



The Forge School

Uniform Policy

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Context

Pupils attending the Forge are some of the most vulnerable children in the community coming to us at a point of crisis in their lives: they have been permanently excluded from their mainstream school and find themselves facing any number of challenges, directly or indirectly, associated with that permanent exclusion. Our pupils often come to us with gaps in their learning and unmet or unaddressed SEND challenges that serve as further obstacles to their engagement in learning.

In addition to this, it is not uncommon for our pupils to face other social and community challenges which can be intergenerational in their nature and scale. Sometimes there will be additional agencies working with pupils and their families to provide support to them; at other times this is a gap that we will seek to fill through appropriate referrals.

While a conventional approach to education has thus far failed to meet the needs of our pupils, our role is to manage and respond to these challenges in a resilient, creative, boundaried and safe way that allows us to meet the pupils where they are by adapting our approach within the wider societal structures available to support us in meeting these needs.

Introduction

The Forge believes that wearing a uniform in school can help pupils that they are part of something: a community that cares for and supports them. It is an important element of the school's efforts to foster a sense of identity and purpose for our pupils. It is also a societal norm and expectation in mainstream schools. At the same time, we also understand that 'uniform' in mainstream schools, for some pupils, can be the starting point of an interaction with staff that escalates into a more serious behavioural concern.

Purpose

Our approach to uniform attempts to balance these various demands and tensions. It offers pupils a uniform that they can and will wear. This allows pupils to be successful in meeting a whole school expectation: they are wearing the same clothing as the other pupils – a uniform. For pupils who are returning to mainstream school, being successful at meeting the uniform expectation in one setting provides them with a solid foundation to succeed in meeting the uniform expectation in another setting.

At the same time, it allows the older pupils to complete their educational experience at The Forge in a way that prepares them to meet dress code expectations for their next steps. It does also take into account pupil voice and attempts to meet their needs from a uniform.

The Uniform Expectation

Key Stage 3

The school uniform for Key Stage 3 pupils at The Forge Secondary Short Stay School consists of:

- **Clothing**
 - the black school uniform sweatshirt with the Forge School logo;
 - the black school uniform polo-shirt or light t-shirt with the Forge School logo; and
 - a pair of plain black tracksuit bottoms.
- **Footwear**
 - pupils must wear black trainers or shoes to school.

Key Stage 4

The school uniform for Key Stage 4 pupils at The Forge Secondary Short Stay School consists of:

- **Clothing**
 - o the black school uniform 'hoodie' with The Forge School logo; **or**
 - o the black school uniform polo-shirt or light t-shirt with the Forge School logo; **and**
 - o a pair of plain black tracksuit bottoms

- **Footwear**
 - o pupils may wear plain black trainers *or* shoes to school.

If a pupil arrives at school and they are not wearing this uniform, they may be asked to return home to change into that item of uniform so that they can return to school to begin their day of learning.

Any absence from school resulting from this will be recorded as unauthorised absence – parents or carers will be contacted to inform them that we are sending a pupil home so that they can change into the appropriate item of uniform.

Uniform Provided

Pupils are provided with the following items of uniform:

- o a black school uniform sweatshirt with The Forge School logo (Years 7-9);
- o a black school uniform 'hoodie' with The Forge logo (Year 10&11);
- o the black school uniform polo-shirt or light t-shirt with the Forge School Logo

While the school understands that pupils sometimes lose items of clothing, and that clothing does get damaged, if this becomes a regular pattern or occurrence, the school may, if appropriate, ask for a financial contribution from parents for replacement items of clothing.

Pupils attending The Forge for short periods of time will be required to wear school uniform which will be loaned to the pupils by the school with an agreement signed by parents/carers stipulating the uniform is loaned and if not returned parents/carers may be charged for a replacement.