

# DARWEN VALE HIGH SCHOOL

An Aldridge Community Academy 

July 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

As we reach the end of another Academic Year, I would like to take the opportunity to revisit our uniform expectations.

Uniform is an important part of a school's identity. It reinforces who we are as a community and helps students to feel pride in their school. It also helps prepare students for life after school where many will have to dress smartly for or wear a uniform for work.

It would be fair to say that over the last Academic Year, we have had a number of interpretations of what is and is not acceptable, we have made allowances due to recovering from the COVID19 pandemic however, with hopefully a full undisrupted Academic Year ahead of us we believe it is time to clarify our expectations of uniform for students and parents/carers.

Our uniform policy is available on our website for further reference, but please see the guidance below:

**Skirts** – Plain black, stitch down pleat (please ask uniform supplier for the official Darwen Vale skirt). Please note an elasticated waist band, box pleat skirt is **not acceptable**. As of August 2022, a purchased school skirt will feature our school badge which must be clearly visible at all times.

Examples below:

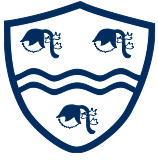


**Tie** – Official school tie must be worn at all times.

**Blazer** – Official school blazer must be worn at all times.

**Shoes** – black leather or simulated leather, no branding and **no trainers**. Examples below:





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**Make up, false eyelashes, false nails, nail varnish or jewellery** – must not be worn for school. Items of jewellery which are not in line with the policy will be confiscated. If ears are already pierced, only one small, plain gold or silver-coloured stud (no jewels) may be worn in each ear lobe. No other body piercing is allowed, e.g. nose studs, tongue piercings or other ear piercings. All studs should be removed for PE for health and safety purposes.

We will be enforcing the uniform policy when we return in September with zero tolerance of infringements. On the first day back, staff will check the uniform of all students at the gate and in the morning line up. Any students not in the correct uniform will be asked to borrow the correct uniform from our uniform store, and will receive a same-day after school detention in line with our new behaviour policy. Your child's form tutor will contact you each day when uniform is not correct.

If you are experiencing any financial difficulty in purchasing school uniform, please do not hesitate to ask if we can be of any support by contacting your child's Head of Year on the details below:

Year 7 – Kelly Lamster [Kelly.lamster@darwenvale.com](mailto:Kelly.lamster@darwenvale.com)

Year 8 – Traci Scott [TRScott@darwenvale.com](mailto:TRScott@darwenvale.com)

Year 9 – Christina Hamill [christina.hamill@darwenvale.com](mailto:christina.hamill@darwenvale.com)

Year 10 – Darren Adcroft [DAdcroft@darwenvale.com](mailto:DAdcroft@darwenvale.com)

Year 11 – Claire McKenna [Claire.mckenna@darwenvale.com](mailto:Claire.mckenna@darwenvale.com)

The official Darwen Vale Uniform Suppliers are below:

- Whittakers School Wear - <https://www.whittakersschoolwear.co.uk/product-category/blackburn/darwen-vale-high-school/>
- Grays School Wear - <https://www.graysschoolwear.co.uk/collections/darwen-vale>
- Snazzys - <https://snazyyschool.wixsite.com/snazzys>

If you have any questions about the guidance, please do not hesitate to contact school or refer to the uniform policy on the website. If you are unsure whether a piece of uniform is acceptable, please consult the school before buying. If there are any extenuating circumstances, which mean you are unable to meet the uniform requirements by Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September please email your child's Head of Year on the details above.

We look forward to your support in ensuring all students are treated equally and trust the guidance above makes things much clearer for everyone.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Little  
Principal