

February 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

Following my communications last academic year regarding details for our uniform suppliers, I wanted to update parents regarding our school's uniform policy and the incoming requirements of the School's Bill in September 2026. This Bill will require all secondary schools to have no more than four compulsory branded items across the school uniform in any one year. I am delighted to say that as a result of our thorough uniform review last academic year, (that both reduced costs and decreased the number of compulsory items from a school supplies company), we are already compliant with the new requirements, so this will not impact on our uniform policy.

Below is a reminder of our uniform suppliers:

Main School Uniform

Penn School Uniform Shop, 15 Kents Hill Road, South Benfleet SS5 5PN

<https://pennuk.com/>

Physical Education Kit

School Sports 4U Uniform shop

Romford Shopping Hall, Unit 114, 43 Market Place RM1 3AB

<https://schoolsports4u.co.uk/>

Our suppliers are also offering free online delivery to school, during term-time. In addition, our PE supplier have now provided us with kit samples in a variety of sizes. **If you need to order PE kit for your child and are unsure of sizing, please ask your child to come to the Main Office at break/lunch or after school and we can arrange for them to try on items as necessary, so that you will know which size to order.** Alternatively, please contact: info@theappletonschool.org to make arrangements for your child to have a fitting.

Both suppliers will also be offering a fitting session on the school site before the end of the Summer term. Further information regarding this will be shared with parents nearer the time.

Headteacher: Sarah Cox, BA (Hons)

Croft Road, Benfleet, Essex, SS7 5RN **Tel:** 01268 794215

Email: info@theappletonschool.org **Website:** www.theappletonschool.org

Both in-store and online customers do not need any special access code to purchase uniform. All items are available for purchase online with the exception of the Year 11 House tie, which will be available from the Summer term.

Iron on badges for blazers continue to be available for purchase from either the school or PENN UK. Current design school ties are no longer available.

Our Main Uniform and PE kit for Years 10 – 11, (current Year 9 & 10), is unchanged for September 2025, (unless new items need to be purchased, e.g. a new PE top), except for the requirement for all students Year 7 - 11 to wear the relevant House tie. Please note that Year 11 ties will be updated for September 2025 to incorporate the House system across the school, and will be available from the Summer term.

SCHOOL UNIFORM for Year 7 to 9 September 2025 is as follows:





FORMAL PRACTICAL BLACK LEATHER SHOES (or faux leather alternative) which must have a heel and black laces (where applicable).

Not permitted: Sports brands, emblems or logos. Canvas shoes, flat sole style shoes, trainers, high heels or boots

OR

PLAIN BLACK, FORMAL TROUSERS, which go over shoes.

Not permitted: Jeans, cropped trousers, stretchy, jersey or Lycra. Skinny-fit trousers, jeggings or leggings, brushed cotton/ chino style trousers.

FORMAL BLACK KILTIED SKIRT
Approved length 22 inches

Not permitted: Stretchy, jersey, Lycra or tube style skirts

MAKE UP AND JEWELLERY

- No false eyelashes
- No nail polish or acrylic nails
- No excessive make-up
- Students are allowed one ring of sensible size, a watch and one stud earring in each ear, no other piercings are permitted.
- No other jewellery allowed

For further details visit the uniform section of The Appleton School website

- A plain black blazer with The Appleton School badge. Blazers may be purchased from any retailer, (but must be a blazer, not a fitted jacket). The School badge, which is available to be purchased from the school or PENN UK, is to be sewn to blazer breast pocket. Alternatively, blazers with integral pre-embroidered badge are available from PENN UK.
- Plain white formal shirt with collar, buttoned to the neck; to be tucked in at all times.
- **School House clip-on tie***, fastened over the top shirt button and based on your child's House allocation.

- Plain black formal trousers, tailored in style, and long enough to cover the top of the shoe. Jeans, leggings, jeggings, harem-pants, combat trousers, those with large buckles, very skinny or very wide styles are not permitted.
- **The Appleton School black kilt skirt with green piping***, (optional alternative to trousers). No other skirt is acceptable, **however school trousers can be worn as an alternative**. Please note, the school skirt should be worn no shorter than two inches above the knee and must not be rolled up at the waist.
- A plain black 'V' neck pullover is optional, but if worn it must be a plain school jumper (**No branded jumpers, hooded tops, crew neck sweatshirts or tracksuit tops**).
- Plain black tights or black or white ankle socks. **Knee length socks are not permitted**.
- School Shoes – Formal practical black leather (or faux leather alternative) shoes which must have a heel and black laces (where appropriate).
- Shoes with visible brands or emblems or logos are not permitted. **Canvas shoes, flat sole shoes, trainers, high heels or boots of any kind are not permitted**. This includes those with medical needs. Where reasonable adjustments apply and with supporting medical evidence e.g. a doctor's letter, we accept alternative footwear, but without visible branding. This would be reviewed on an individual needs basis.

Parents are strongly advised to contact Student Services if in doubt about permissible school shoes. Many retail outlets advertise footwear as 'school shoes' when they are in fact trainers and we are always happy to advise.

*Denotes items only available from PENN UK

PHYSICAL EDUCATION KIT



Compulsory PE kit Items:

- **Appleton badged Green PE top***
- **Appleton badged Black PE Shorts***
- Plain black knee length Football socks
- Plain colour swimming trunks or plain colour one-piece swimming costume and goggles
- Trainers
- Football boots
- Shinpads
- Gum Shield (required for rugby)

Optional PE kit Items:

- Appleton badged Rugby shirt*
- Appleton badged ¼ Zip Training Top*
- Appleton badged Black Tracksuit Bottoms* or Appleton badged PE Sport leggings*
or, alternatively, plain black sports tracksuit bottoms / sweatshirt
- Appleton badged Rain Jacket*
- Towel for shower use

*Denotes PE kit items only available from SchoolSports4u

For all year groups:

- **Only natural looking hair colours are permitted.**
- **False eyelashes and false nails including acrylics and gels are not permitted.**
- One ring of a sensible size
- Watch (not a 'smart watch' as no internet enabled devices or mobile phones are permitted to be used in school)
- Earrings / piercings – one small, plain stud in each ear lobe. Spacers or stretchers are not permitted, nor are piercings anywhere other than the ear lobe. No other visible piercings are permitted.
- **No other jewellery is permitted**
- Articles of faith, please contact your child's Head of Year; for example, if worn, headscarves must be plain black in colour.

In light of these changes we have made updates to our uniform policy in preparation for the School's Bill in 2026, which can be found here [Uniform Policy](#)

As outlined in my letter of February 2024, to support parents/carers with the cost of transition from the current uniform to the new one please read the following information:

- **All Year 7 - 9 students from September 2025 must wear the new school uniform and the relevant House tie.**
- **Students in Years 10 and 11 from September 2025 can continue to wear their existing uniform and PE kit , (unless new items need to be purchased), alongside the relevant House tie* or choose to wear the new school uniform items.**

*Year 11 ties will be updated for September 2025 to incorporate the House system across the school, and will be available from the Summer term.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Ms S Cox
Headteacher