

LAUNCHPAD



St Helens Alternative Provision Service (Encompassing the 3 PRU Bases; PACE, Launchpad Tuition and Launchpad Alternative Education)

Uniform Policy 2022

Vision

To provide a high quality, personalised educational experience that meets learners' needs and leads to success for all.

Mission

A positive and inclusive community where young people are encouraged to achieve high standards of progress and succeed in a supported, safe environment.

Our Values / Principles

Individuals Aspirations Raised
New Experiences
Safety and Support
Personalised Programmes
Individuals Feeling Valued
Respect
Excellence in Learning

Approved by:	PRU Management Committee	Date: 11 th July 2022
Last reviewed on:	10 th July 2022	
Next review due by:	11 th July 2023	

1. Aims

This policy aims to:

- Set out our approach to requiring a uniform that is of reasonable cost and offers the best value for money for parents and carers.
- Explain how we will avoid discrimination in line with our legal duties under the Equality Act 2010
- Clarify our expectations for school uniform.

2. Our school's legal duties under the Equality Act 2010

The [Equality Act 2010](#) prohibits discrimination against an individual based on the protected characteristics, which include sex, race, religion or belief, and gender reassignment.

To avoid discrimination, our school will:

- Avoid listing uniform items based on sex, to give all pupils the opportunity to wear the uniform they feel most comfortable in or that most reflects their self-identified gender.
- Make sure that our uniform costs the same for all pupils.
- Allow all pupils to have long hair (though we reserve the right to ask for this to be tied back)
- Allow all pupils to style their hair in the way that is appropriate for school yet makes them feel most comfortable
- Allow pupils to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons.
- Allow pupils to wear headscarves and other religious or cultural symbols.
- Allow for adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents to get in touch with the Teacher in Charge of their pupils teaching base, who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests

3. Limiting the cost of school uniform

Our school has a duty to make sure that the uniform we require is affordable, in line with statutory [guidance](#) from the Department for Education on the cost of school uniform.

We will make sure our uniform:

- Is available at a reasonable cost.
- Provides the best value for money for parents/carers.
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We will do this by:

- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary.
- Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics where possible
- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost or long-lasting items, such as ties
- Considering cheaper alternatives to school-branded items, such as logos that can be ironed on, as long as this doesn't compromise quality and durability.
- Avoiding specific requirements for items pupils could wear on non-school days, such as coats, bags, and shoes.

- Keeping the number of option leveler items to a minimum, so that the school's uniform can act as a social leveler
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year groups
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- Considering alternative methods for signaling differences in groups for interschool competitions, such as creating posters or labels
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents to acquire second-hand uniform items.
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents of any changes
- Consulting with parents and pupils on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy

4. Expectations for school uniform

4.1 Our school's uniform

PACE Key Stage 2

In PACE pupils are expected to wear their school uniform. This ensures that our primary age children maintain the link with their Primary School. Many pupils will return to these schools; or may spend some of the school week at school. Therefore, it is appropriate that school uniform is worn.

LAUNCHPAD Key Stage 3

Our Key Stage 3 pupils have 2 uniform options available to them. Those on dual registration with a high school are encouraged to wear the uniform of their school. Pupils who are single registered and grow out of uniform are expected to wear Launchpad Uniform.

This uniform is: -

- White School Shirt
- Plain Black V-necked jumper or sweatshirt
- School trousers or skirt in black or grey
- Plain black training shoes or school shoes
- Pupils will be provided with a Launchpad Key Stage 3 tie.

All items are available from Supermarket clothing sections or from Uniform shops in St Helens. These items are available and affordable.

Launchpad key Stage 4

It is compulsory for all students at Launchpad Key Stage 4 to wear a college style uniform each day.

- Plain black or red polo shirt with NO LOGOS
- Jacket provided by Launchpad.
- Students are all allowed to wear their own trousers and sensible footwear. These include dark trousers, jeans, leggings, skirts, shorts, or tracksuit bottoms.

Launchpad Tuition

It is compulsory for all students at Launchpad Tuition to wear a college style uniform each day.

- Plain black or red polo shirt with NO LOGOS
- Jacket provided by Launchpad.
- Students are all allowed to wear their own trousers and sensible footwear. These include dark trousers, jeans, leggings, skirts, shorts, or tracksuit bottoms.

Uniform provided by Launchpad Key Stage 4 and Launchpad Tuition must be replaced by pupils if lost or damaged.

Uniform in all areas of our service is compulsory.

4.2 Affordability

If parents/carers have any concerns or queries, please contact the Teacher in Charge of each area. Contact details are on the website.

Our uniform is either subsidised or is deliberately chosen to offer the best prices and value for money. All items are available from supermarket clothing sections or from Uniform shops in St Helens. These items are available and affordable. In the event of financial hardship, St Helens Alternative Provision is able to offer assistance.

Sensory needs

Parents/carers of pupils with sensory needs may contact the Teacher in Charge of their child's centre to discuss any adaptations necessary.

5. Expectations for our school community

5.1 Pupils

We are proud of our schools and our pupils. Like all organisations we promote a sense of belonging and hard work. This includes the manner in which our pupils engage in school and the way in which they dress when attending our education bases.

In all areas, uniform is compulsory. This fosters a sense of belonging, teamwork, co-operation, and pride. Our pupil referral units serve a wide variety of young people in St Helens. They vary in age, interests, and school backgrounds.

Therefore, the uniform requirements vary between the organisations. What does not vary are our standards and our expectation of all pupils to wear uniform.

These expectations are available on the school website and are explained to parents/carers at planning meetings.

Expectations

All pupils are expected to wear uniform. If any young person arrives without uniform, they may: -

Receive a warning or sanction using the school rewards and sanctions system

Parents/carers will be informed. By telephone and in writing if necessary.
Pupils may be offered uniform to wear in school.
Centres reserve the right to request that a young person without uniform returns home to change. We also reserve the right to meet with parents to resolve this.

Pupils are expected to wear the correct uniform at all times (other than specified non-school uniform days) while:

- On the school premises
- Travelling to and from school
- At out-of-school events or on trips that are organised by the school, or where they are representing the school (if required)

Pupils are also expected to contact Rachel Guyer, Head of Service, 07714476110, if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics.

5.2 Parents and carers

Parents and carers are expected to make sure their child has the correct uniform and PE kit, and that every item is:

- Clean
- Clearly labelled with the child's name
- In good condition

Parents are also expected to contact Rachel Guyer, Head of Service, 07714476110, if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to:

- Their child's protected characteristics
- The cost of the uniform

Parents are expected to lodge any complaints or objections relating to the school uniform in a timely and reasonable manner.

Disputes about the cost of the school uniform will be:

- Resolved locally
- Dealt with in accordance with our school's complaints policy

The school will work closely with parents to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

5.3 Staff

Staff will closely monitor pupils to make sure they are in correct uniform. They will give any pupils and families breaching the uniform policy the opportunity to comply but will follow up with the headteacher if the situation doesn't improve.

In cases where it is suspected that financial hardship has resulted in a pupil not complying with this uniform policy, staff will take a mindful and considerate approach to resolving the situation.

5.4 Governors

The PRU management Committee will review this policy and make sure that it:

- Is appropriate for our school's context
- Is implemented fairly across the school

- Takes into account the views of parents and pupils
- Offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical, and safe for all pupils

The board will also make sure that the school's uniform supplier arrangements give the highest priority to cost and value for money, for example by avoiding single supplier contracts and by re-tendering contracts at least every 5 years.

6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years by the Head of School. At every review, it will be approved by the PRU Management Committee.

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

- Behaviour policy
- Equality information and objectives statement
- Anti-bullying policy
- Complaints policy