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Co-op Academy
Walkden

Dear Parents and Carers,

We're pleased to share an important update about uniforms. New national legislation, introduced through the *Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill*, requires schools to reduce branded items and lower costs. We fully support this, and wanted to let you know as soon as possible that changes are coming to our uniforms which will be in place by September 2026.

In this new policy we are reducing branded items across our Trust, and your new uniform will be as follows:

Our New Uniform



Academy Uniform

Black Academy Logo Blazer
Academy Tie
Traditional white shirt with a collar
Plain black tailored trousers
Optional plain black V neck jumper
Plain black smart shoes
If you wear a headscarf or headband,
it must also be plain black

PE Uniform

Black Academy logo PE Multi-top
Dark Grey Academy logo PE T-Shirt
Plain black tracksuit bottoms/sports
leggings or plain black shorts
Trainers

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Co-op Academies Trust
Registered office: 1 Angel Square, Manchester, M60 0AG
Reg. No. 7747126. Registered in England and Wales.

What does this mean for you?

Any items no longer in the new uniform policy do not need to be replaced before September 2026 if your child wears them out or outgrows them in this time. We expect all children to adhere to the new policy from September 2026.

If you have a jumper with a stripe or logo, these are being discontinued as part of the new uniform policy, however you are welcome to continue wearing them until they need replacing. Moving forwards, please replace with the new plain jumper.

As part of Co-op Academies Trust, we are working together to have a single supplier across all schools, this supplier will hopefully be in place by September 2027. The goal of this project is to further reduce costs for our families. We will be in touch with details when we have them.

Specific guidance will be on your Academy's website by the Easter Holidays. Please reference this.

Trousers

We are introducing a single school uniform for all students in our Secondary Schools. This means that all students will wear trousers at school. This has been informed by research showing that traditional uniform options, particularly skirts and dresses, can limit pupils' comfort, confidence, and participation in school life (Dr Mairead Ryan, 2024; Dr Alice Porter, 2025). More practical options, such as trousers, support active learning and are better suited to the full range of school activities, including practical subjects like science, construction, and engineering, as well as everyday movement around the school.

We are also mindful that items such as pinafores and tights can increase costs for families due to frequent replacement (The Children's Society, 2023). As a trust committed to equality and inclusion, we believe a more flexible uniform could help ensure all students feel comfortable and able to fully engage in school life. We value your feedback and invite you to share your views in the upcoming Edurio survey.

Please ensure your child is wearing plain black tailored trousers from September 2026, sports or stretch fabric will not be acceptable for any child under the new uniform policy. Find further details on your academy website.

Specific guidance will be on your academy's website by the Easter Holidays. Please reference this.

Many Thanks

Co-op Academies Trust