

Weston Secondary School's Uniform Policy 2026-28

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Next review date	September 2028		

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Aims

This policy aims to:

- Set out our approach to requiring a uniform that is of reasonable cost and offers the best value for money for parents and carers.
- Explain how we will avoid discrimination in line with our legal duties under the Equality Act 2010.
- Clarify our expectations for school uniform.

We want our students to feel comfortable and relaxed in school, as they would in the workplace. We also want our students to be individuals, within the confines of a uniform policy that promotes equality, inclusion, cohesion and a sense of belonging. Extremes in any sense are not allowed.

Our school's legal duties under the Equality Act 2010

The [Equality Act 2010](#) prohibits discrimination against an individual based on the protected characteristics, which include gender, race, religion or belief, and gender reassignment.

To avoid discrimination, our school will:

- Avoid listing uniform items based on gender, to give all students the opportunity to wear the uniform they feel most comfortable in or that most reflects their self-identified gender.
- Make sure that our uniform costs the same for all students.

- Allow all students to have long hair (though we reserve the right to ask for this to be tied back).
- Allow all students to style their hair in the way that is appropriate for school yet makes them feel most comfortable.
- Allow students to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons.
- Allow students to wear headscarves and other religious or cultural symbols.
- Allow for adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking students or their parents/ carers to get in touch with their child's tutor who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests.

Limiting the cost of school uniform

Our school has a duty to make sure that the uniform we require is affordable, in line with statutory [guidance](#) from the Department for Education on the cost of school uniform.

We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that have to have a school logo or a unique fabric/colour/design) cannot be purchased from a wide range of retailers and that requiring many such items limits parents'/ carers' ability to 'shop around' for a low price.

We will make sure our uniform:

- Is available at a reasonable cost.
- Provides the best value for money for parents/carers.

We will do this by:

Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary and limiting any items with school logo.

At WSS, items specific to the school are:

- ✓ Jumper worn over the white polo shirt
- ✓ PE t-shirt.

- Considering cheaper alternatives to school-branded items, such as logos that can be ironed on, as long as this doesn't compromise quality and durability.
- Avoiding specific requirements for items students could wear on non-school days, such as coats, bags and shoes.
- Keeping the number of optional branded items to a minimum, so that the school's uniform can act as a social leveller.
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups.
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities.
- Considering alternative methods for signalling differences in groups for interschool competitions, such as creating posters or labels.
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents/carers to acquire second-hand uniform items. *If you have old uniform that you no longer need, please bring it back to the school and, if we can sell it, we will do so, and the funds will be donated to our charity of the term.*
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents/carers of any changes.
- Consulting with parents, carers and students on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy.

Additional financial support for uniform

We understand that some parents and carers may face financial difficulties. Families are encouraged to check whether they are eligible for Free School Meals by visiting the Government website: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>. In addition to this support, the school may be able to provide financial assistance with

certain educational costs, including revision guides, school uniform and subsidised educational visits. Parents and carers of eligible students are encouraged to speak with their child's Head of Year, who can offer confidential advice and provide further information about the support available.

Reasonable Adjustments

Weston Secondary School is committed to ensuring that all students can access education comfortably and safely.

In line with the Equality Act 2010, the school will consider reasonable adjustments to the uniform policy where a student has a disability, medical condition, sensory need, or other protected characteristic that affects their ability to comply with one or more elements of the uniform requirements.

Requests for reasonable adjustments should be discussed with the student's Head of Year. The school may request supporting information from a medical professional or other appropriate specialist where necessary.

Examples of reasonable adjustments may include, but are not limited to:

- Alternative fabrics or styles where uniform causes sensory discomfort.
- Adaptations to footwear requirements for medical or orthopaedic reasons.
- Exemptions from specific items of clothing.
- Adjustments relating to jewellery worn for medical purposes.
- Adaptations linked to disability, sensory processing needs, or other individual circumstances.

Each request will be considered on an individual basis, balancing the needs of the student with the school's responsibility to maintain high standards of presentation, safety and consistency.

Expectations for school uniform

At Weston Secondary School, we only allow jumpers that can be purchased by our supplier. This ensures that each of our students look as smart and professional as another. Plain, black trousers, black box pleat skirt, leggings, plain short sleeved white polo shirt with a collar and plain black trainers or shoes can be purchased from other outlets. Please see images of acceptable uniform in the Appendices.

Clothing

a. Polo Shirts

- ✓ Plain white short sleeved Polo shirt only (no logos).

b. Trousers/ Skirts/ Shorts/ leggings (See Appendix One)

- ✓ Black tailored trousers.
- ✓ Black leggings are allowed. Leggings must be made from opaque material and must not be see-through. The school reserves the right to determine whether an item is appropriate for the school environment.
- ✓ Black, knee length, tailored shorts (no cargo pockets).
- ✓ Black box pleat skirt, with optional black tights.
- ✓ Black or white plain socks

Students are not permitted to wear:

- × Jeans of any type.
- × Wet look or shiny legging are not permitted.
- × Lycra and or miniskirts.
- × Tracksuit bottoms of any kind.
- × Jersey Flares/Flares, short trousers, corduroy, skinny, cargo pants, tracksuit bottoms, or Lycra.

This list is not exhaustive and the school's decision on what is/is not acceptable is final.

d. School jumper

- ✓ Black jumper with school logo. These are to be worn or stored away in school bags - they are not to be worn over the shoulder or around the waist.
- ✓ At the Headteachers discretion, students do not need to wear a jumper during the summer term.
- × No hoodies / cardigans / sportswear / alternative black jumpers.

e. Vests

- ✓ Vests, to be worn under shirts, must be plain white round neck or v-neck only.
- ✓ Vests must be tucked in.
- × No coloured vests, PE t-shirts or tops with motifs which can be seen through the shirt should be worn.
- × Long sleeved tops under school polo shirts are only permitted in discussion with the Head of year.

f. Coats and Hats

- ✓ Coats may be worn outside school buildings and when transitioning to classrooms but must be removed when in classrooms.
- ✓ Coats may only be worn if a jumper is also worn.
- ✓ School reception also stock donated washed coats for students if they need one.
- ✓ No hats, apart from religious head wear, to be worn inside.
- × Hooded tops/sportswear are not permitted to be worn in school at any time.

g. Footwear

- ✓ School shoes / trainers must be all black leather or leather-look (including stitching and logo).
- ✓ They should provide substantial support to the foot and keep feet warm and dry in poor weather.
- × Canvas, sports trainers (running front) suede, mixed colours, open toed, high heeled shoes and boots are not permitted.

Clear examples of shoes that are permitted and not permitted have been provided in the appendices. If parents are unsure as to whether a particular style or shoe is accepted, they should send a picture of the shoe to their Head of Year before purchasing.

PE Kit

All students in Years 7, 8, 9, and 10 are expected to have the round neck WSS PE T Shirt. Students in year 11 are allowed to wear the previous Weston PE kit, and when replaced, this must be with the new WSS kit.

- ✓ Royal Blue WSS T-Shirt.
- ✓ Black/Navy shorts, leggings, tracksuit bottoms or skort (small logo is ok but must be mostly plain).
- ✓ No hoodies but plain, black/navy sweatshirts can be worn in colder months.
- ✓ Trainers that are suitable for sport (not fashion trainers or Crocs).
- ✓ Football boots/ Astros for the field in wetter months.
- ✓ All hair to be tied up during PE.
- × No jewellery to be worn and will be requested to be removed.
- Students with new piercings are permitted to cover them with micropore tape/ plasters provided by home whilst the piercing heals.

All uniform must be properly named and labelled, and the school does not accept responsibility for any loss of uniform.

Expectations for student presentation

a. Head coverings

Some of our students may choose to wear head coverings to conform with their religious beliefs. If so, these head coverings must look conventional and understated in style.

- ✓ Head coverings must be black or dark blue.
- ✓ Pins or clips must be small, dark in colour and understated.
- ✓ There can be no decorations such as sequins or patterns.
- × Material must not be too long at the front or the back so as to obscure the uniform or look untidy. At the front, head covering material must not go below the V-neck of a jumper or equivalent.
- Students whose head covering is not deemed by the School to be of an acceptable style will be given an opportunity to tidy the head covering in private without consequence. However, if the head covering persistently remains of an unacceptable style, the student's parents/carers will be called.

b. Hair

Students' hair colour should be within a naturally occurring range of human hair colours. Extreme styles designed to attract undue attention, including shaved patterns, symbols, lines, or significantly asymmetrical cuts, are not permitted.

Students who have long hair must tie it up in practical lessons for health and safety purposes.

Some specific styles that are not permitted include:

- × High or flamboyant hair styles, such as a 'Mohican'.
- × Styles that hide the face.
- × Extreme / unnatural hair colours and patterns.
- × Shaven designs / patterns are not acceptable

Students whose haircut is not deemed to be an acceptable style by the school will be given 5 days to correct it.

c. Jewellery

Students are permitted to wear the following jewellery:

- ✓ Earrings – for safety reasons, we ask that the maximum of two **small** plain studs may be worn in each lobe if ears are pierced.
- ✓ A watch – this is advisable as looking at phones to check the time is not permitted.
- ✓ Nose stud – one small plain stud (rings/hoops are not permitted).

Students are not permitted to wear:

- × Hoop earrings, dangling earrings, and scaffold/industrial piercings are not permitted
- × Rings or bracelets

No other jewellery is permitted. Students who have other piercings must wear a clear transparent plastic stud retainer to school rather than visible jewellery. Students are not permitted to wear stretchers in their ears.

Any prohibited jewellery worn by the student while in school uniform will be confiscated and should be collected by students at the end of the day. Students will need to remove and / or cover jewellery during PE/Dance lessons and other physical/practical activities/events.

It is strongly advised that any jewellery that carries any financial or sentimental significance should remain at home as the school takes no responsibility for lost, damaged or stolen items.

The school recognises and respects hairstyles associated with a student's race, culture, religion, or ethnic identity. This includes, but is not limited to, braids, twists, locs, cornrows, afros, and other protective hairstyles. Such styles are permitted provided they are presented in a tidy manner and do not include shaved patterns, logos, symbols, or colours that otherwise breach this policy.

d. Makeup

Students are only permitted to wear light, un-noticeable make up. Students are not permitted to wear heavy contour and sculpting makeup. The school will advise students to remove make up if it is deemed heavy. Students are not permitted to wear fake eyelashes.

e. Nails

- ✓ Nails must look natural in length and colour.
- × False nails can cause serious injury to both the student who has them and to others. Acrylic/false nails are not permitted. Nails should be kept trimmed to a reasonable length to avoid such injuries.
- × Nail varnish is not permitted.

Items of religious significance

We recognise that some students may wish to wear certain items of jewellery for religious purposes. The Headteacher may grant exceptions to any of the above, but only where this is required as a matter of sincere religious observance and where this can be substantiated by a letter from the leader of the relevant religious community. The Headteacher's decision will be made in accordance with this policy and will take account of the individual circumstances of each case. Parents and carers who remain dissatisfied may refer to the school's complaints procedure.

Other guidance

Students are allowed to grow beards, but these should be kept clean and tidy. Extreme styles or fashion statements that the school deems to be unreasonable are not permitted.

Where to purchase uniform

Parents and carers can purchase WSS specific uniform directly from our suppliers.

- **School Sweater**
Wearabouts. (28 Victoria Road, Woolston, Southampton, Hampshire, SO19 9DX
<https://www.wearabouts.co.uk/>
- **PE t-shirt**
Premier Teamwear & Workwear, 497 Bitterne Road East, Southampton, SO18 5WQ
www.workwear247.co.uk

The school is committed to supporting students who are eligible for Free School Meals (FSM). For students joining Year 7 in the 2026-27 academic year, the school will look to provide financial assistance towards educational supplies, including school uniform, where needed. Parents and carers of eligible students are encouraged to discuss their circumstances with their child's Head of Year, who can provide further information about the support available. Reception holds both WSS-specific uniform items (PE kit and sweaters) and a small stock of generic uniform items (skirts, trousers, polo shirts, socks and tights). Please note that the school operates on a not-for-profit basis and all uniform items are sold at cost price. Any support arrangements will be reviewed at the end of the academic year.

Expectations for our school community

Students

Students are expected to wear the correct uniform at all times (other than specified non-school uniform days) while:

- On the school premises.
- Travelling to and from school.
- At out-of-school events or on trips that are organised by the school, or where they are representing the school (if required).

Students are also expected to contact their Tutor or Head of Year if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics.

Parents and Carers

Parents and carers are expected to make sure their child has the correct uniform and PE kit, and that every item is:

- Clean.
- Clearly labelled with the child's name.
- In good condition.

If Parents and carers would like to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to:

- Their child's protected characteristics.
- A medical need (evidence required).
- The cost of the uniform.

They should contact their child's Tutor or Head of Year.

Reasonable adjustments will be made where a student has a medical condition, disability or sensory need that impacts their ability to comply with all aspects of the uniform policy. Requests should be supported by appropriate evidence where required.

Parents and carers are expected to lodge any complaints or objections relating to the school uniform in a timely and reasonable manner. Disputes about the cost of the school uniform will be:

- Resolved locally.
- Dealt with in accordance with our school's complaints policy.

Staff

Staff at WSS are on hand each morning at roll call to facilitate a calm and productive start to the day. Staff will check school uniform and send students to reception to correct their uniform. It is the school's expectation that where possible changes are made to uniform prior to entering the school site.

WSS will provide items of uniform for loan each day. Students will be requested to either swap an item, e.g., bus pass, house keys, phone etc to borrow an item of uniform for the school day.

Tutors, Heads of Year or Pastoral staff will contact home to discuss any concerns around uniform and offer support as required. Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with in line with the WSS Behaviour and Expectations Policy.

Financial Hardship

In cases where financial hardship has resulted in a student not complying with this uniform policy and the student is not eligible for Free School Meals, please contact your child's Head of Year.

No student will be sanctioned where non-compliance is directly attributable to genuine financial hardship and the family is engaging with the school to resolve the issue.

Interim Governing Board (IGB)

The IGB will review this policy and make sure that it:

- Is appropriate for our school's context.
- Is implemented fairly across the school.

- Takes into account the views of parents, carers and students.
- Offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all students.

The IGB will also make sure that the school's uniform supplier arrangements give the highest priority to cost and value for money, for example by avoiding single supplier contracts and by re-tendering contracts at least every 5 years.

Lost property

Students are able to check lost property during break times and after school in the Medical Room. Once every term, items which have been handed in will be displayed and students will be able to collect lost belongings. Items will be held for a maximum of one term and any unclaimed items will be disposed of through local charities or added to the school's spare uniform stock.

All items of clothing (including bags) must be clearly marked with the student's full name. Black permanent markers may be used but names should be written large and clear.

Jewellery, mobile telephones, other electrical devices and any items of value brought into school remain the responsibility of their owners. The school cannot accept responsibility for these items, including any loss or damage occurred whilst at school.

Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed bi-annually by the Headteacher. At every review, it will be approved by the Interim Governing Board.

Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

Behaviour & Expectations policy

Equality information and objectives statement

Anti-bullying policy

Complaints policy

Appendix One: Examples of acceptable Trousers, Skirts and Shorts

Acceptable	Not Acceptable
✓	✗

Black box pleated skirt:	Plain/ Flared: Lycra:

✓	✗
Black tailored, knee length shorts: 	
✓	✗

Appendix Two: Examples of acceptable Footwear

Examples of acceptable footwear	Examples of unacceptable footwear
	
	
	
	
	



Appendix Three: Additional guidance (Hair, Nails, Makeup).

Examples of acceptable hair styles	Examples of unacceptable hair styles
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