



THE THOMAS AVELING SCHOOL

School Uniform & Equipment Policy

REVIEWED: July 2025

REVIEW DATE: July 2026

Thomas Aveling School Uniform

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Thomas Aveling School Uniform Policy Aims

At Thomas Aveling, we believe that successful and positive learning begins with self-respect. We have high expectations for how our students should behave and present themselves at all times, whether they are in school, on their way to school, or leaving for home. Our uniform policy aims to reinforce our character values of self respect, pride, and high standards, helping students build positive identities and represent themselves and our school community with dignity.

The policy aims are:

- **Encourage self respect and pride in personal presentation** by consistently wearing the Thomas Aveling uniform correctly, both on school grounds and in the community. This commitment to appearance supports a positive sense of identity, promoting dignity and reinforcing students' roles as respectful representatives of the school.
- **Establish high standards for behaviour and ambition:** The uniform policy sets clear, non-negotiable expectations, helping students learn discipline, ambition, and respect for rules. These high standards prepare students for responsible behaviour and self-regulation, essential for success in school and future endeavours.
- **Strengthen community and respect through consistent appearance:** Wearing the uniform properly, both in and outside of school, helps students act as positive ambassadors for Thomas Aveling, fostering respect and pride in the local community. This shared standard enhances school unity and each student's role in maintaining a respectful, orderly learning environment.



UNIFORM EXPECTATIONS

We are extremely proud of how smart our students look in their school uniform and will always insist that high standards are maintained. Parents/carers will be contacted where the uniform code has been infringed without reasonable explanation and children may work with their tutor all day or be sent home to change. We appreciate the support from our parents/carers in this matter.

<i>GIRLS' UNIFORM</i>	<i>BOYS' UNIFORM</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blazer - Black with *School Badge (edged with house colour) • Skirt - Skirts must be tailored and made of 'non stretch' fabric to allow movement (no short or tight skirts will be permitted) • Trousers - Trousers must be tailored and made of 'non stretch' fabric (no flares or tight-fitting trousers will be permitted) • Blouse - *White with blue pin stripe – short sleeve, worn in or out (no tie required). Girls are permitted to wear a white shirt with a Thomas Aveling school tie, if they prefer. • Summer Term only - Blue Polo Shirt with school logo as an alternative to collar and tie. A blazer must still be worn. • Sweater (optional) - *Blue V-necked with embroidered school logo • Shoes - Black school shoes (no platforms, high heels or open backs, and strictly no boots or trainers of any description) • Plain black or white below the knee socks • Plain black or natural tights (no patterns). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blazer - Black with *School Badge (edged with house colour) • Trousers - Tailored black - made of 'non stretch' material • Shirt - Plain White, short or long sleeved, suitable for wearing with a tie • Tie - *Blue and gold diagonal stripe • Sweater (optional) - *Blue V-necked with embroidered school logo • Shoes - Formal black leather, or leather-look, school shoes (strictly no boots or trainers of any description) • Plain black or white socks • Summer Term only - Blue Polo Shirt with school logo as an alternative to collar and tie. A blazer must still be worn.

* Available from Schooltime Uniform Shop, 87-89 High Street, Chatham, ME4 4EE. Blazers with pre-sewn badges also available. Parents/carers may purchase blazers from any retail outlet, but badges are only available from Schooltime.



PE Kit

- Shorts /Skort - Navy and Royal Blue
- Polo Shirt - Navy and Royal Blue
- Sweatshirt - Navy and Royal Blue (Optional)
- Training Joggers - Navy Blue (Optional)
- Sports leggings
- Trainers - non-marking soles
- Football boots - Optional
- Football Socks - Navy Blue
- Shin Pads
- The PE kit is only available at School Time Uniform Shop.

Uniform adaptations – where there is a clinical diagnosis of medical or sensory need, we have an adapted range of sensory wear consistent with existing school uniform provided only by the school and not external providers. Please contact the relevant House team for further information.

Jewellery

Jewellery is not allowed, apart from a watch and one small plain metal stud (no larger than 0.5cm) in the lobe of each ear. Smartwatches are not permitted.

Cultural Sensitivity: As with other uniform policies, the school will consider cultural significance of jewellery appropriateness. Students and parents/carers should feel free to discuss any cultural jewellery that may be relevant.

Makeup

Makeup can be worn provided it is of 'natural' appearance. Excessive or dramatic makeup (for example: winged eyeliner, lipliner, lipstick, false eyelashes) is not permitted.

Nails

- Students are required to maintain a neat and natural appearance as part of the school uniform policy.
- The use of false nails, nail extensions, or coloured nail polish is not permitted.
- Nails should be kept clean, short, and of a natural length and colour to ensure a professional and tidy presentation, safe for practical subjects and activities such as Art, DT and PE in line with the school's standards of appearance.



Hair and Headwear

- Students with afro-textured hair can choose a range of styles that support their hair's health and maintenance, including headscarves and wraps, although these should be plain and navy blue or black.
- Hair bands and accessories should be plain and small.

Extreme hairstyles not permitted

- Mohawks and Fauxhawks: Hair that is styled to stand upright in a strip down the centre of the head, with the sides shaved or cut very short.
- Extreme Fades: Haircuts that feature drastic contrasts in length, such as very short sides with an abrupt transition to significantly longer hair on top.
- Shaved Patterns or Designs: Haircuts that include shaved designs, patterns, or symbols etched into the hair (e.g., stars, letters, or other intricate designs).
- Unnaturally Dyed Hair: Hair that is dyed in bright, unnatural colours (e.g., neon pink, green, blue) or in a way that creates a stark contrast with natural hair colours.
- Long Hair Styles: Hair that is worn long and unkempt, obstructing vision or covering the face, particularly if it is not tied back or styled neatly.
- Extreme Lengths: Hair that is excessively long (beyond collar length) or styled in a way that is not tidy or appropriate.
- Buzz Cuts: While a simple buzz cut may be acceptable, an extremely close buzz cut that leaves very little hair (e.g., less than a quarter of an inch) may be considered extreme.
- Military Cuts: Very short military-style haircuts that leave little to no hair on the sides and back, with minimal length on top, can be seen as extreme if they are excessively close to the scalp.
- Shaved Heads: Completely shaved heads or hairstyles that leave no hair at all (0 inches) are typically considered extreme.
- Asymmetrical Cuts: Haircuts that are significantly shorter on one side compared to the other, creating an uneven appearance, may also fall under the category of extreme short haircuts.

Acceptable Short Haircuts:

- **Standard Short Cuts:** Haircuts that are neat and tidy, such as crew cuts or short styles that leave enough hair for styling and do not create a stark contrast in length.
- **Tapered Cuts:** Haircuts that gradually shorten from the top to the sides, maintaining a professional appearance without extreme contrasts.
- **Side Part Styles:** Short haircuts that include a side part and maintain an overall balanced look.



Additional Considerations:

Cultural Sensitivity: As with other haircut policies, the school will consider cultural significance when evaluating extreme short haircuts. Students and parents/carers should feel free to discuss any cultural hairstyles that may be relevant.

Subjectivity: The determination of what constitutes an extreme short haircut will be made by school staff based on the overall impact on the learning environment. Staff will be trained to apply this policy consistently and fairly.

Piercings and Tattoos**Piercings**

Multiple ear, facial, and body piercings are not acceptable and should be removed while students are in school uniform. The school adheres to Health and Safety rules to prevent injury during physical activities. Therefore, no jewellery is permitted during Physical Education, Art and DT and Performing Arts lessons. Parents/carers can help by ensuring that the school's guidance on jewellery is followed and that ears are pierced during the summer holidays to allow maximum healing time. It is not acceptable for ears to be taped in school.

Cultural Sensitivity and Subjectivity Considerations:

- We acknowledge that some students may wear piercings as part of cultural or religious expression. In such cases, students and parents/carers are encouraged to discuss these needs with the school to ensure that cultural practices are respected while maintaining safety standards.
- We recognize the diversity of cultural practices and personal expressions regarding body art and piercings, and the school aims to approach each case with sensitivity and understanding, considering individual circumstances.

Tattoos

It is prohibited for under 18s to have tattoos, even with parental permission.

EQUIPMENT

Students are expected to always have with them the following items:

- **Pencil case containing pens, pencil, eraser, ruler.**
- **Casio 83 ClassWiz calculator.**
- **School bag**
- **Reading book for use in form time and in between lessons**
- **Mobile Phone Pouch**



Students can access many of these items at the '**Ready to learn**' gate at the start of the day.

SMART PHONE FREE ENVIRONMENT

We have adopted a smart phone free environment at Thomas Aveling.

- Using pouches, we can ensure students retain their mobile phones and responsibility for them at school.
- Students will place phones in lockable, pencil case sized pouches as they enter the school site.
- The pouches remain locked for the school day and unlocking stations are available at the end of the day for students to release their phones for use.
- Pouches are available for all students in Years 7-11, with sixth form students restricted to mobile phone use in the sixth form study area only.
- Emergency unlocking stations will also be available alongside specialist pouches for students who use mobile phones to monitor medical conditions such as blood sugar.

