

18th July 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to remind you of the uniform expectations at Etonbury Academy in preparation for any purchases made over the summer. We are incredibly proud of how smart Etonbury pupils look in their uniform and pupils are spoken to each day as they arrive through the school gate if they are not meeting our uniform expectations. We thank you in advance for your continued support of pupils in wearing the correct uniform to school.

The uniform options are stated below and I have also provided you with some reminders on other aspects of our uniform within this letter.

YEAR 5 AND YEAR 6

Uniform Option 1	Uniform Option 2
Etonbury jumper (with badge) White button neck shirt (long or short sleeved) Etonbury tie Grey trousers/tailored grey shorts Plain black or navy socks Black leather shoes (<u>no logo or black trainers</u>)	Etonbury jumper (with badge) White open neck blouse Grey trousers or skirt Navy knee high socks/tights (White ankle socks optional Summer term) Black leather shoes (<u>no logo or black trainers</u>)

YEAR 7 - 11

Uniform Option 1	Uniform Option 2
Etonbury blazer Etonbury jumper (optional) White button neck shirt (long or short sleeved) Etonbury tie Grey trousers Plain black or navy socks Black leather shoes (<u>no logo or black trainers</u>) Tailored grey school shorts (summer term)	Etonbury blazer Etonbury jumper (optional) White open neck blouse Etonbury skirt or grey trousers Navy knee high socks/tights (White ankle socks optional Summer term) Black leather shoes (<u>no logo or black trainers</u>)

- Jewellery of any description is not encouraged and is not practical for many reasons. One ring and two pairs of small, plain stud or sleeper size earrings and a watch are the only items allowed. All jewellery must be removed for PE activities and is brought into school entirely at the student's own risk.
- Nose studs and all other types of piercing are not allowed, but a clear retainer can be worn.
- Students will be required to remove any items of jewellery which contravene this code; they may be taken by a member of staff until parents collect them from school.
- Hair should be the students' natural colour, with no extremes in style, such as shaved patterns in the hair. In addition, there should be no extreme highlighting, e.g. red, pink, blue, etc., or 'dip-dyed' hair.
- Make-up and accessories should be minimal and discrete - foundation, concealer, lashes, nails, etc. No eyeliner or coloured lipstick. A small amount of mascara or lip gloss is allowed.
- Shoes must conform to school standards - no trainers, logos, Dr Marten style boots, excessive buckles, canvas shoes or heels.
- No leggings, cropped trousers or denim are permitted.
- Skirts must be regulation length to the knee.
- No badges other than school approved badges are to be worn.
- Hoodies are not permitted on site, including break and lunch time, unless by express permission for specific sporting teams, trips or events.

Second Hand Uniform Sale

We hold second hand uniform events in the spring and summer terms and publicise these on our Facebook page and in our Friday bulletins. We are proud to support our local charity, The NEED Project who support many of our families, and simply request an affordable donation for the items you require.

I have added some frequently asked questions as an appendix to this letter which may also answer any queries you have.

Thank you all very much in advance of your anticipated support and understanding. Can I take this opportunity to thank you for your support so far this year. If you have any questions please contact the relevant head of year or mcraddock@bestacademies.org.uk and we will be happy to answer any questions.

Kind regards,

Mr Craddock

Vice Principal

Partners and awards



PROUD TO BE A
MUSIC MARK
SCHOOL



Artsmark
Gold Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England



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W www.etonbury.com
Principal: Mrs Jo Young

Frequently Asked Questions about uniform (FAQs)

What happens if I cannot send my child into school with the correct uniform despite making every attempt to do so?

If for any reason an item of uniform is damaged and cannot be worn, a note from a parent or carer must be provided and shown to the duty team on this gate before handing it to the form tutor or head of year. Pupils will be issued with a uniform pass until the correct uniform can be worn. We will expect a date to be given for when the replacement will be purchased. Students are also expected to wear loan items (blazers, ties, shoes) if requested. Any parent experiencing severe financial hardship should contact the head of year.

I would like my child to be able to express their religious identity.

Etonbury Academy is not a single faith school. Single faith school alternatives exist within the locality for those who feel strongly about this. We do not allow significant alterations to uniform or hairstyles. The exception is headwear which is important to more than one religion, and is permitted.

My child has a medical condition that makes wearing a uniform hard.

Upon presentation of medical evidence and following discussion with the head of year, adjustments may be made to accommodate students with medical issues. Wherever possible, we would seek alternatives that allow for the student to feel as comfortable as possible whilst not standing out significantly from peers. An updated medical note is needed every September for ongoing medical issues.

What will happen if my child refuses to follow the school's expectations?

We will contact you so that you can put in place the required support from home. In school, choosing not to follow our simple guidelines regarding uniform and hairstyle will initially result in the loss of social time for the student. Year teams will decide upon further action if the matter cannot be rectified in the short term. You will be informed of the concern and of the action being taken. Should there be continued refusal by the pupils to meet our expectations, consequences will be issued.

There are other students in the school with extreme hairstyles/uniform issues, what is happening to them?

We try hard to be consistent in our approach but there will always be occasions when issues are not immediately brought to our attention. Simply because a student has not yet been challenged, does not mean an item of fashionwear or a particular hairstyle has become acceptable. We seek to address all uniform issues in a timely manner and work with parents/carers.

Why don't you allow certain hairstyles or fashion items in school?

We would like to cultivate an atmosphere where individuality and depth of character are expressed through academic and social creativity rather than appearance. Although allowing children to follow trends might seem harmless, it can have negative consequences for those children who cannot afford the latest fashion items or whose parents maintain stricter control over appearance. Many parents do not wish to send their children into an environment where the latest superficial and costly trends are permitted. The associated pressure to copy these can be a source of unnecessary anxiety, conflict with peers and family and, sadly, bullying. We also believe strongly that the tradition of uniform cultivates a stronger feeling of community, togetherness and high standards. The presentation of the students also reflects the reputation and standing of the school in the wider community.

What do I do if I don't agree with your policy on hair styles or fashion wear?

We would hope that by choosing Etonbury to educate your children, you will have already considered this prior to enrolment. However, if you feel the application of our policy in individual circumstances has been unfair or unreasonable (outside of the policy), then you can contact the school to request a meeting. We have set out our expectations clearly. We feel they are reasonable and have communicated them clearly to all parents in this letter.