellies at school for outdoor play**

Bags and Belongings

A high-visibility book bag with Ark Victoria Academy logo is required in years Nursery to six for carrying books, homework, letters, and other materials to and from the academy. From year 7 rucksacks and large bags should be used. A PE bag with Ark Victoria Academy logo is also available for carrying PE kit to and from the academy. All items brought into school should be labelled with the pupil's name and class/ form group. In Year 7 onwards, pupils will be expected to be responsible for their own belongings. Lockers are not provided.

Footwear

Pupils must wear closed-toed, hard-soled, **all black** plain shoes with a flat sole. Footwear with flashing lights is not appropriate for school. Boots are not allowed. Girls may wear **all black** closed-toed sandals as part of the summer uniform only (1st May onwards). Open-toed sandals should not be worn, even in the Summer Term. Trainers and shoes that look like trainers should not be purchased for school wear.

Acceptable	Unacceptable
Girls	
	



4. Hairstyles, headscarves, and headwear

Ark Victoria Academy 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' faces should not be obscured or covered (with the exception of face coverings worn to protect against COVID-19), so that the teacher can judge

their engagement with learning and their participation in discussions and practical activities. Any head covering for religious or cultural values and in the academy colours of navy is permitted.

4.1 Hair

Pupils' hair should be neat for appearance and health and safety. Pupils may not wear designs or words cut into their hair or eyebrows. Pupils may not have lines shaved into their hair.

Hair accessories must be subtle and in academy colours.

If pupils are unsure whether a hairstyle meets the academy policy, they should check in advance with the school.

Where pupils have facial hair, it must be neatly groomed, and as with hairstyles, not have designs or logos shaved into it.

4.2 Hats, headscarves, and head coverings

- Hats, headscarves, and head coverings are permitted for religious or cultural reasons and should be navy.
- Pupils are not allowed to wear hats, headscarves or any other head covering inside the academy building unless it is due to religious or cultural reasons.
- Students' faces should not be obscured or covered, so the teacher can judge a pupil's engagement with learning and participation in discussions and practical activities.

5. Jewelry/Accessories

Pupils may not wear any jewelry except for the following:

- one watch (no sound effects, games, or smart watches).
- Pupils are allowed to wear plain stud earrings. These should not be bigger than the lobe.
- A Kara may be worn for religious reasons.
- The academy will be unable to take any responsibility for any watches or jewelry that are lost.
- Accessories that are seen to be contravening these rules will be confiscated.
- Pupils are not allowed to wear fingernail polish or false nails. Make-up is not allowed, and pupils will be asked to remove if worn within school.

6. Body piercing and tattoos

Body piercing is prohibited, with the exception of studded piercings on the ear lobe. No other forms of body piercing will be allowed. Pupils are not allowed to have permanent tattoos of any kind on their body.

7. Special circumstances

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 email/letter. The academy will always be considerate and discrete in trying to establish why a pupil is not wearing the correct uniform. Pupils will not be made to

feel uncomfortable, nor discriminated against, because their parents/carers are unable to provide them with the required items of the academy uniform. In line with our ethos, we encourage discussion with the academy at the earliest opportunity if there are any difficulties.

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.

8. 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. All mislaid items will be placed in the lost property. Please ask academy office staff if you wish to look through these items. All unclaimed lost property is disposed of at the end of term and given to a local children's charity.

9. Second Hand Uniform

Any unwanted items of uniform may be given to the academy office. We will organize regular second-hand uniform sales at school with contributions being made to fund spare supplies of school uniforms for emergencies

10. Equality Impact Assessment

We do all we can to ensure that this policy does not discriminate, directly or indirectly. We shall do this through regular monitoring and evaluation of our policies. On review, we shall assess and consult relevant stakeholders on the likely impact of our policies on the promotion of all aspects of equality, as laid down in the Equality Act (2010). This will include, but not necessarily be limited to: race; gender; sexual orientation; disability; ethnicity; religion; cultural beliefs and pregnancy/maternity.

Final decisions on the suitability of the uniform will be made by the Principal and we expect parents to support these decisions in full.

Appendix A

How to purchase academy branded items marked *

Branded uniform items can be purchased online from Clive Mark Schoolwear Ltd or at their local shop, which is at 2284 Coventry Road, Sheldon, Birmingham B26 3JR

The link below takes you directly to the store page allocated to Ark Victoria Academy

<https://clivemark.co.uk/collections/ark-victoria-academy>