



Riverside Virtual College Uniform Policy

Legislation	Education/ Other
Lead staff member	Leanne Burke
Publication Date	July 2024
Review Frequency	Annually
Date of Last Review	August 26
Date of next review	August 27

1. Purpose

At Riverside Virtual College (RVC), we recognise that our students learn best in an environment that is inclusive, respectful and adapted to their individual needs. As an online SEND-specialist provision, we do not require students to wear a school uniform. This reflects our ethos of removing barriers to learning, promoting equality of opportunity, and reducing unnecessary financial pressures on families.

This policy sets out our expectations for appearance during live online sessions, to ensure safeguarding, positive behaviour, and mutual respect.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all students enrolled at Riverside Virtual College, their parents/carers, and staff responsible for teaching and pastoral care.

3. Rationale

- **Neurodiversity-friendly:** Many of our learners experience sensory sensitivities. Removing uniform requirements allows students to feel comfortable and regulated,

supporting their ability to engage in learning.

- **Budget-friendly:** We aim to reduce financial pressures on families by removing the need to purchase uniforms.
- **Safeguarding:** Clear expectations for dress on camera ensure that our virtual classrooms remain safe and respectful spaces.
- **Behaviour and identity:** While no uniform is required, expectations around respect, presentation and behaviour are in place to maintain the integrity of our learning community.

4. Expectations for Students

- Students are expected to wear **appropriate clothing** during live online sessions. Clothing should not display offensive, discriminatory, or inappropriate slogans/images.
- Students should be dressed in a way that would be considered suitable for a shared learning environment.
- Learners must not appear on camera in pyjamas, undergarments, or clothing that compromises safeguarding standards.
- Students are encouraged to sit in a safe and appropriate space for lessons. Backgrounds should be neutral where possible, or blurred using platform tools.

5. Staff Responsibilities

- Staff will remind students of expectations where necessary, using positive and respectful approaches.
- Persistent concerns will be recorded in line with our Behaviour and Safeguarding policies, and parents/carers will be contacted.

6. Monitoring and Review

- This policy will be reviewed annually by the Senior Leadership Team, in consultation with students, parents, carers, and Improvement Partners (Governing Board).
- Any adjustments will take account of feedback from our community and changes in statutory guidance.

7. Alignment with RVC Values

This policy reflects Riverside's values of **Honesty, Integrity, and Respect**. It supports **British Values** of mutual respect, tolerance, and individual liberty, while ensuring that safeguarding remains paramount.