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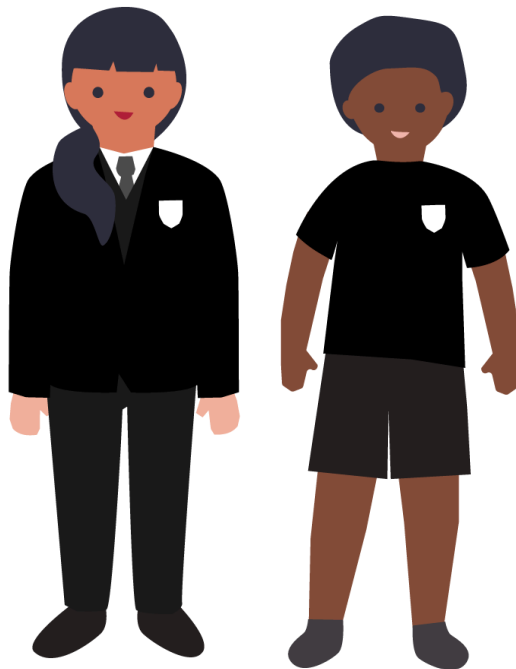
Co-op Academy
Manchester

Dear Parents and Carers,

We're pleased to share an important update about uniforms. New national legislation, introduced through the *Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill*, requires schools to reduce branded items and lower costs. We fully support this, and wanted to let you know as soon as possible that changes are coming to our uniforms which will be in place by September 2026.

In this new policy we are reducing branded items across our Trust, and the new uniform will be as follows:

Our New Uniform



Academy Uniform

Black Academy Logo Blazer
Black Academy Logo V-Neck Jumper
(Optional)
School Tie
Traditional white shirt with a collar
Plain black tailored trousers
Plain black smart shoes

PE Uniform

Black PE T-Shirt
Plain black tracksuit bottoms or plain black
football shorts
Trainers

What does this mean for you?

Any items no longer in the new uniform policy do not need to be replaced before September 2026 if your child wears them out or outgrows them in this time. We expect all children to adhere to the new policy from September 2026.

If you have a jumper with a red stripe (jumpers are optional under our existing and new policy), these are being discontinued as part of the new uniform policy and replaced with a plain black branded jumper (no stripe). You are welcome to continue wearing the striped jumper until it needs replacing.

As part of Co-op Academies Trust, we are working together to have a single supplier across all schools, this supplier will hopefully be in place by September 2027. The goal of this project is to further reduce costs for our families. We will be in touch with details when we have them.

Trousers

We are introducing a single school uniform for all students in our Secondary Schools. This means that all students will wear trousers at school. This has been informed by research showing that traditional uniform options, particularly skirts and dresses, can limit pupils' comfort, confidence, and participation in school life (Dr Mairead Ryan, 2024; Dr Alice Porter, 2025). More practical options, such as trousers, support active learning and are better suited to the full range of school activities, including practical subjects like science, construction, and engineering, as well as everyday movement around the school.

We are also mindful that items such as pinafores and tights can increase costs for families due to frequent replacement (The Children's Society, 2023). As a trust committed to equality and inclusion, we believe a more flexible uniform could help ensure all students feel comfortable and able to fully engage in school life. We value your feedback and invite you to share your views in the upcoming Edurio survey.

Please ensure your child is wearing plain black tailored trousers from September 2026, acceptable styles will be clarified on the academy website by Easter.

Specific guidance will be on your academy's website by the Easter Holidays. Please reference this.

Many Thanks

Co-op Academies Trust