



Uniform Policy

Reviewed on	Sept 2026	Review frequency	Yearly
Next review due	Sept 2027	Template Yes / No	Yes
Owner	DoES	Approved by	Executive



1. History of Policy Changes

Date	Page	Change	Origin of Change
21.07.25	3	Schools should keep the use of branded items to a minimum and can now only mandate up to three branded items, with secondary and middle schools allowed a fourth if one is a branded tie. This change is designed to lower the cost of uniforms for families.	
Sept 2026	All / relevant sections	Updated to reflect DfE school uniform guidance updated 6 July 2026 and the statutory branded-item limit coming into force from 1 September 2026. New/revised wording is shown in blue.	DfE school uniform guidance and statutory cost of school uniforms guidance

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Sam's Entitlement

3. Introduction

This policy has been updated to reflect the DfE school uniform guidance updated on 6 July 2026 and the statutory requirement that governing boards / Trusts must comply with the branded item limit from 1 September 2026.

The school will keep uniform requirements clear, inclusive, affordable and easy for current and prospective parents/carers to understand.

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 in line with the Department for Education's statutory guidance on the cost of school uniform and non-statutory guidance on developing school uniform policy, updated for September 2026.

4. Our School's legal duties under the Equality Act 2010

The school will also consider obligations under the Human Rights Act 1998 and will take account of safeguarding, health and safety, pupil wellbeing and equality duties when developing and applying this policy.

The school will consider the relevant protected characteristics for uniform decisions, including sex, religion or belief, race, disability, gender reassignment and pregnancy, and will consider individual variations where necessary to avoid unlawful discrimination.

The school will consider the Equality and Human Rights Commission guidance on preventing hair discrimination in schools when reviewing rules on hair, presentation and appearance.

Uniform options will be applied flexibly and lawfully so that pupils can wear appropriate items comfortably, safely and without rules reinforcing stereotypes.

The Equality Act 2010 prohibits discrimination against an individual based on the protected characteristics, which include sex, disability, race, religion or belief, and gender reassignment.

To avoid discrimination, our school will:

- Provide a flexible choice of uniform items where possible and avoid unnecessarily rigid rules based on sex or stereotypes, while ensuring the policy remains lawful, proportionate, safe and consistently applied.
- Make sure that our uniform costs the same for all pupils
- Allow all pupils to have long hair (though we reserve the right to ask for this to be tied back)
- Allow all pupils to style their hair in a way that is appropriate for school and makes them feel most comfortable
- Allow pupils to request reasonable adaptations to swimwear or other uniform requirements for religious, SEND, medical, equality or wellbeing reasons, where this can be accommodated safely and proportionately.
- Allow pupils to wear headscarves and other religious or cultural symbols
- Allow pupils with sensory or physical needs to make adaptations to their uniform depending on their specific needs
- Allow for adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents to get in touch with their child's tutor who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests

5. Limiting the cost of school uniform

From 1 September 2026, the school must comply with the statutory limit on compulsory branded items of uniform and PE kit. Schools may require up to three compulsory branded items; secondary may require a fourth compulsory branded item only where that fourth item is a branded tie.

A branded item is any item with distinctive characteristics that make it unique to the school. This is not limited to a logo: an item may be branded if it is only available from specific suppliers or is unique in colour, design or fabric.

The school will keep compulsory branded items to the minimum necessary and will prioritise cost, value for money, quality, durability and sustainability when specifying uniform.



Where a sole supplier or branded-item agreement is used, the school will ensure arrangements are transparent, regularly reviewed, competitively tendered and designed to secure best value for parents/carers. Schools should ensure that their uniform supplier arrangements give the highest priority to cost and value for money (including the quality and durability of the garment).

Any substantial change to uniform or supplier arrangements will be planned with a sensible lead-in time to avoid unnecessary waste or additional cost to families.

Parents should not have to think about the cost of a school uniform when choosing which school(s) to apply for. Therefore, schools need to ensure that their uniform is affordable.

In considering cost, schools will need to think about the total cost of school uniforms, taking into account all items of uniform or clothing parents will need to provide while their child is at the school.

A school's uniform policy should be published on the school's website, be available for all parents, including parents of prospective pupils, and be easily understood.

Schools should ensure that second-hand / pre-loved uniforms are available for parents to acquire. Information on second-hand uniforms should be clear for parents of current and prospective pupils and published on the school's website.

Schools should engage with parents and pupils when they are developing their school uniform policy.

At Weston Secondary school, uniform is worn throughout the school as we believe it encourages a sense of belonging and identity.

6. Uniform at our School

The published school-specific uniform list must identify which items are compulsory, which items are optional, which items are generic and which items are branded.

The uniform list should make clear where items can be purchased and should not unnecessarily restrict generic items to a single supplier.

The school will consider pupil comfort, movement, safety for walking or cycling to school, and sensible flexibility during adverse or extreme weather.

Where appropriate, short-term uniform adjustments may be used to support attendance and avoid pupils missing school because of uniform issues outside their control.

Our aim is that uniform is inclusive and low cost. It consists of the following items.

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 leggings 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.

During the winter months all children should wear a coat.

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

Parents and carers are free to purchase non-branded uniform items from a retailer of their choice, as long as the items comply with the school's uniform requirements.

7. Pre-loved uniform

Information about second-hand or pre-loved uniform will be clearly available to current and prospective parents/carers, including how to donate, access or purchase items.

The school will consider how reuse of uniform supports affordability and sustainability.

We ask all parents to donate any uniform that is still in good condition but is no longer used.

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.

8. PE Kits

PE kit must be practical, comfortable, suitable for the activity and affordable.

The school will consider offering a choice of PE items so pupils can participate comfortably, for example shorts, skirts, tracksuit bottoms or leggings where appropriate.

The school will avoid requirements that create pressure to buy designer sportswear or visible branded sportswear unless clearly justified and within the statutory branded-item limit.

All children are required to have a PE uniform which consists of



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 skirt (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.

9. General Appearance

Rules on appearance, hair, jewellery, logos, slogans, political messaging and accessories will be clear, proportionate, applied consistently and considered alongside equality, safeguarding, health and safety and behaviour expectations.

Pupils should wear clean uniform and have long hair tied back or braided. Shoes should be all black including the soles and in good condition so that pupils are safe and comfortable. Children should not wear jewellery to school, the only exception is small, plain stud earrings which children will need to be able to remove for P.E.

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.



10. Religions and Beliefs

The school will act reasonably through consultation and dialogue when considering religious or belief-related requests, balancing the pupil's rights with legitimate aims such as health and safety, safeguarding, cohesion and good order.

Some religions and beliefs require their adherents to conform to a particular dress code or to otherwise outwardly manifest their belief. This could include wearing or carrying specific religious artefacts, not cutting their hair, dressing modestly, or covering their head. Pupils have the right to manifest a religion or belief, but not necessarily at all times, places or in a particular manner. If our school has good reason for restricting an individual's freedoms, for example, the promotion of cohesion and good order in the school, or genuine health and safety or security considerations, the restriction of an individual's rights to manifest their religion or belief may be justified.

The school will be sensitive to the needs of different cultures, races and religions and act reasonably in accommodating these needs, without compromising important school policies, such as school safety or discipline. It should be possible for most religious requirements to be met within a school uniform policy, and the local governing board will act reasonably through consultation and dialogue in accommodating these.

11. Engagement with parents/carers

The school will actively engage with parents/carers and pupils when designing the uniform policy or making significant changes, including engagement on cost, comfort, accessibility, supplier arrangements and the impact on groups with protected characteristics.

The final policy will be published on the school website and clearly signposted so that current and prospective parents/carers can access and understand it easily.

Parents 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 dealt with in accordance with the school's complaints policy. The school will work closely with parents to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

12. Discrimination

Even when a policy has been agreed, school staff will be able to allow for some individual variations to their uniform policy, where necessary to avoid indirect discrimination. For instance, reasonable adjustments will be made, as appropriate, for pupils with a disability. We aim to make our school uniform as inclusive as possible so if parents have any requests or concerns then please contact the school.

13. Other things to think about

September 2026 update - attendance and non-uniform days:

The school will consider the link between uniform and attendance. Where a pupil does not have correct or clean uniform or PE kit, staff will consider supportive action and whether short-term flexibility is appropriate.

For non-uniform days, the school will set clear expectations in advance, consider the impact on attendance, avoid making participation dependent on financial contributions, and consider the impact on pupils from low-income families.



The school may set expectations on logos, slogans, political messaging or other items worn on non-uniform days where this is linked to behaviour, safeguarding or the school's duty of political impartiality.

Please ensure all items of clothing are labelled with your child's name to avoid them being lost. Lost property is located in the medical room.

During hot weather children should bring a bottle of water and a sun hat into school, every day. Please remember to apply sunscreen in the morning before school.

During periods of hot weather, schools may allow temporary adjustments to the uniform to ensure pupils remain comfortable and able to learn effectively.

14. Staff

Uniform breaches will be handled in a proportionate and fair way, in line with the behaviour policy. Before any sanctions are actioned, staff will consider whether non-compliance may be outside the pupil's control, including affordability, availability, washing facilities, SEND, medical needs, religious requirements or family circumstances.

Staff will closely monitor pupils to make sure they are in correct uniform. They will give any pupils and families breaching the uniform policy the opportunity to comply but will follow up with the headteacher if the situation doesn't improve.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with in accordance with our school behaviour policy.

15. Governors

The Local Governing Committee will assure itself that the policy complies with the September 2026 branded-item limit and continues to give high priority to cost and value for money.

Governors will ensure supplier arrangements remain transparent, competitive where required, and regularly reviewed, and that the published policy is clear for current and prospective parents/carers.

The Local Governing Body will review this policy to ensure it is appropriate for the school context, is implemented fairly across the school and is appropriate, practical and safe for all pupils.

16. Associated Policies

This policy should also be read alongside procurement procedures where branded uniform supplier arrangements are used, and attendance guidance where uniform issues may affect attendance.

This policy also links to:

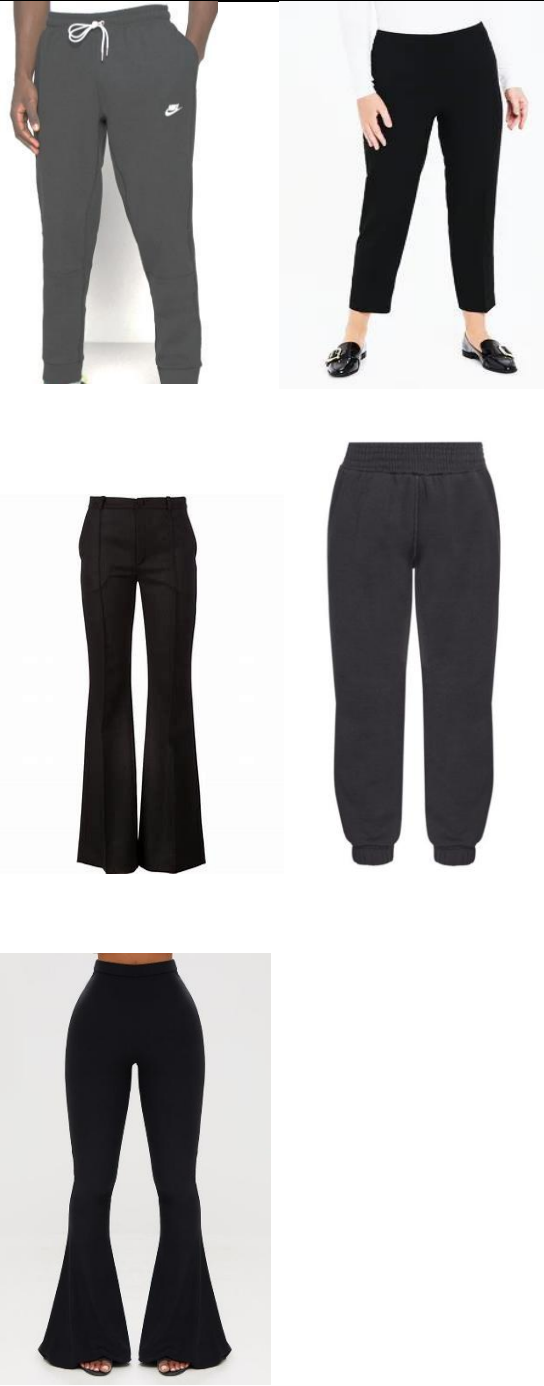
Complaints policy

Behaviour policy

Equality information and objectives



17. Appendix One: Examples of acceptable Trousers, Skirts and Shorts

Acceptable	Not Acceptable
✓ 	✗ 
✓	✗

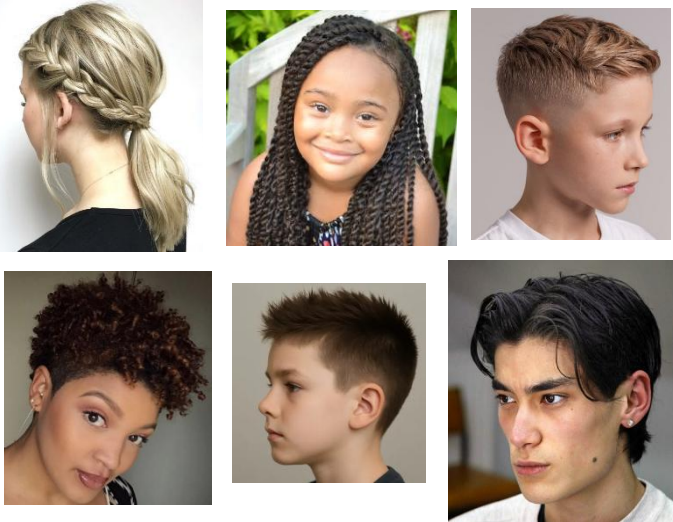
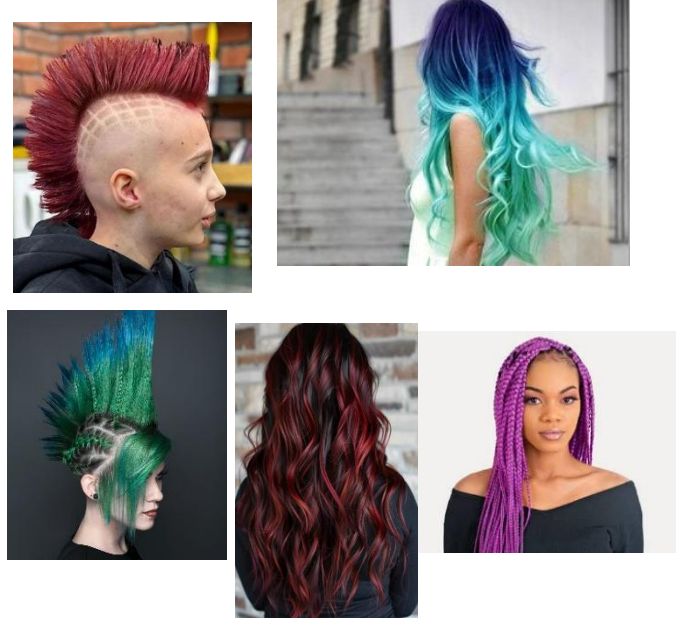
Black box pleated skirt:	Plain/ Flared:	Lycra:
		
✓	✗	
Black tailored, knee length shorts:		
✓	✗	

18. Appendix Two: Examples of acceptable Footwear

Examples of acceptable footwear	Examples of unacceptable footwear
	
	
	
	
	

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

Examples of acceptable hair styles	Examples of unacceptable hair styles
	

Examples of acceptable nails	Examples of unacceptable nails
	

Examples of acceptable make up	Examples of unacceptable make up
