



School Uniform Policy

**This policy is based on
Department for Education guidance**

Date of adoption by the Governing Body: July 2026
Review cycle: 2 years
Reviewed by: Governors and staff
Next review date: July 2028

Notes: The uniform for Whitby School was agreed by the Governing Body at their meeting on 9 April 2024. The uniform expectations are provided on the school website, in parents' newsletters and on the pupil tutorial slides each week during term time. Wearing the correct school uniform falls under the school's Pupil Behaviour Policy.

Signed by the Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rafina', is positioned below the 'Signed by the Chair' text.

Statement of Intent

Whitby School is committed to promoting equality and value for money and to ensuring that no child is discriminated against due to their religion or belief, economic circumstances or social and cultural background. This policy contains provisions to meet these objectives and has been created with health and safety, value for money and practicality at its heart. Additionally, it is important that our pupils feel a sense of belonging to our school. We believe that wearing a smart and practical uniform allows all children, regardless of their backgrounds, to feel equal to their peers and confident in their appearance. We also believe it is important for children to wear clothing that is conducive to a successful learning environment, including activity-appropriate clothing, such as sports attire.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Governing Board is responsible for:

- in consultation with the Head of School and school community, establishing a practical and smart school uniform that accurately reflects the school's vision and values
- ensuring that equal opportunities are considered regarding the school's uniform and that no person is discriminated against
- listening to the opinions and wishes of parents/carers, pupils and the wider school community regarding changes to the school's uniform
- ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible and affordable.

The Head of School is responsible for (including by delegation to other staff):

- enforcing the school's uniform on a day-to-day basis.
- ensuring that school staff understand this policy and know what to do if a pupil is in breach of the policy
- listening to the opinions and wishes of the school community regarding the school's uniform and making appropriate recommendations to the Governing Board
- providing pupils with exemptions as appropriate, eg, for a pupil who has a broken arm/foot who requires a temporary adjustment to accommodate a cast.

Teaching and support staff are responsible for:

- ensuring that pupils dress in accordance with this policy at all times
- taking appropriate action when pupils are in breach of this policy
- ensuring that pupils understand why having a consistent and practical school uniform is important, for example, to establish school identity.

Parents/carers are responsible for:

- providing their children with the correct school uniform as detailed in this policy
- informing the Head of School if their child requires a more relaxed uniform policy for a period of time, including suitable reasoning for this
- ensuring that their child's uniform is clean, presentable and the correct size.

Pupils are responsible for:

- wearing the correct uniform at all times, unless the Head of School has granted an exemption
- looking after their uniform as appropriate
- respecting why a school uniform is important, for example, to develop a sense of belonging and ensure uniformity for all pupils.

Cost and Availability

In accordance with the School Admissions Code, Whitby School ensures that the School Uniform Policy

does not discourage parents/carers from applying for a place for their child.

The school is committed to meeting the DfE's recommendations on costs and value for money. Every care is taken to ensure that our uniforms are affordable for all current and prospective pupils, and that the best value for money is secured through reputable suppliers.

The school works with multiple suppliers to obtain value for money. Any savings negotiated are passed to parents where possible. The school will not amend uniform requirements regularly and will take the views of parents/carers and pupils into account when considering changes to school uniform. Where changes are required, the school ensures that assistance is provided to parents/carers struggling to meet the associated costs.

Religious Clothing/Ceremonial Wear

Some religions and beliefs require their members to conform to a specific dress code. The school does not discriminate against any religion or belief; however, the school weighs the needs and rights of individual pupils against the health, safety and wellbeing of the entire school community. We ask parents to make an appointment with the Head to make any requests for ceremonial wear in school which would be a deviation to the school uniform policy.

Equality

The school is required to ensure that this policy does not discriminate unlawfully. Every step has been taken to ensure that the cost of similar uniform items, for example, trousers versus skirts, are not disproportionate. The school endeavours to ensure that our uniform is as gender neutral and inclusive as possible.

Complaints and Challenges

The school endeavours to resolve all uniform complaints and challenges locally and informally, in accordance with the School's Complaints Policy. To make a complaint, parents/carers should refer to the Complaints Policy and follow the stipulations outlined in this.

When a complaint is received, the school will work with parents/carers to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome. Governors are willing to consider reasonable requests for flexibility to allow a pupil to accommodate particular social and cultural circumstances but this must be balanced against the benefits of having a uniform policy for all pupils.

School Uniform Supplier

Our uniform supplier is regularly reviewed to ensure the best value for money for parents. The quality of items is considered against the cost.

Non-compliance

On rare occasions, for example, if slogans on clothing are offensive, the Head of School is permitted to ask a pupil to take off the clothing, such as a sweatshirt/jumper. In the event that they cannot take the clothing off, parents/carers will be contacted and they will be asked to bring in more suitable uniform/clothing. On other occasions, for example, if a child is wearing inappropriate footwear, teaching and/or support staff will inform parents/carers by telephone or in-person. If a child requires an item of uniform for a specific activity and no spare clothing is available in school, for example, Physical Education, parents/carers may be asked to bring the item into school. Individual family circumstances will be considered in the event that a child is not wearing the correct uniform. However, in accordance with our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, these should be recorded using our electronic recording system

(Safeguard) where appropriate. Sanctions for breaches of this policy are a last resort: the school endeavours to work with families to resolve breaches of this policy in a timely manner.

Whitby School Standard Uniform Expectations

All pupils in Years 7 to 11 are required to wear the full school uniform every day. We expect a high standard of appearance in all our pupils at all times. All staff are to ensure that pupils are wearing the correct uniform at all times throughout the school day. Form tutors will check uniform each morning in registration.

Uniform Item	Whitby School Uniform Information
Blazer School Colours Direct	Black with badge and green piping on pockets
V-neck jumper School Colours Direct	Grey with green stripe around neck (optional to wear)
School Tie School Colours Direct/the School Office	Light blue/green striped with relevant house colour
Skirt Any uniform retailer (eg, leading supermarkets)	Mid-grey in colour, knee length with pleats
Trousers Any uniform retailer	Mid-grey trousers should be formal, classic and smart. They should be loose fitting (not skin-tight) and plain (without brass zips, logos, or studs on the pockets for instance). They should be waist height, so not to expose underwear. (Not flares / leggings / jeggings / jeans / cargo / chino in style). They can be worn with a thin black belt if necessary (no fashion belts/large buckles).
Shirt Any uniform retailer	Standard white, loose-fitting shirt with stiff pointed collar (not open necked) to take tie; shirt must be long enough to be tucked in and wide enough at the neck to fasten the top button. Fashion shirts or blouses that include embroidery, logos, or slim collars that are not designed for a tie should not be worn.
Shoes	Plain (no decoration), polishable, black, low-heeled, sensible footwear with a plain black sole are appropriate for school. Plain black, low-heeled boots can be worn under trousers only. UGG-style boots are a fashion item and should not be worn.
Socks	Plain white or black
Tights	Plain (not patterned) and black in colour.

PE Kit

Helsinki Polo  Polo Shirt Essential for all pupils for PE lessons. This is a quality, hard-wearing item that can last pupils the throughout their time at school if well-looked after. These come in Small, Medium, Large and are designed to be loose-fitting.	Calgary Rev. Rugby Shirt  Rugby Shirt This is highly recommended for outdoor winter sports due to its durability, but is not essential.
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Borovets Midlayer Top  Mid Layer Top This is an optional outer layer to provide warmth through the seasons.	Kitzbuhel Short  Soll Skort  Shorts or Skort Optional shorts or skort with the logo. Alternatively, plain black shorts (mid-thigh), skorts (mid-thigh), leggings/joggers can be worn.
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Uniform Dress Guide Rules

Make-up & Jewellery	Discreet make-up is permitted. Excessive makeup will not be tolerated. No jewellery should be worn. This includes rings, nose studs and wrist bands etc. If ears have been pierced, plain studs (3mm diameter – only one per ear) may be worn and removed for PE (only one pair of studs may be worn at any time). Ears should only be pierced in the ear lobe. No other body piercing is allowed. False nails must not be worn. We advise that smart watches are not used in school – they will not be permitted during examinations and may be confiscated if they are disrupting learning.
Hair	Pupils' hair styles must be reasonable – we do not allow more extreme hair styles, eg, bright/multi-colours or Mohican cuts. Head scarves are not to be worn, except for religious reasons, and hair bands can only be worn if thin and black. Pupils considering a radical change of hairstyle should check with their Care & Achievement Coordinator in advance to ensure that it is within school guidelines.
Outer Clothing	We recommend a simple and inexpensive waterproof coat that completely covers the school blazer. Although hats and scarves are not part of the school uniform, they may be worn in very cold weather but they must be removed inside school buildings. Denim jackets, hoodies and heavily branded jackets or coats with large slogans must not be worn.
Footwear	Pupils must wear plain, black, polishable footwear at all times during the school day, except for when they are having PE lessons or taking part in extracurricular sport activities. Shoes should be waterproof and should be polished regularly. During very cold or wet weather, pupils may wear waterproof boots to school but these must be changed for school shoes as soon as they arrive in school.
PE Kit Footwear	Non-marking sporting trainers with laces, which are designed to support pupils' feet during physical activity. Pupils are not permitted to wear school shoes, plimsolls, converse, vans, and high tops. Pupils are expected to change for every PE lesson.

We recommend that all uniform items are labelled with the pupil's name so that if an item becomes misplaced in school, it can easily be reunited with the correct owner.

Please be aware that jewellery and similar person possessions are the responsibility of the pupil and not the school. Lost or damaged items will not be refunded. All jewellery must be removed during practical lessons, for example, PE and DT lessons. If children cannot remove their own earrings, this should be done at home on the day of PE.

School Bag

Pupils must use an appropriately sized bag to carry their books and equipment. This should be able to hold school books and equipment comfortably without causing any damage. School bags featuring inappropriate images, slogans or phrases will not be permitted. The school encourages pupils to bring non-valuable, sturdy bags to school. The school will not be liable for lost or damaged school bags. We have lockers available to every pupil who wishes to have one – keys are provided for these for a £5 deposit, with a refund being provided, if keys have not been lost, at the end of the pupil's time in school.

Water Bottles

All pupils are encouraged to bring their own water bottle into school every day: this can be refilled at dedicated water fountains before or after school and at break and lunchtime.

Adverse Weather

Hot Weather

Everyone working at/attending the school during extreme hot weather conditions should ensure they protect their skin with sunscreen and stay in the shade where possible. Adjustments may be permitted to the normal uniform at times due to extreme weather conditions. Such temporary changes would be communicated to everyone following the senior team making such a decision.

Cold Weather

During cold weather, it is recommended that pupils have a warm coat to wear when outside. Additional layers underneath the usual school uniform are acceptable but should not be visible.

Preloved uniform and financial support

We ask that families of pupil leavers donate any unwanted uniform items to the school to benefit other pupils. We will provide uniform items to families in need, based on pre-agreed criteria, subject to the funding available. Requests for support will be considered on a case by case basis.

For September 2026, Whitby United Charities provides means-tested financial support to assist families experiencing genuine, exceptional financial hardship with the purchase of school uniforms for children transitioning to Year 7. Please follow the steps below if you have a child entering Year 7 in September 2026:

- Advise a member of the Pastoral Team during the school open evening that you wish to be considered for this grant.
- Applicants will be directed to contact the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) to initiate the process. CAB will assess and means-test the application confidentially.
- Approved recommendations will be passed to Whitby United Charities' Board of Trustees for a final decision. Funding is limited and distributed on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Upon approval, notification will be sent to Whitby School, who will coordinate directly with the uniform provider to issue the uniform to you.