

Witchford Village College Uniform Policy 2026 - 2027

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Document Control

New Version Number	Key changes from previous version	Date of ratification
2	Section 6.1 – second hand uniform support added	
3	Section 4.1 – improved skirt description	

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1 Aims

We believe that a uniform helps to give young people a sense of identity and belonging to the College community.

We have a policy to make clear that all students should wear the correct uniform at all times, to indicate what is permitted to wear and what is not permitted and to explain the process to follow when a student does not have the correct uniform, including sanctions that will be applied if appropriate.

Students must always wear the correct uniform and all property should be clearly labelled with their name.

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 sex, race, religion or belief, 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 the way that is appropriate for school yet makes them feel most comfortable
- Allow pupils to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons
- Allow pupils to wear headscarves and other religious or cultural symbols
- Allow for adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents to get in touch with Mr Holmes, Senior Deputy Headteacher, jholmes@wvc.tela.org.uk who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests.

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 on the cost of school uniform.

We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that have 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' ability to 'shop around' for a low price.

3.1 We will make sure our uniform:

- Is available at a reasonable cost
- Provides the best value for money for parents/carers

3.2 We will do this by:

- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary
- Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics where possible, for example, by only asking that the blazer, worn over the jumper, features the school logo.
- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost or long-lasting items, such as ties
- 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 leveler
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- Considering alternative methods for signaling differences in groups for interschool competitions, such as creating posters or labels
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents to acquire second-hand uniform items
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents of any changes
- Consulting with parents and pupils on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy

4 Expectations of school uniform

4.1 School Uniform and PE Kit

Item	Acceptable	Not acceptable
Blazer	Royal blue blazer with WVC College logo	No other blazers
Tie	WVC branded College tie	No other ties
Sweatshirt	Black or blue v-neck or crew neck jumper	No branding or logo should be visible. No other jumpers, sweatshirts or hooded tops are permitted.
Shirt	White with a collar and top button fastened	Shirts without a top button or collar
Trousers	A formal style with pockets. Trousers should be worn fastened at the waist.	No skin-tight trousers, leggings, jeans, combat style trousers or tracksuit bottoms
Shorts	Tailored school shorts with pockets are permissible	No branding or logo should be visible.
Skirt	WVC branded Royal tartan skirt or a Charleston/Henley style plain blue skirt.	No short, skin-tight or stretchy skirts. Only the Charleston/Henry style pleated skirts are permitted
Shoes	Plain black shoes or trainers	Shoes or trainers must be plain black including the logo and stitching. Shoes should be

		of a sensible design and height covering the entire foot. Smart/formal ankle boots are acceptable.
Shoes – break and lunch sport	Any type of trainer can be worn if a student chooses to play sport during social time	Unsuitable or unsafe footwear, for example flip flops.
Socks	Plain dark colored or white	Bright colors or patterned
Tights	Natural tan, plain black or navy.	No other styles or colours are permitted (knee length or over the knee socks or stocking or leg warmers are not permitted)
Jewellery	A watch and one small pair of stud earrings	Smart watches are no longer permitted. No other jewellery is permitted (no nose or tongue piercings are allowed)
Hairstyles	Hair colour should be natural. Hair accessories should be functional and discreet	No extreme hair colours or hair styles (as judged by the College).
Make up/nails/temporary or permanent tattoos	Discreet, natural-looking make-up may be worn Discreet, natural-looking false eyelashes may be worn	No nail polish or gel or acrylic nails No temporary tattoos, such as henna, or permanent tattoos
Outside wear	Outside wear, appropriate for the season, can be worn outside of the classroom	No bandanas or balaclavas

If you wish your child to wear alternative items of clothing for religious or cultural reasons, please contact the College to discuss directly

PE Kit

Item	Acceptable	Not acceptable
T-Shirt	WVC branded PE shirt	No other t-shirts or polo shirts of any colour are permitted
Rugby/multi-sport shirt	Either plain or branded navy blue or black rugby/multi-sport shirt	No other colour rugby/multi sport shirts are permitted
Fleece/1/4 zip track top (optional)	Either plain or branded navy blue or black unisex fleece/1/4 zip track top	No other sweatshirts, hoodies or zip tops of any colour are permitted
Shorts or skort or tracksuit bottoms or leggings	Plain navy blue or black shorts or skort or tracksuit bottoms or leggings	No skin tight shorts, such as cycling shorts, short shorts or shorts of any other styles. No shorts, skorts, tracksuit bottoms or leggings of any other colour are permitted.
Socks	Black, blue or white lock sport socks or trainer socks.	No daily wear socks to be worn during PE lessons
Trainers	Any sport trainers	No school shoes, pumps or canvas trainers, such as Vans or Converse
Football boots and/or astroturf trainers	Rubber moulded studs or screw in studs or astro trainers	No metal capped or metal studs. No blades
Shin pads	Full size shin pads must be worn under long navy blue football socks for both football and hockey	No shin guards that only cover a small portion of the shin. No shin pads to be worn over the top of the socks.

Gum shield	Gum shields to be worn for rugby	N/A
Base layers (optional)	Any base layers (tops or trousers) can be worn underneath the regular PE kit	Base layers can only be worn underneath. PE kit items, listed above, must be worn over the top.
Jewellery/nails/hair	No jewellery, short nails, hair secured using appropriate accessories	Long nails are not permitted. Hair must be securely tied back and out of the eyes/face.

4.2 Where to purchase uniform

For the academic year 2026/27:

- Branded uniform items, along with many other listed unbranded items, can be purchased from [Paul Days](#).
- Most items can be purchased from high street/online retailers or from local supermarket

5 Expectations for our school community

5.1 Borrowing

The school has invested in uniform that students can borrow - if for any reason they cannot come to school in the correct uniform the student is expected to take the initiative to visit reception to request help prior to form period. This enables Form Tutors to check uniform daily and maintain the high expectations, it also avoids the students becoming embarrassed by not having the correct items to wear.

In all cases where uniform cannot be adhered to communication from home is very helpful so that the school knows the parent is aware of the students' uniform needs

5.2 Students

Students are expected to always wear the correct uniform 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 Mr Holmes, Senior Deputy Headteacher, jholmes@wvc.tela.org.uk if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics.

5.3 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 are also expected to contact Mr Holmes, Senior Deputy Headteacher, jholmes@wvc.tela.org.uk responsible for uniform 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 are expected to lodge any complaints or objections relating to the school uniform in a timely and reasonable manner via our Trust complaints policy (available from the college website).

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 to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

5.4 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 Assistant Headteacher if the situation doesn't improve.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with by the assistant head responsible for Uniform management.

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

5.5 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 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 What to do about incorrect uniform.

- No pupil will be sanctioned for uniform non-compliance arising from financial hardship where the school is aware of the circumstances and support is being provided to ensure the child is able to wear the required uniform. If a student cannot wear the correct uniform for any reason, the parent/carer must provide their child with a note on the first day explaining the problem and the date by which their child will be back in correct uniform. We expect a student to be back in the correct uniform within 5 days. During that time, students will borrow the correct uniform from the school to ensure that the correct uniform is worn at all times.
- If a student has a genuine reason for being incorrectly dressed but was unable to bring a note from the parent, for example due to the parent leaving the house early, the student will borrow correct uniform from the school and the student must bring in a parents' note for the form tutor the next day to explain the non-compliance.
- Any student not in the correct uniform should report to the reception straight away in the morning to borrow College uniform for the day.
- If a student is wearing incorrect uniform and has no note from the parent with no genuine reason, the student will borrow uniform from the school and the student will be given a one-hour detention at the end of the day. Where a parent is unable to rectify the problem due to financial hardship, the College may be able to provide financial support.
- A student who wears incorrect uniform 3 times without good reason, will spend a day in the Behaviour Hub.
- Refusal to wear the correct uniform, including refusal to wear clean clothing lent by the College, will be treated as defiance and this may result in a fixed term exclusion.
- Students with extreme hair styles may be required to spend an extended period of time in the Behaviour Hub until the problem is resolved.

6.1 Second hand uniform

- We have a second-hand uniform service available to all parents/carers of students on roll at our college. You do not need to meet any criteria to use this service
- We have brand new and preloved uniform items available to students
- These items can be borrowed or kept if needed. We do not charge, but welcome voluntary cash donations
- We have all varieties of items and sizes including, trousers, skirts, shirts, jumpers, pe kits etc.
- Should you wish to utilise this service please contact the school.
- If you wish to donate any uniform to the college, please drop off at reception

7 Monitoring Arrangements

- This policy will be reviewed at least every two years and shared with the local governing body for comment and approval.

8 Note about other equipment for school: (see website)

All students should be fully equipped for lessons and must always have the following items with them:

- Pens (at least two, black or blue ink)
- IPAD (charged)
- Pencils
- Ruler
- Eraser
- Sharpener
- Scientific calculator
- Glue stick
- Highlighters
- Maths equipment including a protractor, compass, set square