



Kingsdown School Uniform – Frequently Asked Questions

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Where does it say my child has to wear a uniform at Kingsdown?

When your child joined Kingsdown School, you completed a Student Entry Pack. Within this is a Home/School Agreement in which you signed the parent/carer section in agreement to “Support the school’s policy on uniform, behaviour and homework.” In addition, your child signed their part of the agreement to “Wear my school uniform and be tidy in appearance.”

Why do students have to wear a uniform?

In the UK, 98% of secondary schools require students to wear a uniform following the recommendation of the Department for Education.

There are many benefits to students to wearing a school uniform including promoting a sense of belonging and pride in one’s school. Wearing a uniform promotes inclusivity by eliminating visible signs of wealth or social status and helps ensure that all students are treated equally. This can contribute to a more respectful atmosphere and prevent bullying based on appearance or clothing choices.

By adhering to a dress code, students learn the importance of following rules and regulations, which helps prepare them for future professional settings where a suitable appearance is essential. Wearing a uniform teaches students that different situations require appropriate dress codes and fosters a sense of responsibility and accountability.

What has wearing a uniform got to do with how students learn?

Some people question how the colour of a student's socks or the fit of their trousers has any impact on their ability to learn. As outlined above, the purpose of a cohesive uniform for all students is about many aspects of the social situation and expectations students experience at school, and not about how they learn. School is not just about learning subjects but also about becoming prepared for life after school when students move on to college, training or working life.

Kingsdown school culture is underpinned by the Kingsdown BEATs in which each and every student is encouraged and supported to live up to the 6 BEATs with their requirements of Pride and Ambition, Stretch and Challenge, and Respect and Responsibility and in all they do. Wearing the school uniform forms part of this culture and engenders pride, respect and responsibility in the students.

What if my child is unable to wear some items of uniform?

The Kingsdown School uniform must be worn by all students at all times as confirmed in the Home/School agreement. Our Behaviour Policy states that the school will implement measures where appropriate including:

“Adjusting uniform requirements for a student with sensory issues or relevant medical condition.”

If you feel your child may need a reasonable adjustment to their uniform, please email our Inclusion Team at SENDCO@kingsdownschool.co.uk.

How do students borrow uniform?

We have a stock of new and donated uniform which we loan out to students who need to borrow it for the day. This may include when items are forgotten, temporarily lost, damaged or do not fit the Kingsdown Dress Code Policy (see below). Items are only loaned out for the school day and must be returned at the end of school and not taken home. As such, when students borrow an item of uniform they are required to swap their phone to ensure that they return the uniform at the end of the day.

Why are students required to swap their phone for uniform?

Students are asked to swap their phone because they are not permitted to use their phone during the school day anyway, and as a valued item, they are most likely to collect it and return the borrowed uniform at the end of the day. Our Behaviour Policy states that:

“Phones must not be used at any time – including before school, break time and lunch time. Phones are permitted to be used after the school day and whilst on the school site when it is safe and timely to do so. Phone must always be switched off (not on silent mode) and kept out of view.”

The complete Behaviour Policy can be found here: <https://www.kingsdownschool.co.uk/info/policies>

Are students sanctioned for borrowing uniform?

Students are not sanctioned if they borrow uniform in exchange for their phone, because they are correctly following the school policy. However, where we have items to lend students and they refuse to follow this policy and correct their uniform, they will be sanctioned. If students wear non-uniform items such as hoodies or excessive jewellery, this will be confiscated for the day and -1 point will be deducted.

What if my child needs to contact me or I need to contact them?

Students are not prevented from contacting home when necessary and can do so by attending the main school reception or Student Services. If deemed appropriate, students will be permitted to call parents/carers on their mobile phone at these locations. Alternatively, staff will contact parents/carers for students to speak to. For example, students will be able to call if arrangements for going home change or they need homework brought in to school.

If a parent/carer wishes to contact their child at school, they should call the school directly on 01793 822284. Staff are always available to pass on messages to students and where appropriate to allow parents/carers to speak to students. Students are not permitted to use their phones during the school day, even to contact parents/carers, and doing so may result in their phone being confiscated as stated in our school Behaviour Policy.

Is there any support to purchase uniform?

A Financial Support form can be found at the bottom of this webpage:

<https://www.kingsdownschool.co.uk/info/disadvantaged-students>.

You can complete this form if you feel that you would benefit from support to purchase uniform or other items such as equipment and help with school trips. You can specify the uniform items you would like help to buy and in some cases the school may be able to donate second hand items. The form should be completed online and will be reviewed by our safeguarding team who may contact you for further information and when a decision has been made about your request. You can also discuss any concerns or changes in circumstances with your child's tutor and/or progress leader.

Where can I purchase plain black polyester tracksuit bottoms?

Kingsdown uniform requires that students wear plain black polyester tracksuit bottoms without stripes or logos (unless it's a Kingsdown logo). Students are not permitted to wear jersey jogging bottoms or leggings. The following are links to shops where appropriate tracksuit bottoms can be purchased at a variety of costs and sizes to fit all students.

- Kingsdown School track pant with logo:
<https://www.uniform-direct.com/acatalog/Kingsdown-School---Track-Pant-3494.html>
- Plain black polyester track pant:
<https://www.uniform-direct.com/acatalog/Slim-Fit-Track-Pant-BLACK.html>
- Plain black children's tracksuit bottoms:
https://www.decathlon.co.uk/p/kids-warm-breathable-jogging-bottoms-s500-navy/_/R-p-323559?mc=8578541&c=smoked+black
- Plain black adult's tracksuit bottoms:
https://www.amazon.co.uk/Elasticated-Tracksuit-Bottoms-TrousersComfortable/dp/B01KG9KON2?source=ps-sl-shoppingads-lpcontext&ref_=fplfs&smid=A3935H3DUCHAPR&th=1&psc=1

Can I buy uniform from Kingsdown School?

Branded Kingsdown uniform items including blazers, ties, skirts and PE polo shirts and fleeces can be purchased from the Uniform Direct shop here:

<https://www.uniform-direct.com/acatalog/Kingsdown-School.html>

The only item of uniform you can buy from school is a tie, which costs £6, the same price as if you purchased it from Uniform Direct. All purchases of ties must be made by card payment in person at reception or over the phone. If a student moves house group and requires a different coloured tie, they can exchange their tie if it is in good condition and receive a £1 discount for the new tie. In some cases, students may be able to swap their tie for a different colour at Student Services, however the colours available are dependent on what has been donated.

What is the Kingsdown student dress code?

Student Dress Code

At Kingsdown School, we have the highest standards, and the presentation of our uniform is no exception. Our uniform must be worn with pride at all times.

The expectations are clearly outlined below, and there are no exceptions.

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| Uniform Item | Acceptable | Not acceptable |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| Blazer* | Navy Business Blazer with school logo, with bright royal blue trimmed lapel To be worn at all times (unless advised otherwise in hot weather) | Rolled up sleeves Tied round waist |
| Tie* | Kingsdown School Tie Traditional size Proper knot by top button Full and upright lion logo must be visible Tie colour band is House colour | Untied, loose, or large knot Tie without lion logo visible Visible top button Clip on tie (necessary exceptions) |
| Trousers | Mid Grey Flat or pleated front Straight. Standard fit | Cropped, skinny or flared Denim, jeans, leggings, pin stripes Fashion trim Large belts or buckles More than one pair of trousers worn at the same time |
| Skirt ♦ | Optional Kingsdown blue tartan skirt Knee length | Shorter than knee length Any skirt other than Kingsdown blue tartan Rolled up at the waist band |
| Shirt/blouse | Plain white Long or short sleeved Long enough to be tucked in at all times Buttoned to neck Traditional collar to take a tie | Untucked Coloured, patterned or fashion trim Capped sleeves Too short to tuck in Skinny fit |
| Jumper ♦ | Plain Navy knitted V-neck jumper Must be worn in addition to blazer | Sweatshirt material with branding Cardigan Incorrect colour(s) Round necked Without blazer |
| Shoes | Black conventional school shoes Flat or low heeled No visible logo Polish-able | Boots, sandals, trainers Canvas, daps, Heels over 3cm |
| Socks / tights ♦ | Plain black ankle socks Tights must be natural, black or grey | Coloured (including white), patterned or branded socks or tights |

♦ These items are optional

* These items should be purchased direct from our uniform supplier

| Other Items | Acceptable | Not acceptable |
|---------------------|---|---|
| Outdoor Coat | Sensible outdoor coat Any colour, plain | Hoodie style (full zip up or overhead) Sports jacket/tracksuit Sports stripes Leather/denim |
| Jewellery | One small stud earring on lower lobe One Charity bracelet One simple watch One signet ring Items of religious dress All jewellery to be removed for PE | Piercings other than permitted Stretchers or plugs Any other Jewellery other than permitted In appropriate use of smart watches Fashion accessories |
| Make up | Natural, Very Discreet barely visible | Nail varnish, False/acrylic nails, False eye lashes Heavy/noticeable make up Lipstick |
| Hair | Of natural colour only | Extreme fashion/styles Hair dye other than natural colours Shaven patterns |
| Mobile Phone | Turned off and put in school bag | In pockets, turned on or in hands |
| School Bag | Black/dark coloured Suitable and comfortable to carry several A4 sized text books | Smaller than A4 |

All uniform items must be clearly named.
In all matters of uniform and dress code, the decision of the Senior Leadership Team is final.



What is the Kingsdown uniform for PE?

PE Uniform Policy

PE Uniform Policy

* These items should be purchased directly from our uniform supplier

| PE Kit Item | Acceptable | Not acceptable |
|---|---|--|
| Kingsdown Fleece* | ¾ Zip Black with school logo | Any other, including navy school jumper |
| Kingsdown Polo shirt | Navy blue with school logo | Any other |
| Kingsdown Shorts* | Plain black with school logo, plain black cycling shorts are permitted underneath | Any other colour, lycra, shorts below the knee |
| Skorts (optional) | Plain black only or Kingsdown logo, plain black cycling shorts are permitted underneath | Skirt without fixed undershorts |
| Tracksuit bottoms (optional) | Plain black polyester only or Kingsdown logo | Sweatpant style, cotton jogging bottoms. Any other colour, overly tight/baggy, stripes, logos. More than one pair of tracksuit bottoms worn at the same time |
| Kingsdown Rugby Top* (optional) | Recommended for all students doing rugby as it does not rip if pulled | Any other |
| Socks | Long plain black, or trainer socks which cannot be seen | Any other colour, no logos |
| Trainers | Trainers that provide good foot support | Daps, canvas shoes, converse, vans style, Fashion shoes. Unsupportive trainers |
| Football boots compulsory for contact-rugby) | Recommended for football, rugby, cross-country, both metal or moulded are acceptable however no metal studs are allowed on the 3G | Blades |
| Shin pads (optional) | Recommended for all students doing football and hockey | - |
| Gum shield (optional) | Recommended for all students doing rugby and hockey | - |
| Roll-On/ Wet wipes (optional) | Recommended for all students | Deodorant or antiperspirant spray |
| Students will be allowed to wear a school coat to and from school with their PE kit but should not wear their school blazer or navy v-neck jumper with their PE Kit. | | |