

CAMBRIDGE HOUSE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

UNIFORM POLICY

Cambridge House Grammar School takes a genuine pride and pleasure in the appearance of its pupils. When in uniform all pupils are ambassadors and it is important they look and behave appropriately at all times; be it in school, when travelling to and from school or when representing the school at an outside event.

The wearing of a school uniform in Northern Ireland is not governed by legislation but falls to individual schools to determine.

Our policy has been developed in consultation with pupils, parents, staff and relevant outside agencies and with due regard to DENI Guidance to Schools on Uniform Policy.

Aims and Objectives

School uniform plays a valuable role by:

- Encouraging identification with and support for the school ethos;
- Ensuring pupils of all religions, races and backgrounds feel welcome;
- Protecting children from social pressures to dress in a particular way;
- Promoting positive behaviour and a sense of pride in the school;
- Engendering a feeling of community and belonging.

Compliance with Uniform Regulations

The role of Parents

- We require parents/guardians to support their child and the School by ensuring their child conforms to the uniform regulations.
- We believe that parents/guardians have a duty to send their child to school correctly dressed. They should also ensure that the uniform is clean and in good repair.
- A request for an exemption from part of the uniform requirements on the grounds of religion, race or a medical condition must be made in writing by the parents/guardians to the Principal. The school balances the rights of individual pupils against the best interests of the school as a whole to ensure the effective delivery of learning and teaching. (Requests for temporary exemption from part of the uniform requirements should be made in writing by parents/guardians to the relevant Head of Year, e.g. someone with a broken arm or leg.)

The role of Pupils

- Each pupil is expected to wear the school uniform in accordance with School Rules;
- Pupils should ensure they adhere to PE/Games uniform regulations. PE is a compulsory part of the statutory curriculum up to age 16. A change of clothing and footwear for Games and PE is important for reasons of safety, hygiene and to ensure that clothing is suited to the physical activity.
- Each pupil should be aware of the actions which will be taken if uniform regulations are not followed. (Information is available in our Behaviour for Learning Policy and on the school website www.cambridgehouse.org.uk)

The role of Staff

- Form teachers remind pupils of the regulations during Form Time and in Assemblies;
- Form teachers monitor compliance with regulations at the beginning of the school day and subject teachers reinforce these standards;
- Any variation from the Uniform Code which is not sanctioned by the Head of Year or Head of Key Stage is not accepted and may result in contact being made with parents and disciplinary action;
- All staff follow the uniform sanctions and Behaviour for Learning Policy.

Change to Uniform Requirements

- Pupils, parents/guardians, staff and suppliers are consulted about proposed changes to our uniform;
- Pupils and parents/guardians are then notified six months in advance, either by email or post, of any amendments to our uniform requirements;
- There is a transitional period for phasing out an old style of uniform and introducing a new one of at least one year.

Dissemination of Information about the School Uniform

- Details of our uniform requirements are on our website www.cambridgehouse.org.uk;
- The uniform list is issued to parents/guardians annually.

Financial Assistance towards the Cost of the Uniform

- Financial assistance is available through the Education Authorities Clothing Allowance Scheme for some pupils towards the cost of school uniforms;
- The eligibility criteria are the same as those used for free school meals.

Links to other School Documents

The Uniform Policy should be read in conjunction with:

- Uniform list;
- Behaviour for Learning Policy.

These documents are on the school website www.cambridgehouse.org.uk

Review of Uniform Policy

Review of this policy takes place at least once every three years in consultation with pupils, parents, teachers and other relevant outside bodies.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

1. Property

All property brought to School, including uniform items and sports equipment must be clearly marked with the owner's name. Books must be carried in an appropriate school bag – handbags, shopping bags and plastic carrier bags are not acceptable. Reflective strips are advised.

2. Uniform

2.1 Make-up

Make-up is not permitted in Junior School (Years 8 – 10). Pupils in Years 11 and upwards are permitted to wear discreet make-up only (light concealer and/or foundation, and light mascara). If considered inappropriate, they will be asked to remove it and given the means to do so. Members of the Senior Leadership Team and, if necessary, the Board of Governors will be the final arbiters in disagreements.

2.2 Jewellery/Accessories

The wearing of a single, simple gold or silver stud in each earlobe only is permitted. These must be removed for PE and Games. Hair accessories must be discreet. Pupils may wear a watch.

2.3 Hair Colour and Style

No unnatural hair colours/combinations or extreme hairstyles are permitted.

2.4 Badges

The School presents badges for a range of achievements. Only these, or approved charity badges may be worn.

2.5 Piercings

With the exception of the regulation relating to earrings, visible piercings are not permitted.

2.6 Accepted Dress Code for Non-Uniform Days

On occasions, non-uniform days are held in support of charitable causes. On such days, pupils must wear clothing and footwear suitable for a school environment. Clothing must be modest (e.g. low cut tops, backless tops or exposed midriffs, shorts, miniskirts and sports tops are forbidden).

2.6 Study Leave and Examination Periods

Pupils, who choose to come into school during periods of study leave, must wear school uniform. During examination periods, full school uniform must be worn.

2.7 Cultural Considerations

The School will seek to be sensitive to the needs of those of different cultures, races and religions. Queries should be addressed to the Vice-Principal or Chair of the Board of Governors.

2.8 Uniform during periods of Severe Weather

When worn in accordance with school regulations, the uniform provides appropriate protection against the weather. However, during exceptional periods when a severe weather warning for ice/snow for Northern Ireland has been issued by the Met Office, it is even more important that pupils dress warmly and keep dry whilst still maintaining high standards of uniform. **For these periods only**, there may be slight amendments to the uniform as follows:

- Pupils should wear their blazer and, over this, a rainproof jacket or regulation school coat;
- It is recommended that pupils wear a scarf (regulation) and gloves.
- A head covering such as a woolly hat (plain colour, red, green or black) may be permitted when pupils are travelling to and from school. This must be removed immediately on arrival at school;
- Layers may be worn beneath the school blouse, providing they are light in colour and not visible at the neck or wrists;
- A Cambridge House Grammar School hoodie may be worn under the blazer when a pupil is travelling to and from school. This must be removed **immediately** on arrival at school. Non-regulation fleeces, hoodies, etc are **not** permitted.

2.9 Travelling

Unless otherwise advised, pupils are expected to wear correct school uniform to and from School including the blazer. Only the approved school scarf is permitted.

Pupils are advised to ensure that they may be seen clearly by motorists, perhaps by having reflective strips on their schoolbag.

Uniform Infringements

Pupils who do not conform to the expected standards of uniform will be asked to correct the issue. If necessary, communication will be made with parents and/or the Behaviour for Learning Policy applied.