



# Knox Academy

Head Teacher: **Susan Cook BEd (Hons) MEd SQH**

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Dear Parent/Carer

As the new session approaches I feel it is important to write to you about our expectations in relation to school uniform. Knox Academy is very proud of its tradition of school uniform and the wearing of it helps promote the sense of community within the school, our wider community and create that feeling of 'belonging'. Alongside 'Respect' and 'Ambition', 'Community' is one of our school values and it is hoped our young people wear the Knox Academy uniform with pride.

A few years ago our young people and parents/carers were consulted on what they wished the school uniform to comprise of. In session 2025-26 this will continue to be as follows:

- White/black shirt or white/black polo shirt
- Tie (with House stripe on it)
- Black V-neck or crew neck jumper (plain, over a shirt and only with school logos or no logos at all)
- Black trousers/solid black jeans or skirt (**no leggings or ripped/blue jeans**). Dress shorts may be worn.
- Head coverings – worn for cultural or religious reasons, should be black
- Black shoes or plain black trainers
- Jewellery should be worn in moderation (leather bracelets/chokers/jewellery with spikes/metal on them /metal or plastic chains should not be worn to school for health and safety reasons. Hands should be free any decorative wear (excluding small rings) and bangles/beads should also be limited not worn all the way up the forearms as this poses a health and safety risk too).
- Gloves/hats should all be removed when in the school building
- School blazer (for all in S5 & S6 – as has been the case for years)

Each pupil belongs to a House at the school; another way of building community. To support the House ethos, new school ties were designed three years ago. These House ties feature the Knox Academy logo and have a stripe below this in the House colours the pupil belongs to. These can be purchased through [SchoolPay app](#) and can also be accessed via [parentsportal](#) (we would advise all parents/carers to sign up to this as we operate a cashless system at the school, except for charity events, and we also use parentsportal to send out S1-S3 reports and record attendance).

In relation to health and safety, *hooded tops of any description will not be acceptable dress code* (this includes Knox Academy sports hooded tops or Knox Choir hooded tops, which should only be worn for sports/choir). I would ask for parental support with adhering to this request and not to purchase hooded tops for wearing. Often young people are tempted to wear their hoods up and this compromises everyone's safety. We need to ensure that everyone's faces are visible in and around the building at all times so we can keep everyone safe.



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Wearing our Knox Academy school uniform is the quickest way, at a glance, to know pupils belong to our school. Thank you to parents/carers for supporting this and the safety in our building.

Shoes should be all black so as to avoid pointless discussions on those with logos attached and other elements of colour. White shoes, which may be fine for PE, are not part of the school uniform. A skirt should be of an appropriate length for wearing in a school based environment. Trousers should be whole, rather than with designer holes or tears which are not suitable for a learning environment and can also pose a health and safety risk in subjects such as science and technologies. Dress shorts (chinos) are also acceptable.

Our hope is that this presents a more simplified, consistent approach, in that the expectations for all year groups will be the same (with the exception of blazers for S5/6). If you have not yet purchased a tie you're your young person coming into S1, or for those who have lost ties, or need to replace them, these can be ordered on-line through [SchoolPay](#) and then collected from the School Office by your young person on the first day of the new term. Parents/carers are able to purchase all other items of clothing from whichever outlet they wish, so long as they conform to the expectations. We also have lots of spare uniform at the school, in all sizes and for free, so if you would like to access this please contact your young person's Pupil Support Leader. [Financial support](#) in buying school uniform is also available from East Lothian Council.

I thank you in advance for your co-operation in ensuring that pupils adhere to the school's uniform expectations and I trust that this period of notice will allow you to make the necessary arrangements so that we can start the new session in style.

Yours sincerely

S Cook

