

School uniform policy

West Craven High School



Policy/Procedure/Guideline Review

Policy/Procedure/Guideline:	Uniform Policy
Senior Manager Responsible:	Mrs A Smith, Deputy Principal
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1. 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

2. 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 age, sex, sexual orientation, disability, race, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity, and gender reassignment.

To avoid discrimination, our school will:

- Avoid listing uniform items based on sex, to give all pupils 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 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 changes to swimwear for religious reasons or if they are experiencing discomfort
- Allow pupils to wear headscarves and/or other religious garments
- Allow pupils with sensory or physical needs to make reasonable adaptations to their uniform depending on their specific needs

- Allow for reasonable adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents/carers to get in touch with Mrs A Smith, Deputy Principal asmith@westcraven.co.uk , who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis

3. 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 (DfE) on the cost of school uniform.

We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that need 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
- Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics where possible If your school has a blazer and jumper uniform, add: for example, by only asking that the blazer, worn over the jumper, features the school logo
- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost and/or long-lasting items, such as ties
- 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 pupils 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
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents/carers of any changes
- Consulting with parents/carers and pupils on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy

4. Expectations for school uniform

4.1 Our school's uniform

- Black Blazer with school logo. Sew on badge available from school.
- Formal black tailored school trousers (unbranded)
- Black drop pleat, A line school skirt with school badge or formal black tailored trousers (unbranded)
- White long or short sleeved shirt with formal collar (unbranded)
- Optional black V-neck jumper (unbranded)

- School Tie (colour specific to year group) - clip on
- Low heeled, black shoes – no boots, trainers, or canvas shoes
- Black or white socks
- Plain black tight
- Religious head covering should be plain black
- Plain black salwar and kameez

The following are strictly not allowed

- Drain-pipe or tight trousers
- Low slung trousers
- Jean type trousers
- Trousers with studs on
- Leggings or jeggings
- Sweatshirts or hoodies
- Patterned tights
- Trainers, canvas shoes or boots
- Tube skirts

School footwear:

- Footwear must be shoe and not a trainer, boot, pump or plimpsoll
- Sports branded footwear is not acceptable (Nike, Addidas, Mallet, Vans, Converse, etc)
- Shoes displaying a sportswear brand will be deemed to be a trainer
- Some footwear advertised as 'school shoes' in retailers may not be acceptable at WCHS
- Footwear that covers the ankle are deemed to be a boot and are not allowed (e.g. Dr Martens)

Basic PE kit :

- Black T shirt or football shirt with school logo
- Black shorts (optional school logo)
- PE skirt (optional school logo)
- Black PE socks
- Trainers
- Football Boots
- *Black tracksuit bottoms (optional school logo) (optional item)*
- *Black sweatshirt/hoodie (optional school logo) (optional item)*

Jewellery:

- Students are allowed the following items of jewellery only;
- A wristwatch

- Pair of plain stud or sleeper earrings in the lower ear
- No other jewellery e.g. chains, bands, rings, bracelets and tongue or nose piercings may be worn.
- We have a duty of care to all our students, and this includes responsibility for health and safety. The wearing of facial jewellery, nose studs, tongue piercings, multiple earrings in ears, necklaces, ear stretchers and other items which could cause harm or breach Health & Safety requirements in school is not allowed at all. We are unable to accept responsibility for replacing any items which are lost or stolen whilst in school.
- School reserves the right to ask students to refrain from wearing inappropriate jewellery or other items of non-uniform; for reasons of safety, security or appropriate appearance, students may be asked to remove the item.

Hair:

- In addition to adhering to the correct dress code outlined in the uniform policy we also expect students to present themselves with an acceptable appearance. As we strive to prepare and equip students for working life, we expect hairstyles to be reasonable during school hours, and ask that radical styles are avoided, for example:
- No shaved heads or other extreme hairstyles.
- Hair must not be shorter than a number 3 razor cut.
- No tram lines.
- No decorative braids.
- Excessively bright or multi coloured hair dyed in other than natural colours.

Makeup:

- No makeup is allowed.
- No acrylic nails are allowed.

Tattoos:

- Students should not have any visible tattoos.

Coats:

- Can be student's own choice but are not allowed to be worn in the building. Coats must be removed on entry to the building.
- Where students are inappropriately dressed or have unacceptable appearance, school will contact home with the intention of rectifying the situation so that students can return to lessons as soon as possible. If this is not practical, students will continue their learning in isolation at school until parents can be contacted. In extreme cases of persistent and open defiance of school policies, exclusion will be considered.

4.2 Where to purchase it

- Our branded uniform items are supplied at most local uniform, including Whittakers, Jean Junction and Skip to School.
- Our non-branded items are available widely from most high street school uniform retailers.
- We have a collection of pre-loved uniforms in school. Please contact the main reception area for details.

- We do have a School Clothes Grant and should you wish to access this, please put a request in writing to the Principal.

5. Expectations for our school community

5.1 Pupils

Pupils 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)

Pupils are also expected to contact Mrs A Smith Deputy, Principal asmith@westcraven.co.uk if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics.

5.2 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

Parents/carers are also expected to contact Mrs A Smith Deputy, Principal asmith@westcraven.co.uk if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to:

- Their child's protected characteristics
- The cost of the uniform

Parents/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

The school will work closely with parents/carers to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

5.3 Staff

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 by Mrs A Smith, Deputy Principal asmith@westcraven.co.uk

In cases where it is suspected that financial hardship has resulted in a pupil not complying with this uniform policy, staff will take a mindful and considerate approach to resolving the situation.

5.4 Governors

The local academy council 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 pupils
- › Offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all pupils

The board 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.

6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by Mrs A Smith, Deputy Principal At every review, it will be approved by local academy council

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

- › Behaviour policy
- › Equality information and objectives statement
- › Anti-bullying policy
- › Complaints policy