South Farnham Educational Trust

The Continual Pursuit of Excellence

# Uniform Policy



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| REVIEW DATE: | JULY 2026 |
| NEXT REVIEW DATE: | JULY 2027 |

## 1. Purpose

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:

- Avoid listing uniform items based on gender, giving all pupils the opportunity to wear the uniform they feel most comfortable in.
- 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 related to their gender.
- Allow pupils to wear headscarves and/or other religious garments.
- Allow pupils with sensory or physical needs to make reasonable and agreed 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 Mr J Swan (Assistant Headteacher), 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.
- Is published on the school website.

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.
- 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.
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups.
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities.
- 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.
- Ensuring that uniform supplier arrangements give the highest priority to cost and value for money, for example by avoiding single supplier contracts and by reviewing contracts at least every five years.
- 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

All pupils are expected to wear the correct school uniform at all times during the school day. This includes to and from school, as well as during some school organised events. We expect all pupils to wear the uniform with pride and to conduct themselves appropriately when representing the school. This also applies when pupils are off-site and in the school community (e.g. before and after school hours).

We expect all pupils, supported by their parents/carers, to take personal responsibility for the presentation of their uniform and to ensure their uniform is worn correctly and consistently.

Parents should contact their child's tutor if there are any personal circumstances affecting their child wearing the correct uniform, in order to make a swift resolution. If a note is provided, we would expect parents to notify the school of the date that their child will be expected to be back in full uniform. We would expect all uniform issues to be resolved by the following school week. If parents are unable to make the necessary changes (e.g. purchase a new item of school uniform) within the acceptable time frame, parents should contact their child's Head of Year to express this concern. If parents are unable to afford new items of uniform within the acceptable time frame, the school may agree to pay for these on the proviso that the school will be reimbursed by the parents when they are able to do so – in such circumstances a suitable re-payment plan would be agreed.

## Supplies / Cost of Uniform

We want to ensure that the cost of uniform does not deter any family from applying for a school place for their child, nor leads to them feeling socially excluded or unable to afford parts of the uniform. The uniform is reviewed regularly to ensure that good quality clothing is provided at an affordable price which best suits the needs of all pupils. If there are any changes to the supplier of school uniform, parents and guardians will be notified in due course and with sufficient time to reasonably implement any changes.

Due to the most recent update on the statutory guidance from the DfE relating to Cost of School Uniforms. TBCS has also reviewed and updated the uniform which falls in line with the DfE guidance from September 2026:

- schools should limit the number of compulsory branded items of uniform and PE kit to 3 or fewer
- secondary and middle schools should limit the number of compulsory branded items of uniform and PE kit to 4 or fewer, if one is a tie.

As such from September 2026 TBCS will require the following items of Uniform and PE kit to be branded and compulsory:

| **Years 7 & 8** | **Years 9-11** |
|---|---|
| Branded TBCS Blazer | Branded TBCS Jumper |
| Branded TBCS House Tie | |
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| Branded PE Polo Shirt | Branded PE Polo Shirt |
| Branded PE Sweatshirt | Branded PE Sweatshirt |

### Application of the Uniform Policy

It is the responsibility of parents to ensure that their child attends school wearing correct uniform. Although all staff have a responsibility for monitoring that pupils are correctly dressed in class and elsewhere on the school site, the main responsibility will lie with the tutor. Appendix A, B and C detail the school's expectations for uniform items and appearance.

### Pupils not conforming to the School Uniform Policy

A student wearing non-uniform clothing can expect to be challenged in school. Parents are expected to provide a note explaining incorrect uniform on the day (or in advance of the day) that the infringement occurs. If a note (or other similar contact) is received from parents/guardians, a temporary uniform permit may be issued for a maximum duration of 1 school week. The school reserves the right to sanction pupils who repeatedly provide retrospective notes to explain incorrect uniform.

If a student fails to comply with the expectations of the uniform policy is likely that the matter will be managed in the following way:

- Incorrect uniform without note (e.g. no tie, trainers, wrong coloured socks) are *likely* to be issued with an immediate After School Reflection (please refer to the school's behaviour policy for details of After School Reflections).
- Hoodies – a student will be asked and expected to remove the hoodie. The member of staff will confiscate the hoodie and place in reception, where it will be returned to the student at the end of the school day. However, staff are within their rights to withhold the item of clothing and return it only to a parent (as per the mobile phone rule) if the student *repeatedly wears the hoodie to school*.
- Fake nails – pupils will be asked to remove and shorten within a set time outside of school time. Failure to remove/shorten the nails in a timely manner *may* lead to a removal from timetabled lessons with their Tutor/HOY/SLT link until the issue is resolved. School sanctions *may* also be applied if pupils repeatedly wear fake nails to school.
- Jeans/skin-tight trousers/leggings/excessively short skirts – pupils will not be allowed to attend lessons when wearing such items. Parents will be contacted immediately and asked to bring appropriate school trousers/skirt to the school for the student to wear. Pupils will not return to normal lessons until appropriate trousers / skirt have been provided.
- Jewellery – pupils will be asked to remove the item, which in some cases may result in these items being confiscated. The school reserves the right to return confiscated items to parents only, and not pupils. In addition, pupils and parents should be aware that jewellery is brought to school at the pupils' own risk. The school takes no responsibility for any item of jewellery that contravenes the school's uniform policy and is subsequently lost on school site.
- Failure to attend PE lessons without the required uniform/kit will lead to the behaviour escalation process to be implemented.

Pupils who repeatedly fail to wear their school uniform appropriately, without a valid reason may be placed on a uniform report. This is with an aim to support and monitor correct uniform expectations. Pupils will be sanctioned for repeated failure to adhere to the uniform expectations. Whilst on report, the student will be assessed on:

- Ensuring their shirt is tucked in
- Ensuring their top button is done up (where applicable)
- Ensuring their tie is a reasonable length
- Ensuring skirts are not rolled up.
- Ensuring trousers are worn appropriately
- Ensuring socks are the correct colour
- Ensuring make up is not excessive and is in line with the make-up allowances suggested in the appendices below
- Ensuring jewellery, other than that detailed in the appendices below, is not worn in school.

Subject to the final appeal process, the Headteacher is normally the final arbiter in all matters of uniform and dress.

The Blue Coat School may make mid-year changes as appropriate and with sufficient notice to parents/carers.

**From September 2026, all new Year 7 pupils and pupils in Year 8 will be expected to wear the New Branded TBCS Stripe tie and a Branded TBCS Blazer.**

**Pupils in Years 9-11 (September 2026) can continue wearing the Branded TBCS V-Neck jumper and Teal tie as expected.**

**All pupils in year 9-11 have the choice to purchase and wear the new Branded TBCS Stripe tie and Blazer from September 2026.**

Guidance on appropriate uniform is found in the appendices below:

## Appendix A – list of required and optional uniform for all pupils

***Can only be purchased from Skoolkit**

| Item of uniform | Available to be purchased from Skoolkit | Guidance / Description | | Items / uniform variations |
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| Tie | Available from Skoolkit | (Year 7 & 8 2026)<br>Required item<br><br>New Branded TBCS Striped tie. | Years 9-11 (September 2026)<br>Required item<br><br>Teal Tie. | No other tie is permitted to be worn (unless a prefect, who may wear the prefect tie).<br><br>Revere Neck Blouse – Tie Not compulsory (Year 9-11 September 2026 Only) |
| Branded TBCS Blazer | Available from Skoolkit | (Years 7 & 8 2026)<br><br>Required Item | Years 9-11 (September 2026)<br><br>Optional Item | No other blazer is permitted to be worn.<br><br>TBCS V-Neck Jumpers are optional and are not to be worn instead of the TBCS Blazer. |
| *Branded TBCS Jumper | Available | (Year 7 & 8 2026)<br><br>Not a compulsory item | Year 9-11 (September 2026)<br><br>Required item if not wearing TBCS Blazer.<br><br>TBCS V-neck jumper, navy (unisex) | No other jumper other than the TBCS V-neck jumper (Yr. 9 2026) or Aldworth School jumper (Y10-Y11 2026 only) is permitted to be worn.<br><br>No other jumpers or cardigans are permitted. No hoodies are permitted.<br><br>Jumper must not be tied up |
| Shoes | Not available | **Required item**<br><br>Plain black traditional leather style shoes suitable for school use<br><br>Maximum heel height 1” / 2.5cm<br><br>*Shoes do not need to be made from real leather | | The items below are not permitted<br>Boots and UGGs<br>Trainers<br>Stiletto shoes<br>Platform soles<br>Backless shoes<br>Plimsolls<br>Dolly shoes<br>Crocs / flip flops<br>Branded or Marked Shoes Different colours other than plain black |
| Shirt | Available | **Required item**<br><br>Plain white short or long-sleeved button through school shirt – tie compulsory | | No other colour shirt is permitted to be worn.<br><br>**Years 9-11 September 2026 Only**<br>Plain white short or long-sleeved revere neck blouse – tie not compulsory |
| Trousers | Available | **Required item (or skirt)**<br><br>Plain black | | No other colour is permitted.<br>No leggings, jeans, cargo trousers etc.<br><br>Trousers should be worn appropriately at waist or hip level, ensuring that no undergarments (e.g., underwear) are exposed. |

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| *Tailored 'summer' shorts | Available | Plain tailored, professional looking shorts<br><br>Optional | These must be purchased from Skoolkit.<br>No other shorts are permitted. |
| Skirts | Available | **Required item (or trousers)**<br><br>Pleated Charleston style skirt - Navy<br><br>**TBCS recommends Skoolkit as the supplier of this item**<br><br>However, the Charleston style skirt can also be found in Next and M&S.<br>Next Code: 123-512<br>M&S Code: T760197 | No other colour is permitted.<br><br>Skirts should be consistently worn at approximately knee length.<br><br>No belts are permitted. Skirts should not be rolled at the waist |

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| Socks | Not available | **Required item (or tights)**<br><br>Plain black, navy blue | No other colours are permitted.<br>No knee-high socks. |
| Tights | Not available | **Required item (or socks)**<br><br>Plain black or Navy | No other colours are permitted. No patterns. |
| T-Shirts / Undershirts | Not available | A **plain white** vest or T-shirt may be worn under the school shirt for extra warmth but **must not be visible**<br>Optional | No other colour is permitted.<br><br>No visible T-shirts. No patterned or logos on T-shirts are permitted. |
| Coat | Not available | NA | Hoodies, denim or leather jackets are **not permitted**<br><br>High visibility jackets or other similar garments (e.g. reflective bands, etc) are allowed to be worn by cyclists and pedestrians on the way to school for safety.<br><br>These should be worn over the top of other garments but should be removed on entry to school and kept in pupils' bags/lockers. |
| Hats | Not available | NA | No caps or ski hats.<br><br>Exceptions to be made to the caps may be made in extreme heat where sun burn is a concern, through discussion with the Headteacher, SLT or the relevant Head of Year |
| Scarf | Not available | Plain black scarf - Optional | No other colour is permitted to be worn in school. No logos or designs permitted. |
| Belts | Not available | Plain black - Optional | No branded belts are allowed |

**Appendix B – list of required and optional PE uniform for all pupils.**

***Can only be purchased from Skoolkit**

| Item of uniform | Available to be purchased from Skoolkit | Guidance / uniform variations not permitted |
|---|---|---|
| TBCS or Aldworth (Y10-Y11 only)<br>PE Polo Shirt | Available | **REQUIRED ITEM**<br><br>No other polo shirt is permitted. |
| Navy PE Shorts | Available | REQUIRED ITEM<br>Shorts must be plain in nature with no logos<br>No other shorts are permitted |
| TBCS or Aldworth (Y10-Y11 only)<br>PE Sweatshirt | Available | **REQUIRED ITEM**<br><br>No other shorts are permitted |
| Black Sports Socks | Available | **REQUIRED ITEM**<br><br>No other colour socks are permitted. |
| Trainers | Not available | **REQUIRED ITEM**<br><br>These should have laces and be fit for purpose. No plimsolls are permitted. |
| Shin pads (for hockey and football) | Not available | **REQUIRED ITEM** |
| Gum Shield (for rugby and hockey) | Not available | **REQUIRED ITEM** |
| Hair Tie | Not available | **REQUIRED ITEM**<br>for pupils with hair that may impede vision during practical activities. |
| *Football / rugby boots | Not available | Rugby safety studs are to be worn in rugby boots.<br>Screw-in studs are not permitted |
| TBCS or Aldworth (Y10-Y11) Tracksuit Bottoms or leggings | Available | **OPTIONAL ITEM**<br><br>Plain Black leggings and tracksuit bottoms are acceptable. |
| *Towel | Not available | **OPTIONAL ITEM** |

**Appendix C – details pertaining to appearance for all pupils**

| Appearance | Guidance / description | Variations not permitted |
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| Earrings | One conventional, plain gold or silver-coloured stud no bigger than 4mm can be worn in each ear lobe only.<br><br>Pupils may only have their ears pierced ONCE in each ear lobe.<br><br>It is strongly advised that pupils wishing to have their ears pierced should do so at the beginning of the summer holiday, so as to avoid the need for spacers and – or additional piercings to close up.<br><br>Earrings are brought to the school at the pupils' own risk. | No other style of earring is permitted. No other body jewellery is permitted.<br><br>No spacers, belly button piercings, nose studs, tongue piercings are allowed to be worn.<br><br>In Physical Education lessons and in PE extra-curricular activities, studs and watches may not be worn |
| Hair | Pupils are permitted to colour their hair; however, this must be of a natural colour (e.g. blonde, black, brown, auburn, etc). Highlights of a natural colour are permitted. | Non-natural hair colours are permitted.<br><br>Pupils are not permitted to have any marking or tramlines shaved into their hair.<br><br>No extreme haircuts permitted e.g. Mohicans.<br><br>If in doubt please consult the school before committing to a specific hair cut style. |
| Nails | Natural nails only (without varnish) | Nail varnish, acrylic or gel nails are **not permitted** to be worn.<br>Pupils will be asked to remove/shorten nails in a timely manner. |
| Jewellery | Watches are allowed and encouraged in school. Smart watches must not be connected to mobile devices.<br><br>Medical bracelets are permitted to be worn. | No other jewellery is permitted to be worn, even if for sentimental reasons.<br><br>Necklaces, bracelets, chains, nose studs/rings and rings are not permitted.<br><br>In Physical Education lessons and in PE extra-curricular activities, studs and watches may not be worn |

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| Headphones | Headphones / earphones are not permitted to be visible or worn in school. | Failure to adhere to this policy will result in the items being confiscated. |
| Make-up | Pupils are permitted to wear discreet levels of natural coloured make-up. | Fake eyelashes and eyelash extensions are not permitted in school. |
| Glasses | Pupils are permitted to wear prescription glasses only. As such, sunglasses can only be worn if they are prescribed by an appropriate medical professional.<br><br>The only exception to this rule is during sports day, or extreme temperatures where pupils may be exposed to the sunlight for a prolonged period of time on that day. | No Sunglasses |

### 4.2 Where to purchase our school uniform

- Branded uniform can be purchased from Skoolkit

## 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 Mr Swan 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 Mr Swan 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 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 under the Behaviour Policy.

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 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 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 five years.

## 6. Links to other policies

This policy is published on our school website and available on request from the school office.

This policy is linked to our:

- Behaviour policy
- Complaints policy
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy