

Kelso High School

Dress Code Guide 2024-2025



At Kelso High School we have long had a dress code with the intention of creating a strong sense of school identity.

We have created this guide to ensure parents and carers can access information on dress code items and where to find them. For our learners, it gives a clear indication of items that should or should not be worn. This guide has been co-created as part of a consultation that gathered learner, parent/carer and staff views during May 2024.

Please see the steps below and read on for more information about the process and decisions we have made following feedback from our school community.

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WHAT DID WE DO?

Consultation &
information gathering

2

WHAT DID WE FIND?

Feedback from surveys
& groups

3

WHAT NEXT?

Dress Code moving
forward from August
2024

What did we do & why?

In May 2024, a small group of staff met to discuss how learners were presenting in school in terms of clothing. It was felt that whilst many young people came to school dressed smartly and appropriately, a growing number were not. This was providing challenges including health and safety concerns, hygiene issues, concerns about appropriateness of certain items and a lack of identification with being part of the school community.

We shared a survey with parents and carers to try and identify some of their thoughts around dress code. We had in excess of 150 responses with some follow up phone calls to gain further insight.

In addition to this, a series of learner focus groups were held to gather input from the young people themselves on



their views. Those involved were across all year groups to ensure we had complete coverage of current learners' opinions.

Gathering all these viewpoints was important in terms of understanding what people were happy with and where changes or improvements could be made. In order to come to an informed position on dress code, taking on board a range of views has been essential.

CURRENT DRESS CODE

The school dress is as follows:

- White Blouse/Shirt
- School Tie (black)
- Black Skirt/Trousers
- Black Jumper/Cardigan (S1 – S5)
- Black Shoes (not trainers)

S6 pupils will be asked to wear a different coloured jersey that is selected by them annually so that they are easily recognised both within the school and wider community.

No hooded tops will be worn as part of the uniform, although it will be possible to wear these as part of their PE kit.

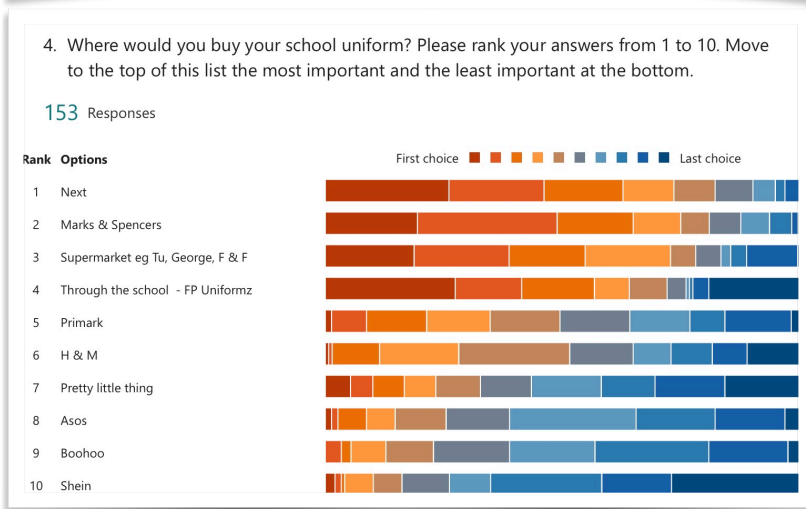
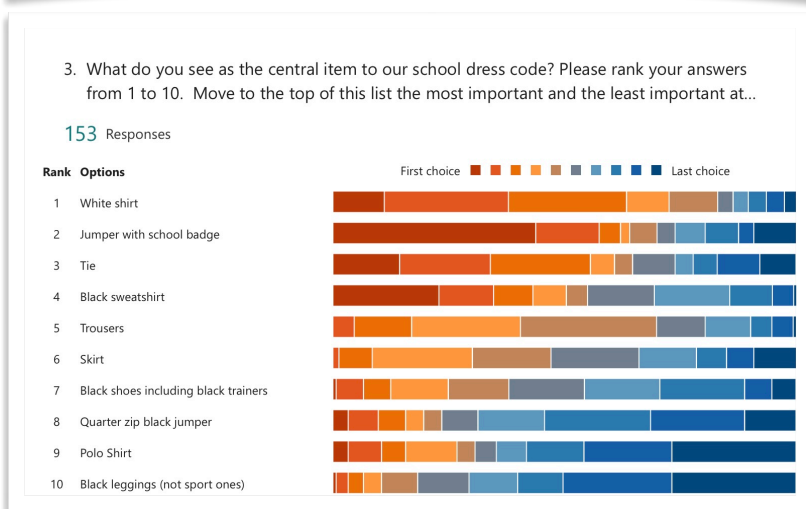
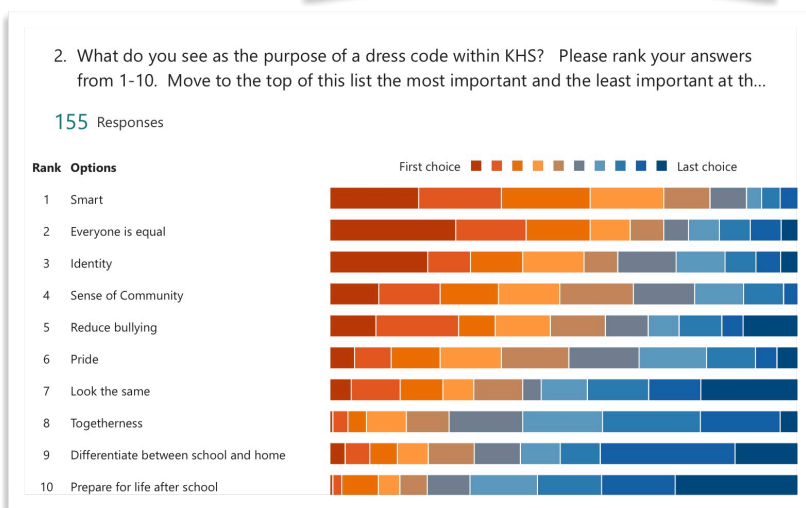
What did Parents & Carers tell us?

Included in the survey were three questions that asked for a ranking to be applied to allow us to really get a handle on respondents' opinions on: the purpose of School Dress Code; what respondents felt were the central items that were most important; and finally the likely places where people bought clothing items from for their young person.

When responding about the **key purpose** of dress code, responses suggested that most importance was placed upon it being **smart**, providing a sense of **identity** or **community** and that it supported **equality**.

When responding about **what should be the central items** to our dress code, responses placed most importance on a **jumper with school badge**, closely followed by **black sweatshirt, white shirt and tie**.

When responding about **where most parents/ carers bought items** for school, the majority of respondents told us this was from **Marks & Spencers, Next, supermarkets and school supplier (FP Uniforms)**.



What did Parents & Carers tell us?

We were grateful for the feedback provided by all Parents and Carers as a vital part of our review. A selection of comments are given below:

“A blazer would be smart, regulation school skirts, maybe tartan.”

“Boys black shorts in the summer.”

“I do think the school needs to disallow other non-uniform clothing items.”

“Allowing children to wear comfortable, non itchy black sweaters, black trainers rather than smart school shoes.”

“No badges or embroidery.”

“Keeping items plain so they can be bought in any shop depending on budget.”

“Have pre-loved clothes sales/swaps.”

“Jumpers from FP Uniformz are too expensive. A plain black v-neck jumper (not sweatshirt) from high street store or supermarket is just as smart and not as costly.”

“Skirt stipulation, length and style.”

“Pls don't have branded items - they are too expensive. Please don't ask families to pay for a new jumper for S6 - it is a terrible waste.”



“No, although definitely need to allow black trousers (including smart, clean, plain jeans) particularly for girls.”

“Work with local supermarkets is Sainsbury's to have plenty of stock of staples.”

“Don't find uniform expensive.”

“Don't allow visible branding on clothing....particularly jumpers.”

“Provide a uniform that is affordable for all families that all kids have to wear.”

“Ask parents to donate past uniform to an area in school with a clothing rail where children can choose clothing of their size and taste. Children in Kelso are happy to use charity shops for environmental reasons, I think this idea would suit their thought process. A clothing rail selling at a reduced cost could help school funds and help students to purchase something they would like and can afford. I also think school bags/sport equipment or calculators for example. It could be a good way to control uniform for younger years coming in. I have heard that schools in Newcastle achieve this with great success.”

What did Learners tell us?



- Learners welcomed the introduction of a cotton, quarter zip jumper.
- Learners did not want the KHS badge embroidered on to the quarter zip jumper.
- Learners were happy with any of the following items in dress code: skirt, tights, trousers or black jeans with no fading or distressed areas.
- All learners liked the idea of pin badges, requested magnetic pin badges and would like pin badges for groups and extra curricular activities.
- Learners liked the idea of school pin badges as a way to create more identity.
- Wearing a shirt was the area of concern for a small number of learners - issues included sweat problems, see through and uncomfortable when hot.
- A small number of learners asked if a dark or white polo shirt would be acceptable.
- Some learners would like just the school crest on the v-neck jumper.
- Learners liked the idea of school pin badges as a way to create more identity.

Staff Discussions

The staff working group met initially to discuss where we felt School Dress Code was in terms of its relevance and importance, but also in response to concerns shared around issues raised by the wider staff. As part of this, we looked at others schools and did some back ground reading (please see the hyperlinks included below).

We felt that many of our young people were attending school in items that were covered under our current Dress Code, but evidence also suggested a significant amount of inappropriate or unwanted items being worn.

Staff from some departments raised health and safety concerns around hooded tops being worn in workshops and flammable materials in labs. In these areas, a small number of learners were refusing to remove these items in order to be ready to learn.

An increasing number of learners were attending school in PE kit, without a change of clothing. It was felt that this was problematic for hygiene reasons and also in terms of not looking part of the school community.



As a group we also recognised that some change was required in order to support our learners in accessing dress code. We discussed footwear, jeans, 1/4 zip jumpers and shorts as items that all merited a renewed focus on their place in the dress code.

USEFUL READING ON SCHOOL DRESS CODE & UNIFORM

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/analysis-report-responses-consultation-school-uniform-scotland/pages/8/>

<https://cpag.org.uk/what-we-do/project-work/cost-school-day/resources/ideas-bank/learners/sharing-views-parliament>

https://www.heraldscotland.com/business_hq/20209109.scottish-school-uniform-rules-can-much-harm-good/

What items are we proposing for school dress code?

Following consultation the following items are proposed for School Dress Code from August 2024:

- White shirt
- School tie
- Black v-neck or sweatshirt (no logos)
- **Black, cotton/wool 1/4 zip top***
- Black school trousers
- Black skirt
- **Black jeans (no fading, rips or distressed detail)***
- **Smart Black shorts***
- **Predominantly black footwear***

* Denotes update for August 2024



DRESS CODE – AUGUST 2024

- We have retained a white school shirt as a central item for learners as a result of feedback from parents.
- We have added a black 1/4 zip (cotton or wool) as an optional item as a result of feedback from learners.
- We have added black jeans (no fading, rips or distressed detail) as an optional item because finding trousers, especially for girls, can be difficult.
- We have added smart black shorts as an additional item. This may suit some of our younger learners during the summer term.
- There is no requirement for any dress code items to have embroidered school logos. These options exist for those who would like to purchase them through our official supplier.

What items would not meet school dress code?

A school is a place of learning and work. We would ask our school community to be mindful of the items we would prefer not to be worn for school:

- Hoodies (except for PE)
- Jogging bottoms (except for PE)
- Ripped or distressed jeans
- Coloured clothing and shoes
- Leggings (except for PE)
- Vest tops or crop tops.
- Items with inappropriate slogans or images

Departmental Guidance

Science Department

Flammable clothing (Lycra and nylon material) will not be accepted in labs or workshops. Learners will be asked to remove these items to ensure they are safe in a practical environment. If learners arrive at a practical class with these items on, they are not ready to learn and may miss out on important aspects of the course.

Craft, Design & Technology Department

Learners will be asked to remove items of clothing that could pose a risk to them and themselves around tools and machinery. If learners arrive at a practical class with these items on, they are not ready to learn and may miss out on important aspects of the course.

Physical Education Department

All learners should attend PE with a change of kit to ensure they are ready to learn - even if not participating. Suitable tasks or roles can be allocated in this instance to ensure learning and participation still takes place. It also ensures that in the event of poor weather, learners have warm, dry clothes to change back into. A t-shirt, hoody or sweatshirt with shorts, joggers or leggings are all acceptable. Learners should make sure that trainers are clean and dry with non-marking soles. In instances of changeable weather, learners should consider their choice of clothing to suit the elements. Having a change of kit ensures better personal health and hygiene for learners after lessons in the PE Department.

Where can we get Dress Code items?

As a result of our contact with parents it became clear that we could offer more information on sourcing clothing for school. Please see below:



School Clothing partner: FP Uniformz are our current Clothing Partner.

<https://fpuniformz.com>



High street Suppliers: Marks & Spencers and Next were regularly mentioned by survey respondents when talking about **quality of items and lifespan**.

<https://www.marksandspencer.com/l/kids/school-uniform>

<https://www.next.co.uk/back-to-school>
SCHOOL SWAP SHOP - PRE LOVED CLOTHING

Parent/Carer feedback told us that a Swap Shop for items in good condition is something we should do. We will consider how best to facilitate this, but are committed to supporting this development from August 2024.

Things we are currently planning for:

- A process for the gathering of items
- Storage of items
- A process for making items available - including how we share our inventory with the school community



Supermarket Options: Supermarkets were highlighted as a great option from an **affordability** perspective

<https://tuclighting.sainsburys.co.uk/browse/school-uniform/boys/c:842051/?tag=tu:browse:clp:school-uniform:m050:boys>

<https://direct.asda.com/george/school-uniform/D10,default,sc.html>

<https://www.tesco.com/zones/clothing/school-uniform>

**SCHOOL UNIFORM SALE
DATES 2024**

**Aldi £5 School Uniform Bundle
Thursday 4th July**

**M&S 20% off All School
Uniform Tuesday 2nd July**

**George Asda - selected items
currently reduced online**

**Sainsbury's 25% off School
Uniform Wednesday 19th June**

**Tesco 25% off School Uniform
Tuesday 23rd July**