

The grey area.. Is this one ok?

The shoes below fall into a grey area between acceptable shoes and ones that are not acceptable. We understand the challenges parents face in wanting to purchase shoes that meet with the Academy dress code, managing teenage and pre-teen expectations and shoes that are comfortable and fit for purpose.

These shoes are acceptable. They do look similar to some of the unacceptable styles of trainer and they do have some visible branding. However, it is not overt and is not a recognisable trainer manufacturer's trade mark such as the Nike swoosh or the three stripes of Adidas that allows it to be identified immediately as expensive footwear. It is also sold as a "school shoe".



Kickers

Kickers shoes are acceptable, providing they meet the acceptable shoe criteria and have no visible branding. Some models of Kickers meet the criteria and some do not—another grey area. Could you buy an alternative pair?

With any shoe, if you are not sure, we would encourage you to purchase a different pair that you're confident do fit the criteria. You could send us an email link and we can let you know it is ok.

Remember function over fashion and ensure that the shoe meets the needs of your child and their circumstances—walking home in the wintertime, coming by bus or cycling?

If a family has genuine financial difficulties in purchasing any school uniform, we might be able to help, please get in touch with the Finance team to discuss in confidence your circumstances.

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Guide to School Shoes

What does a shoe that is acceptable look like?

- Leather/synthetic leather/leather style.
- 'School shoe' - not trainer or trainer style.
- All black.
- Lace-up, Velcro, or straps.
- Pointed toe or rounded one.
- Heel should not be excessive.
- No visible branding e.g. a Nike swoosh or the toe cover on a Converse shoe because feedback tells us that this makes some students feel excluded and families pressured into making expensive purchases.

The images of the shoes on the following pages are intended as a guide to indicate the styles acceptable. Shoes similar but not identical to the images are permitted.

The images of acceptable shoes are taken from the websites of a range of shops: BHS, Clarks, Asda, Debenhams, Doc Martens, New Look, Office, Next, Brantano. Shoes can be purchased from other stores.

What does a shoe that is NOT acceptable look like?

- Trainers of any type
- Leisure shoe style trainers
- Boots
- Canvas shoes
- Any shoe with visible branding.

The following are examples of unacceptable brands and/or styles:

- Nike – or Nike style trainers
- Converse – or Converse style trainers
- Vans – or Vans style trainers in either leather or canvas



Acceptable shoes to wear at The Hazeley Academy



The shoe (left) with Velcro looks similar to * on the next page. This one does not have visible branding and is sold by Clarks as a 'shoe'

Unsuitable footwear for The Hazeley Academy



* the shoes above look similar to the Clarks Velcro shoe but have visible branding as Adidas or Converse trainers.

