

# Tapton SCHOOL

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## Uniform and Electronic Devices Policy

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**COMMITTEE:** Personal Development, Behaviour and Inclusion

**LAST REVIEW/UPDATE:** January 2024

**LEVEL OF CHANGE:** Minor

**NEXT REVIEW:** January 2024

## First principles

Tapton School is a uniform school. We endorse the DfE's stance on school uniform (November 2021) and agree that it is key to:

- promoting the ethos of a school
- providing a sense of belonging and identity
- setting an appropriate tone for education

By sending their children to Tapton parents and carers are agreeing to this uniform policy and accepting their roles as outlined in the Home School Agreement; specifically, we expect parents and carers to support our uniform policy and procedures. The policy has been ratified by the governing body and we expect all students in Years 7-11 to wear our full school uniform without negotiation. In addition, we expect all students in Years 7-13 (and Year 14) to follow our policy on mobile phones, devices and headphones. This policy should be read in conjunction with the Whole School Behaviour Policy.

Following the publication of statutory and non-statutory guidance from the DfE (November 2021) our policy regarding school uniform was further reviewed by the school, the governing body and parents and carers to ensure Tapton School adhered to the guidance. Please see details below:

We believe parents should not have to consider uniform costs when selecting a school. We have liaised with uniform providers and selected a uniform which is both cost effective and offers the best value for money in terms of quality and durability. Our uniform does not differ from year group to year group, therefore, it allows families to recycle clothing where appropriate. The clothing we have selected allows students to be both warm and comfortable and offers flexibility throughout the year. We have also kept branded items (items with a Tapton logo) to an absolute minimum. It is possible to buy the bulk of your child's school uniform at affordable prices in a number of supermarkets and clothing chains. Alongside this we will advertise the availability of second-hand uniform through our normal communication channels and the school website. Finally, when making decisions about our uniform policy we have paid due regard to our obligations under the Human Rights Act 1998 and the Equality Act 2010 and the impact of our policy on students who have protected characteristics:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Marriage and civil partnership
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race (including colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin)
- Religion or belief
- Sex
- Sexual Orientation

## School uniform

### **Uniform**

In Tapton all students wear this uniform:

- A white or black polo shirt with the Tapton logo or a plain white or black school wear polo shirt.
- A black sweatshirt or black cardigan with the Tapton logo.
  - Students are not allowed to wear their PE jumpers in lessons as part of their school uniform.
  - Hoodies should be removed in lessons.
- If a student chooses to wear a Tapton logoed black jumper, they need to ensure they still wear a plain white or black school wear polo shirt underneath with the collar on show over their jumper.
- A black fleece with the Tapton logo or a plain black fleece.
- Students can wear either flat black full-length trousers, black tailored shorts or a black skirt. However, students cannot wear jogging bottoms, sports material shorts/skirts or leggings. Trousers and shorts such as cargo/combat with cuffed legs and/or pockets on the outside are also not allowed.
- All black shoes or trainers without any coloured logo and without different coloured trims (not sandals).
  - Flat all black below the knee boots.
  - Students should not wear shoes with decorative studs or studs underneath.
- Outdoor clothing (such as coats) are not worn in classrooms.
- No hoods or hats are to be worn in the building.
- Sunglasses should be kept in school bags.
- No jewellery to be on show over the top of Tapton logoed polo shirt, jumper or fleece.
- No leg warmers
- Jewellery (see below)

### **Jewellery**

We discourage students from wearing jewellery and we can accept no responsibility for items which are lost, stolen or damaged. If a student is going to wear jewellery it should be sensible and kept to a minimum in accordance with the following guidelines:

- Earrings should be small and studs only. Large hoops or dangly earrings are a health and safety risk, students are not allowed to not wear these items in school.
- No jewellery should be worn for PE or for out of hours PE activities.
- Please be mindful that if your child is having new piercings, these are done at the start of the school summer holiday; having these done during the school year will interfere with participation in PE and other practical lessons.
- Necklaces should be placed under Tapton School polo shirt, they should not be visible.

Tapton School reserves the right to have a conversation with a student where an item of clothing is inappropriate for a learning environment. In addition, students who contravene our uniform policy and/or wear inappropriate clothing will be given a non-negotiable same day detention and a negative behaviour point. If, on rare and exceptional circumstances, a student arrives to school in non-school uniform, they will be provided with the correct uniform to wear for that day.

If parents and carers are unsure what uniform to order, they should contact school before purchasing anything to ensure it is correct. Please note we have Preloved Uniform, where parents and carers have donated their child's unused uniform. If you would like further information email [prelovedschooluniform@taptonschool.co.uk](mailto:prelovedschooluniform@taptonschool.co.uk)

Year 11 students who fail to wear uniform for the final examinations will not be able to attend the end of year prom. Students will be reminded about this before the exam season begins. On the first occasion students will receive a verbal and written warning that a further occurrence of incorrect uniform will result in being banned from the prom.

### **How do we check uniform, equipment and maintain high standards?**

At the start of every day, form tutors will check equipment/lanyard and uniform. Students without an exceptional reason (and note from home) for incorrect uniform/lanyards will be placed into a same day 20 minute non-negotiable lunchtime detention. Notifications will always be sent to the parents and carers to alert them to the uniform/lanyard detention. Repeated violations will initially result in contact with home.

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### **Support with uniform**

We regularly maintain our stocks of spare uniform; this uniform is clean and in good condition and is available to all families. We will advertise through our usual channels times when families can come into school to access these supplies. Depending on availability, one sweatshirt and two polo shirts will be issued per student. PE uniform will be issued as and when it is available. Families will be asked for a small voluntary donation of between 50p to a £1 to cover washing and packaging etc. Parents and carers can email: [prelovedschooluniform@taptonschool.co.uk](mailto:prelovedschooluniform@taptonschool.co.uk) stating student name, items required and a contact name and number. A member of the uniform team will contact families to discuss sizes, availability etc.

Students who fail to wear the correct uniform or who require support will be given uniform from our stocks.

Our uniform providers are Pinders and myclothing.com. Their website can be found on the 'quick links' section of our website. Alternatively, please use the following address:

<https://pindersschoolwear.com/schools/236/Tapton>

Myclothing.com also provide Tapton logo polo shirts and sweatshirts:

<https://myclothing.com/tapton-school/5434.school>

A uniform donation box is located in the visitor reception area if any families wish to donate good quality, clean uniform items.

### **School PE Kit**

#### **Indoor P.E – Year 7 to 11**

- Falcon T shirt with Tapton logo (available from Pinders)
- Plain navy shorts or black or navy thick sports leggings
- Clean indoor trainers

#### **Outdoor P.E – Year 7 to 11**

- Falcon T shirt with Tapton logo (available from Pinders)
- Encore hoody with Tapton logo (available from Pinders)
- Plain navy or black, thick sports leggings or tracksuit bottoms
- Long sleeve blue or black base layer can be worn underneath the PE kit
- Outdoor trainers or moulded or studded boots.
- Sky blue socks for football.
- Gum shields and shin pads are strongly encouraged for hockey, gum shields for rugby and shin pads for football.

#### **For both indoor and outdoor P.E**

- No jewellery should be worn and long hair needs to be tied up
- If ears have recently been pierced they can be taped but students must provide this for themselves.
- Sports watches will be allowed in certain activities for example fitness. Teachers will tell students at the start of the unit of work if they can.

## Electronic Devices

We continue to have significant concerns about the impact of smart phones and devices on safeguarding and mental health; these concerns are supported both by our lived experience and academic research. Following our consultation on phones and devices we have decided on the following policy statement:

Mobile phones, smart watches, iPods and other electronic devices such as earphones and wireless earphones are not allowed to be visible on the school site at any time. This means from the moment students enter the site to the moment they leave the site they cannot have a visible device; this also includes at break and at lunchtime. If students choose to bring devices to school, they must put them into school bags before entry onto the site, so they are not at all visible or accessible. Students cannot place devices in pockets. This policy extends to earphone cables hanging from shirts and from pockets and headphones worn around necks. Any student found with a prohibited device will have it confiscated without discussion. The first time an item is confiscated it will be held in the school office until the end of the school day; this will incur one negative behaviour point. All subsequent confiscations will be locked in the school safe and only returned following a meeting with parents and carers. Devices will be returned to 6<sup>th</sup> formers following a first confiscation at 3.30pm, irrespective of when the final lesson of their day falls. If a child refuses to hand over the item, on call will be used. The attending team will confiscate the item and inform the student of the same day After School Detention for defiance. Failure to hand over a confiscated item will result in a fixed term suspension.

We understand the need for students to have a mobile phone whilst on a school trip. However, we have the same expectations around all electronic devices as we do in school and therefore devices can only be used and be visible with direct permission from staff. If a student misuses their device or has a visible device including earphones and smartwatches without direct permission from a member of staff, it will be confiscated and returned to them at the end of the trip and before they begin their homeward journey. Any confiscations during a school trip will be recorded in school as stated in our behaviour policy.

This policy will remain under review.

### **Confiscations**

In line with the Department For Education 'Searching, screening and confiscation advice for schools' July 2022.

The rules around confiscations apply to all students Years 7-13 (and Year 14 students). Mobile phones, smart watches, iPods and other electronic devices such as earphones and wireless earphones are not allowed to be visible on the school site at any time. This means from the moment students enter the site to the moment they leave the site they cannot have a visible device; this also includes at break and at lunchtime. If students choose to bring devices to school, they must put them into school bags before entry onto the site, so they are not at all visible or accessible. Students cannot place devices in pockets. This policy extends to earphone cables hanging from shirts and from pockets and headphones worn around necks. Any student found with a prohibited device will have it confiscated without discussion. The first time an item is confiscated it will be held in the school office until the end of the school day; this will incur one negative behaviour point. If a student has an item confiscated for a second time the parents and carers must come into school to collect the item between 3.30 and 4.30 and to meet with the Year Leader and a member of the Leadership Team to discuss their child's refusal to comply with our rules. All subsequent confiscations will then also go into the safe awaiting a parent meeting and will incur two negative behaviour points. If a child refuses to hand over the item, on call will be used. The attending team will confiscate the item and inform the student of the same day After School Detention for defiance. Failure to hand over a confiscated item will result in a fixed term suspension.

A member of staff will confiscate any item they deem to cause disruption to the good order of the school.

#### **Confiscation 1 (-1 point)**

- Item is confiscated and returned at the end of the first day. The student is responsible for collecting the item.
- 1 negative point added onto Bromcom log
- Automated confiscation letter sent to parents and carers advising of incident and next stage.

#### **Confiscation 2 (-2 points)**

- Item is locked in school safe and a text sent to parents and carers alerting them to this.
- 2 negative points are added to Bromcom log.

- Automated confiscations letter sent to parents and carers asking them to collect phone and arrange a meeting with Year Leader or member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Confiscation 3+ will be dealt with as per the arrangements for Confiscation 2 (-2 points)

**By sending their children to Tapton School parents and carers are accepting their role as outlined in the Home School Agreement.**

**We look forward to working with you**