

Sydenham School

Uniform Policy



Approved by: Children and Families Committee

Date: January 2026

Last reviewed on: January 2026

Next review due by: January 2028

Contents

1.Aims.....	2
2. Our school’s legal duties under the Equality Act 2010.....	2
3. Limiting the cost of school uniform.....	3
4. Expectations for school uniform.....	3
4.1 Our school uniform.....	3
4.2 Where to purchase.....	5
5.Expectaions for our school community.....	6
5.1 Students.....	6
5.2 Parents and carers.....	6
5.3 Staff.....	6
5.4 Governors.....	6
6.Monitoring arrangements.....	7
7.Links to other policies.....	7

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, disability, race, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity, and gender reassignment.

To avoid discrimination, our school will:

- Make sure that our uniform costs the same for all students
- Allow all students to have long hair (although this must be tied back for practical subjects)
- Allow all students to style their hair in a way that is appropriate for school and makes them feel most comfortable
- Allow students to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons or if they are experiencing discomfort related to their sex, gender or gender reassignment
- Allow students to wear headscarves for religion or belief
- Allow students with sensory or physical needs to make reasonable adaptations to their uniform depending on their specific needs. This would need to be agreed through the SEND Department.
- Allow for reasonable adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking students or their parents/carers to get in touch with the Assistant Headteacher responsible for uniform, 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

- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost and/or long-lasting items, such as the school bag
- 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 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 – we have items second-hand sales on site and use the secondhand uniform shop [Uniformd](#)
- 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

4. Expectations for school uniform

4.1 Our school uniform

Uniform requirements for all students in Years 7-11:

Item	School branded/ not branded	Details
School Bag	Branded	Compulsory Wearabouts Sydenham School Standard rucksack with school logo (<i>note that we are concerned about the quality of this bag and have raised this with the supplier</i>) or Wearabouts Sydenham School Active rucksack with school logo.
Blazer	Branded	Compulsory Navy-blue SS29E blazer To be worn at all times (except when directly permitted to remove it in hot weather conditions)
Skirt	Branded	Trousers or formal shorts can be worn as an alternative (see below) Ramsay Blue BA028T checked skirt Ramsay Blue BA028T long checked skirt (worn for religious reasons)
Trousers Or Shorts	Not Branded	Skirt can be worn as an alternative (see above) Navy-blue formal tailored trousers Navy-blue formal tailored shorts of an appropriate length
Shirt	Not Branded	Compulsory White revere collar blouse
Jumper	Not Branded	Optional Navy blue plain v neck jumper

Tights and Socks	Not Branded	Opaque black tights, 20+ denier OR Black knee length socks worn below the knee or black full ankle socks. No logos or patterns.
Shoes	Not Branded	Compulsory Plain, sturdy, black leather, polishable shoes with wide flat heels (not kitten type). Kicker shoes are allowed with normal black laces and stitching. No trainer-style, canvas, suede, nubuck or velvet shoes are permitted No boots are permitted
Outdoor wear	Not Branded	Coats must be plain black or navy blue , no visible logos, to be worn in addition to the blazer in outdoor spaces during break and lunch. No leather coats. Scarves and hats if worn must be plain black or navy blue. No leg warmers or ear muffs are permitted
PE and Dance Uniform	Not Branded	Compulsory Navy blue PE shorts Navy blue tracksuit bottoms (with school logo- optional) Navy blue leggings (with school logo- optional) Navy blue polo shirt (with school logo- optional) Plain white socks Trainers with non-marking soles and good grip (not plimsolls or converses) This uniform should be worn in PE lessons only, it cannot be worn to and from school. Students will be given time to change before and after their PE lessons.
	Branded	Optional Navy blue hoodie with the school logo (to be worn for PE only)
	Not Branded	Optional Plain navy sweatshirt, no logo (to be worn for PE only)

The following expectations apply to all students in Y7-11:

- Blazers should be worn at all times (except when directed due to hot weather)
- Shirts must be tucked in to the school skirt/trousers
- Jumpers should not be tucked into the school skirt/trouser or tied from behind
- School skirts must be worn at an appropriate knee length and not rolled up
- Students who wish to cover their hair for religious reasons should wear a plain navy or black scarf. No head scarves other than for religious reasons

Hair

- Hair accessories should be discreet and plain black or navy
- Hair should be natural colours only

Make-up and Nails

- Discreet make-up

- No false eyelashes
- No nail varnish
- No false nails

Jewellery

- One small single stud in each ear, no hoops
- One wristwatch (no smart watches)
- No facial piercings
- No rings, necklaces or bracelets.
- A discreet religious necklace can be worn, tucked inside the shirt.

4.2 Where to purchase

- Wearabouts, 99 Sydenham High Street, SE26 5UA. Tel: 020 8659 9917
www.wearaboutsschoolwear.co.uk
- All items marked with an asterisk must be bought from Wearabouts, all other items can be purchased from high street retailers.
- Second-hand uniforms can be purchased on site through second-hand uniform sales; dates communicated through school newsletter and induction materials.

5. Expectations for our school community

5.1 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 Head of Year/Pastoral Manager 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 their child's Head of Year/Pastoral Manager 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 students to make sure they are in correct uniform. They will give any students and families breaching the uniform policy the opportunity to comply but will follow up with the Headteacher if the situation does not improve.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with by the student's Head of Year/Pastoral Manager.

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 governing board 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 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 every two years by the Assistant Headteacher responsible for Uniform. At every review, it will be approved by Headteacher.

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

- [Behaviour policy](#)
- [Equalities Policy](#)
- [Complaints policy](#)