



Working together to develop the skills for success in industry and university

Specialists in science, technology, engineering and maths
in partnership with industry and the University of Lincoln

Dress Code

Lincoln UTC prides itself on student behaviour and appearance in the school as well as in our locality. We work collaboratively to develop professional, respectful relationships that are rooted in an equality which can be seen and is shared between students and staff. The rules and expectations for our students regarding dress are exactly the same as those that apply to staff.

Ofsted notes that *pupils' behaviour in lessons and around the college campus is impeccable*. The insistence on high standards of dress forms part of our positive culture, as well as helping to prepare young people for the expectations that will be placed upon them in the world of work, apprenticeship, or university.

Members of the UTC, are expected to present themselves appropriately at all times, as would be expected in a formal business environment. By not having a more traditional school uniform, we are demonstrating the high value we place on individual pride, accountability, and professionalism. We are proud that every Friday many of our students and staff choose to wear a bow tie. This tradition stems from our sixth form students who coined the phrase *bow-tie-friday* several years ago.

The dress code expected at Lincoln UTC is set out clearly below:

Classroom-Based Activities

Male / Female:

- Tailored suit / smart jacket / smart trousers / smart dress / smart skirt
- Long or short sleeved shirt / blouse (covering shoulders)
- Male students are expected to wear a tie
- Plain knitted jumper or cardigans
- Smart, polished shoes or ankle boots

Workshop and Laboratory-Based Activities

Personal protective equipment (PPE) must be worn when working in laboratories and workshops. The UTC will provide ear protection where needed, for all students. Students must have their own personal lab coat and eye protection.

To comply with health and safety requirements, jewellery may need to be removed or covered for some practical activities in laboratories and workshops.

Sport and Physical Activity

Whilst participating in sport and physical activity students must wear appropriate sports clothing to reflect the activity they are participating in. The expectations for PE are:

- Black / navy blue socks
- Black / navy blue shorts / tracksuit bottoms
- UTC polo shirt www.uniform-direct.com
- UTC hooded sweatshirt (optional) www.uniform-direct.com
- Non-marking trainers

Personal Appearance

Jewellery may be worn, not to excess and should not compromise safety.

Hair and makeup should be subtle, and of a style suitable for a professional environment. If a student chooses to colour their hair, it must be within the natural colour range.

Our Constraints

If students are reminded about our dress code and standards at the UTC, it is likely to be as a result of wearing the following, which are deemed unacceptable:

- Skinny jeans / lycra based trousers
- Clothing with obvious branding
- Open / walking shoes or flipflops / heavyweight boots
- Coats, scarves or hats – when inside the building
- Sweatshirt or hooded tops
- Revealing tops / skirts / dresses
- Excessive jewellery – stretchers and bars are not allowed
- Facial piercing other than earrings
- Trainers – unless supported with medical evidence

Suitability of clothing will be at the principal's discretion.

Proposed Summer Uniform Trial – Spring/Summer 2026

In recognition of seasonal weather conditions and in order to continue to promote professionalism, comfort, and high standards of appearance, Lincoln UTC will undertake a trial of a modified summer uniform after the Easter break: during the Spring and Summer terms of 2026.

The purpose of this trial is to assess whether a limited, clearly defined adjustment to the dress code can maintain the UTC's professional ethos while ensuring students remain comfortable and appropriately dressed during warmer periods.

During the trial period, pupils will be permitted to adopt **one of the following options**:

1. Standard Business Attire (Modified)

- Jacket or blazer may be removed
- Tie may be removed
- All other elements of the existing dress code remain unchanged

2. Summer Business Attire

- Tailored cotton shorts of a smart, professional appearance
- Short-sleeved shirt worn without a tie
- Smart shoes or “boat-style” shoes

All clothing worn as part of the summer uniform trial must remain consistent with the UTC's expectations of a formal business environment. Items must be plain, well-fitted, and free from excessive branding.

The trial will be closely monitored, and feedback will be sought from both staff and students. Any decision regarding the permanent adoption of, or amendment to, the dress code will be informed by the outcomes of this trial and will remain at the principal's discretion.

In order to ensure the summer uniform trial is implemented effectively and consistently, visual guidance will be provided on the following pages of this proposal. You will see images of acceptable choices, alongside examples of attire that does not meet the UTC's expectations.

Members of the Senior Leadership Team will be available to support students and parents who have particular questions or require clarification regarding the dress code during the summer trial period.

Our students currently present themselves in a highly professional manner when travelling to and from the UTC. This public-facing image is important to protect, as it reflects our high standards and clearly distinguishes Lincoln UTC from other establishments within the city.

ACCEPTABLE SHORTS:



ACCEPTABLE SHOES:



NOT ACCEPTABLE SHORTS:



SHOES THAT ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE:

