

Sixth Form Dress Code Policy

It is a sixth form privilege not to wear school uniform and while sixth formers rightly enjoy greater freedoms than younger students, they also carry a responsibility to set the tone in a school community that benefits from clarity, high standards and visible aspiration.

The school expects that you will dress suitably and avoid extremes of fashion. Many outsiders judge the school by the appearance of its sixth formers and younger students look to the sixth form students as role models. If you have to stop and think about whether what you are wearing is suitable, then it is probably not!

The dress code is reviewed annually and the following has been agreed for the academic year 2025-2026.

Rules

The following represents the expected dress code in Sixth Form MONDAY-THURSDAY, Terms 2-5:

- Suit or smart (professional) trousers, a shirt and tie with a blazer OR smart jumper for boys.
- A dress or smart skirt/trousers with a blouse, shirt or formal top with a blazer OR smart cardigan/jumper for girls
- Smart, sensible heeled, closed toe footwear should be worn.
- Religious dress is permitted subject to health and safety requirements.
- Identity badges/lanyards at all times.

FRIDAYS (Dress Down Day)

- Jeans are allowed but NOT RIPPED JEANS
- Sportswear is allowed (BUT NO HOODIES)
- Shorts are allowed (but no hot pants or very short shorts)
- Trainers are allowed
- Revealing tops/very short skirts are NOT ALLOWED
- Crocs/flip flops/sliders are NOT ALLOWED

Terms 1 and 6: If there is sustained warm weather (e.g. temperatures above 23 C) the Director of 6th Form may allow tailored shorts and short-sleeved collared shirt or polo shirt (without a tie) to be worn by boys. This must be confirmed in advance by the Director of 6th Form.

It is always important to be mindful of the length of a skirt, depth of neckline and the sheerness of your clothes. Dresses and skirts must be of an appropriate length – not more than a third of the way up from the middle of the knee.

The following SHOULD NOT be worn:

- Casual sweatshirts/jumpers/hoodies (Mon-Thurs). If choosing to wear a jumper/cardigan instead of a blazer this must be a “smart” jumper/cardigan
- Crop tops, excessively tight tops, low neckline or vest style tops. Strappy singlet tops and shirts that reveal the midriff or any underwear are not permitted to be worn.
- Leggings, unless under an appropriate length dress or skirt.
- Shorts.
- Denim, combat, cargo, corduroy or jean-type trousers (Mon-Thurs).
- Skirts/dresses more than a third of the way up from the knee including body-con style mini-skirts.
- Casual summer, beach style clothing or any clothing with offensive slogans or advertising.
- Clothing that would contravene any health and safety regulations of the Abbey School.
- Transparent garments.
- Trainers (except for practical subjects), flip flops, beach crocs and Birkenstock sandals etc. Open ‘sandal’ style shoes are not acceptable (health and safety consideration).
- Nose, lip, tongue or brow studs - clear/flesh coloured retainer worn
- Tattoos, wherever possible, should not be exposed and those containing offensive language or images must be covered at all times.
- Non-natural hair colour tones with no extreme styling.

On formal occasions where you are representing the school you will be required to wear a smart suit or formal attire. Examples of this would be major school events, awards evenings or showing visitors around the school.

Those students who take Performing Arts must wear the appropriate items as outlined by the Performing Arts department.

Football Academy students are expected to dress as above or can wear clean Dover Athletic Football Academy training kit. Golf Academy students are expected to wear the Golf Academy uniform. If for any reason they are not able to wear it, they must revert to normal 6th form dress code.

These requirements are not exhaustive in defining acceptable and unacceptable standards of dress and appearance and students should consult with the Director of Sixth Form in advance of wearing any item of which they are unsure.

Students will be asked to remove any items which are not deemed acceptable dress; where this is not possible students will be sent to the Director of Sixth Form/Assistant principal for KS5 who will send them home to change. If plausible, they will then be expected to return to the school for the remainder of the school day. Students will be expected to make up the time lost in school for this.

Mobile Phones and earphones

Mobile phones are to be turned-off and are expressly banned from all use around the school site and should be out of sight at all times including in lessons. Similarly, earphones should not be worn once on the school site. The only exception to this rule is where students are within the Sixth Form Centre. Earphones can be used in Directed Study.

We all (including staff) need to be effective role models to our younger students hence this rule. As a member of the sixth form you also accept that your phone will be confiscated for the day should you engage in inappropriate mobile phone use. Failure to comply will result in a fixed term suspension.

What we mean by smart/professional clothing:

Smart or professional clothing refers to attire that is neat, well-fitted, and appropriate for formal settings including our school and sixth form. This is designed to convey credibility, confidence, and sophistication amongst our students.

We have listened to our students and believe that this dress code represents both their views and the views of Sixth Form and The Abbey school. Our Sixth Form students are excellent role models and our younger students respect them and look up to them.

All students and parents, agree to the expectations set around this dress code policy on enrolment into our Sixth form. If students do not follow the expectations set out in this dress code, then we will remove the privileges given to them.

