



RUSHDEN PRIMARY ACADEMY

Uniform Policy

Respect yourself and others
Take **pride** in your environment
Achieve your goals

REVIEW PROCESS

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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. Expectations for school uniform

We take **pride** in ourselves and our appearance. Rushden Primary Academy has strict guidelines on school dress and all primary pupils are expected to wear the full Academy uniform. The wearing of our distinctive uniform gives pupils a sense of 'belonging', helps foster **pride** in the Academy and stops pupils coming to school in inappropriate clothing or footwear.

School uniform plays a key role in promoting **pride**, self-confidence, and a feeling of belonging within the student body. These factors contribute to students' wellbeing, removing the additional pressures of deciding what to wear and added stress of meeting the expectations of their peers. Uniform removes the points of difference between students, thus unifying the student body and providing a greater focus on academic work.

Wearing a uniform sets a boundary by placing a pupil in a 'working environment' mindset and helps them separate their home and school life. School uniform places children on a level playing field, reducing the pressure to wear the latest fashionable brands.

The Academy recognises the financial constraints put on some families in the current climate, so this policy has been adapted to include universal alternatives to the branded uniform. Branded fashion clothing is not permitted at the Academy unless it is a dress-down day. If you are in receipt of the Pupil Premium Grant or are simply struggling to provide appropriate uniform for your child, and would like assistance in this, please speak to the school office.

At RPA, there are basic uniform requirements which must always be adhered to.

These basic requirements are:

- Shoes must be black, sensible ones for Academy use, flat soled or with very low heels no more than two centimetres high. **Plain black or white trainers are permitted on PE days.**
- We will not allow tattoos, make-up, nail varnish, false nails, dyed hair (single colour or multiple) or hair extensions.
- Excessive hair styles are strongly discouraged and decisions about the suitability of an individual style are the responsibility of the Principal, whose decision will be final.
- All modest hair accessories should be in the Academy colours.
- Jewellery is not allowed, except for one pair of plain ear studs worn in the earlobe. Hooped earrings, rings, nose studs or other facial jewellery and make-up are not allowed.

3. Our 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.

We will ensure that our approach to uniform confirm with these duties and obligations.

We will also remain mindful at all times of the need for reasonable adjustments to be made in response to a protected characteristic or to a pupil's special educational needs or disabilities.

4. Uniform Guidance

Uniform for pupils in Reception and Years 1, 2, 3 and 4

- Academy polo shirt with logo and collar stripes*
- Mid-grey trousers or knee-length skirt or knee-length pinafore dress (jeans and cords are not allowed)
- Academy pullover or cardigan, in purple, with the Academy logo
- Black or grey socks with trousers. Grey or white socks or tights with skirts
- Academy book bag to carry books and equipment
- Sensible black shoes



** Parents may also buy white, grey, or purple non-branded alternatives from universal school uniform stock.*

Uniform for pupils in Years 5 and 6

- Plain white school shirt (not polo shirts)
- Academy tie
- Mid-Grey trousers or knee-length skirt or knee-length pinafore dress (jeans and cords are not allowed)
- Black or grey socks with trousers. Grey or white socks or tights with skirts
- Academy pullover or cardigan, in purple, with the Academy logo
- Academy book bag to carry books and equipment.
- Sensible black shoes



In the summer, shorts or a lightweight summer dress may be worn.

Uniform for PE days

- Academy PE t-shirt (or a plain white/purple alternative)
- Academy PE shorts or **plain, black jogging trousers** (if cycling shorts have been purchased, they should come down to the knee)
- Academy purple hooded jumper (or a **plain, black or purple non-branded jumper**)
- Plain black or white trainers
- Long hair must be tied back for PE days
- Earrings must be removed for PE

All non-Academy PE kit must be unbranded.

All uniform and PE items, including the Book bags, should be clearly marked with a pupil's full name.

5. Limiting the cost of school uniform

We have 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 understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that have to have a school logo or a unique fabric/colour/design) cannot be purchased from a wide range of retailers and that requiring many such items limits parents' ability to 'shop around' for a low price.

We will make sure our uniform

- is available at a reasonable cost.
- provides the best value for money for parents/carers.

We will do this by

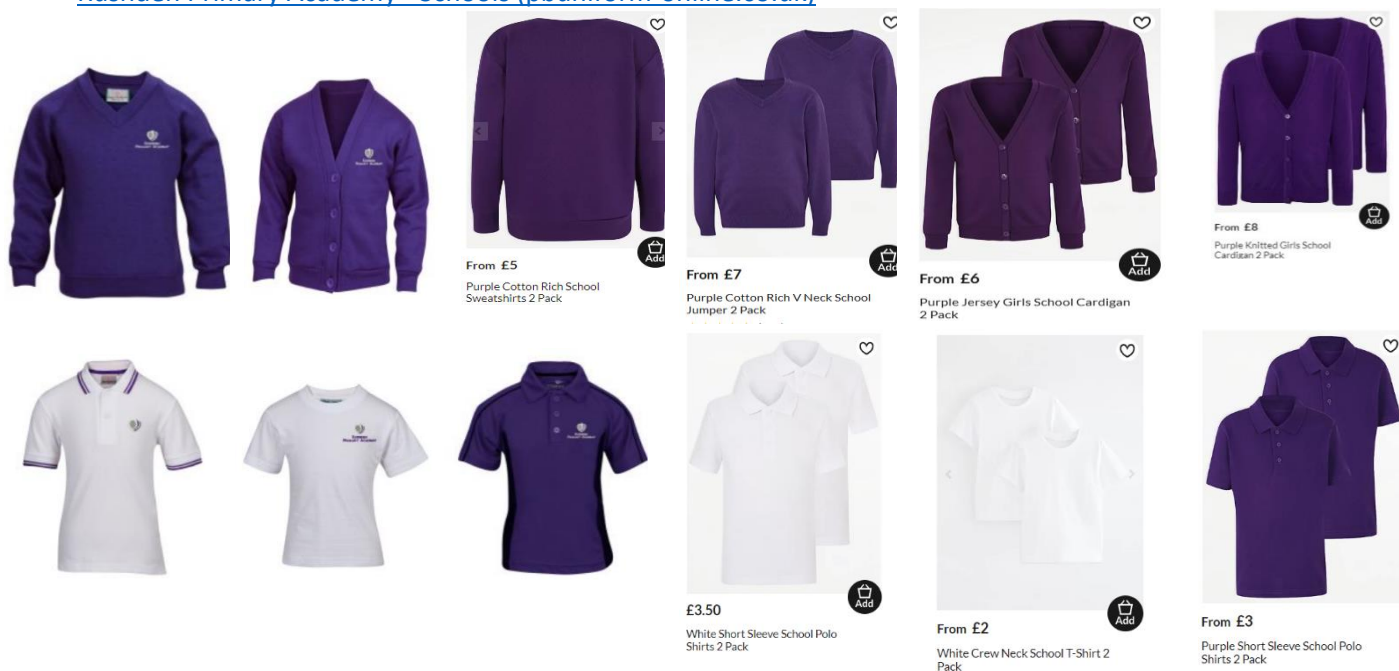
- carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary and limiting any items with distinctive characteristics where possible.
- avoiding specific requirements for generic items, such as coats, bags and shoes.
- keeping the number of optional branded items to a minimum, so that the school's uniform can act as a social leveller.
- making sure that arrangements are in place for parents to acquire second-hand uniform items.

6. Where to buy uniform

Below are images of the Academy's uniform with suitable universally bought alternatives. These alternatives were sourced from Asda on 22/07/2025. This list is not exhaustive but compiled to give a representation of Academy expectations.

RPA uniform can be ordered via Price and Buckland:

[Rushden Primary Academy - Schools \(pbuniform-online.co.uk\)](http://pbuniform-online.co.uk)





OSBORNE
VANN
SANDERS
BATES

(sourced from Asda on 22/07/2025)

An optional coloured House t-shirt can be worn during house celebration events, PE lessons and sporting events. Please contact the school office if you need advice on which House your child is part of.

Examples of appropriate footwear (Sourced: Asda)



From £18
Black Leather Double Strap School Shoes



From £15
Black Floral Cat Mary Jane School Shoes



From £10
Black Mesh Single Strap Trainers



From £10
White Mesh Single Strap Trainers

We appreciate that non-branded trainers are not always available in sports shops and can be difficult to source once feet start getting larger. Therefore, branded trainers for PE are permitted so long as they are plain black or white or have a discreet logo. Here are some examples of acceptable branded trainers.



If your child cannot meet the uniform expectations on a particular day, for whatever reason, please communicate this with your child's class teacher either in person or on Dojo. Alternatively, contact the office on: admin@rushdenprimaryacademy.org, if you need support in ensuring your child has access to appropriate Academy uniform.

7. School Swap Shop



The cost of school uniform can be daunting and is yet another financial pressure on many families. From Spring 2025, to help families save money and reduce waste, we have introduced our "Swap Shop."

We encourage parents to exchange good-quality unwanted uniform for other donated items. Families can bring in any clean items of uniform in good condition, that are no longer needed and donate to our Swap Shop and/or swap them for another item.