

The Cottesloe School Uniform Policy

Sept 2026



The Cottesloe School

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Reviewed by:	Mr S Jones (Headteacher), Mrs L Baldwin, (Head of School), Mr D Fox (Deputy Headteacher), Mr R Henry (Assistant Headteacher – Student Character), Miss H Sunday (Link Governor)
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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

Through our uniform and dress code, we aim to:

- Encourage shared pride in the school and foster a sense of belonging.
- Support teaching and learning.
- Enable students to be comfortable, safe and secure.
- Ensure that students of different social, religious and ethnic groups feel welcome
- Protect students from social pressures to dress in a particular way

By upholding a consistent uniform policy, the school reinforces the core Cottesloe values. This shared standard fosters a true sense of belonging within the Cottesloe community

2. Our school's legal duties under the Equality Act 2010

The [Equality Act 2010](#) prohibits discrimination against an individual based on 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 sex, to give all students the opportunity to wear the uniform they feel most comfortable in or that most reflects their self-identified gender
- Allow all students to have long hair (we reserve the right to ask for this to be tied back)
- Allow all students to style their hair in a way that is appropriate for school and makes them feel most comfortable.
- Allow students to wear headscarves and/or other religious garments
- Allow students with sensory or physical needs to make reasonable adaptations to their uniform depending on their specific needs
- Allow parents/carers to apply for financial support when purchasing school uniforms.
- Allow for reasonable adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking students or their parents/carers to contact the school, 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 ensure that the uniform we require is affordable, in line with statutory [guidance](#) from the Department for Education (DfE) on the cost of school uniforms.

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. 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
- Limit the number of branded items.
- Compulsory branded uniform items include:
 - Tie
 - Blazer
 - Polo shirt (For PE)
 - Shorts or Skort (For PE)
- Avoiding specific requirements for items students 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
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents/carers to acquire preloved uniform items
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents/carers of any changes

4. Expectations for school uniform

4.1 Compulsory School Uniform (Years 7 to 11)

- The Cottesloe School black blazer with school badge (see appendix)
- The Cottesloe School branded clip-on tie (see appendix)
- Plain white school shirt with stiff v-shaped collar (tucked in) (see appendix)
- Plain black trousers or a black pleated skirt (with drop-waist pleat) (see appendix)
- Plain black shoes that are suitable for wearing during the day and to and from school. No canvas, trainers or boots.(see appendix). Footwear should not have any sports-related logo or branding on them
- Plain black v-neck jumper (worn with, not instead of, the blazer). (optional). Sweatshirt or fleece fabric V neck jumpers are not allowed.

As a safety precaution, necessary when moving around the school, shoes must have backs to them, i.e. no mules; also no training shoes, and no boots, and no heels higher than two inches.

There is no compulsory outdoor dress. Coats and jackets should be smart. Denim jackets, tracksuit tops, and hoodies are not permitted. Jackets with large logos or hoods are not acceptable. Outdoor dress, including scarves, should not be worn inside.

To ensure clarity of acceptable items, photographs are included in Appendix 1.

PE Kit

- Cottesloe branded games polo shirt (fitted and relaxed fits available) (Compulsory)
- Cottesloe branded black shorts, Cottesloe branded black jogging bottoms, Cottesloe branded School skorts or Cottesloe branded black leggings (Compulsory)
- Cottesloe black and gold Football socks (optional)
- Shin pads (Compulsory when doing Football)
- Football boots (Compulsory when doing Football). Please make sure they are 3G pitch compliant
 - Boots with plastic studs
 - Firm/Multi-ground boots with studs
 - Boots with plastic blades
 - **NOT Astroturf rubber bobbled trainers**
- Cottesloe branded Rugby shirt short sleeves (optional)
- Trainers (not plimsolls) (Compulsory)
- Gum-shield (Compulsory when doing Rugby)
- Cottesloe branded black /gold sweatshirt (optional)

Hairstyles

At The Cottesloe School, we acknowledge that some hair types, such as Afro-textured hair are an important part of students' racial, ethnic, cultural, and religious identities, and require specific styling for hair health and maintenance.

Extreme hairstyles, including sculptured haircuts, dyed hair of an unnatural colour, features such as razored eyebrows or lines cut in hair are not permitted.

Unnatural hair colouring is not permitted; the interpretation of "unnatural" is as follows: A colour that is not found within the natural colour spectrum, i.e. a bright, extreme, or vivid colour, or a combination of colours that is easily visible or stark in contrast.

Extensions must also be in a colour that naturally blends with the hair.

Parents wishing to discuss specifics regarding their child's hairstyle should contact their child's Head of Year.

Jewellery

One single stud in each ear is permitted; and should be removed for PE; students wearing studs in their ears other than in their lobes will be expected to remove them.

Parents/carers are urged to consider when they allow their young person to get a piercing, as these cannot impact the student's ability to fully engage in a full curriculum. Students unable to participate in a full curriculum due to piercing may be subject to school sanctions.

Jewellery (except a watch) is not permitted; however, if there are religious or family reasons for wearing an item of jewellery, then permission must be sought from the Head of Year.

Jewellery is the responsibility of the owner and is worn at the owner's own risk.

Other visible body piercings such as tongue, eyebrow and nose piercings are not permitted, and the student will be expected to remove them.

Staff will instruct students to remove inappropriate jewellery. Staff may confiscate jewellery or inappropriate uniform items, which may result in parents/carers being required to collect these items. Students failing to comply with these requests may be subject to the Behaviour for Learning policy.

Other

- Natural, subtle and basic make-up may be worn. Students will be required to remove excess make-up if worn in school.

- Clear nail varnish may be worn but fingernails must be short (not exceeding the fingertip) and nail extensions of any kind are not permitted.
- Visible body art, drawings, or writing are not permitted. If body art is required for religious or cultural reasons, please notify the Head of Year in advance
- Baseball caps are not permitted unless approved by the Head of Year.
- Outdoor hats such as beanies can be worn during cold weather but all outdoor clothing should be removed when inside school buildings.
- Students must not walk around with their coat hoods up unless they are outside, and the weather requires it.
- Garments such as hoodies are not permitted.
- Belts if worn must be plain, black, leather or leather-look, buckles must be simple and plain. No branding or logos are allowed.
- Bags should be suitable in size and have the capacity to be able to carry A4 exercise books.
- Students can remove their blazer in a lesson with the permission of a member of staff.
- All uniforms should be marked in permanent pen with the owner's name.
- If worn, tights should be plain and black or skin-coloured. Leggings are not permitted as a substitute.
- Socks should be worn below the knee. Legwarmers are not allowed.

Extreme Weather Policy Adjustments

In the event of extreme weather conditions such as severe heat or cold, the Headteacher may make temporary adjustments to the standard uniform requirements to ensure student comfort and safety. What constitutes extreme weather, as well as the specific uniform adaptations permitted, will be determined by the Headteacher at that time. Any temporary modifications will be promptly communicated to students, parents, and carers.

Sixth Form (Years 12 & 13)

First and foremost, we believe Sixth Formers should be role models to other members of the school student body, including in how they present themselves. We also feel that the way that students dress should reflect their attitude to their studies. Dressing formally sets them up each morning to engage fully in the work process. Finally, it reduces any confusion regarding what does and does not represent acceptable attire. Details of the Dress Code are listed below.

Option 1

- Collared shirts with a tie (Jacket optional)
- V neck jumper (not round neck), cardigan or waistcoat (optional). No sweatshirts.

- Smart shoes/boots only (e.g. brogues, ankle boots, desert boots, Doc Marten shoes - no Timberland type boot.

Option 2

- Tailored trousers, (jacket optional), skirt or dress (skirts and dresses must be an appropriate length/style for school as deemed by the Head of Sixth Form)
- Formal top, blouse or shirt (no midriff or shoulders visible) no slogans/images/large logos, no polo shirts or t-shirts
- Formal jumper, cardigan or waistcoat (optional). No sweatshirts.
- Smart shoes/boots only (e.g. brogues, flat pumps, ankle boots, desert boots, Doc Martens - no Timberland boots)
- Collared shirts with a tie (Jacket optional)
- V neck jumper (not round neck if wearing a collar), cardigan or waistcoat (optional). No sweatshirts.
- Formal top, blouse or shirt (no midriff or shoulders visible) no slogans/images/large logos, no polo shirts or t-shirts.
- Tailored trousers, (jacket optional), skirt or dress (skirts and dresses must be an appropriate length/style for school as deemed by the Head of Sixth Form)
- Smart shoes/boots only (e.g. brogues, flat pumps, ankle boots, desert boots, Doc Marten shoes - **no Timberland type boot (shoes should have a back)**)

Additional points:

The following clothing is not accepted attire

- Denim
- cargo trousers
- leather/faux leather trousers
- tracksuit bottoms/joggers/yoga pants or similar clothing
- gym wear
- beach wear
- ripped clothing/revealing clothing
- no excessive or large logos/branding to be worn on any clothing
- heavy patterns
- Any clothing deemed inappropriate

Other

- Hairstyles should be sensibly styled and not distracting in any way and should not be dyed excessively bright colours
- Piercings should be subtle

Consequences

Where students (including Sixth Form) fail to meet uniform expectations, the school will first work collaboratively with parents and carers to resolve issues and offer support. If support has been provided and a student continues not to follow uniform expectations, actions will be taken in line with our Behaviour for Learning Policy. Sanctions may include, but are not limited to:

- Learning conversations
- Phone calls and/or meetings with parents/carers
- Detentions
- Social and study time interventions
- Internal or external suspension

5. Purchasing school uniform

Branded school uniforms and PE kits can be purchased from our school shop. [Parents School Shop](#)

Generic, non-branded items can be purchased from the school shop or any suitable provider. If purchasing uniform from an external supplier (not the school shop), parents/carers should check that the items conform to the school uniform policy and expectations.

The Cottesloe school offers all parents/carers the option of purchasing pre-loved uniform items, at a significantly discounted rate. This is subject to availability. To enquire about purchasing pre-loved, please contact the main school reception.

To encourage recycling and reduction of textile waste, we welcome any donations of blazers, ties and PE kit from families of Year 11 students, at the end of summer exams.

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

6. Expectations for our school community

6.1 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)

Specific on-site activities or school trips may require and permit students to wear their own clothing. Details and specific clothing expectations will be communicated to parents/carers. Students are expected to comply with such expectations. Failure to comply may result in the student being prevented from participating in the activity or trip.

6.2 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 should provide their child with a note or communicate with the school (via email) as soon as possible, if their child is not wearing the correct uniform (including PE kit). The school will explore supportive interventions, such as a uniform loan, to ensure all students are in the correct uniform. Parents/Carers are to contact the relevant Head of Year if their child needs to wear an adapted or different uniform, long-term (more than 1 week). Parents/carers may be required to present medical evidence if requested.

The school expects all students to attend in full, correct uniform. If a student brings a note explaining a temporary uniform issue, written by parents/cares, the school will look to provide a loan item for them to wear. Please note that a note does not exempt a student from wearing full uniform; refusing to accept and wear a provided loan item will result in sanctions in line with our Behaviour for Learning Policy

Parents/carers are also expected to contact the relevant Head of Year if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to:

- Their child's protected characteristics
- Medical reasons
- Any other factor that is preventing a student from wearing the correct school uniform
- 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, and in line with complaints procedures.

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 an outcome.

6.3 Staff

Staff will closely monitor students to make sure they are in the correct uniform. Staff will work with relevant parties to support the student to wear the correct Cottesloe uniform.

6.4 Governors

The governing body will review this policy and ensure 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 governing body 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.

7. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed every two years.

8. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

- Behaviour for Learning policy
- Equality information and objectives statement
- Anti-bullying policy
- Complaints policy

Appendix 1: Styles of clothing

Compulsory Uniform

COMPULSORY



Blazer



Tie



Plain Dark Coat

Trousers

Only trousers which comply with the Uniform Policy may be worn to school. To assist in the purchase of school trousers, below are approved styles, samples of which are available to look at upon request.

Please note that trousers must be black, full-length and tailored. The fit can be straight, slim or bootcut and fastened by a zip and/or button. The following are not acceptable:

- Jeans, cargo style, leggings or jeggings.
- Styles with large back or patch pockets, studs, rivets or zipped accessories.
- Skinny fit.
- Turn-ups at the bottom of the trouser legs.
- Fully elasticated waists.
- Material with a high shine or sheen.

Illustration of styles that are acceptable and not acceptable



Straight



Tailored



Cargo



Leggings



Skinny Fit



Tracksuit



Jeans/
Jeggings



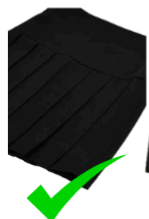
Kickflares

Skirts The only skirt that is permitted is a drop-waist pleated skirt. The pleats must go around the whole skirt and not just at the front. The skirt design or length must not be personalised or adapted in any way.

ACCEPTABLE SKIRTS



Drop-Waist Pleated (all the way round)



UNACCEPTABLE SKIRTS



Tube



Pencil Skirt



Twin Pleated

Skirts that are unacceptable include:

- Skirts made from stretchy, lycra or T-shirt-style material
- Excessively short skirts that prevent a student from fully participating in all activities at school
- Tube skirts

Shirts and Jumpers

Plain white school shirt with a stiff v-shaped collar which is tucked in (either long or short-sleeved).

- No hoodies
- No sweatshirt round-neck jumpers

ACCEPTABLE SHIRTS



Optional

UNACCEPTABLE JUMPERS



Black V-neck Jumper



No Hoodies



No Round Neck

Shoes

The uniform policy states plain black shoes should be worn. Canvas, trainers, boots or sandals are not permitted. There are several alternatives which may seem acceptable according to different parties. Parents/carers should ensure footwear meets the school uniform requirements, before purchasing.

UNACCEPTABLE SHOES



No Boots



No Trainers



ACCEPTABLE SHOES



ACCEPTABLE SHOES



UNACCEPTABLE SHOES



No Boots



No Trainers

