



The
Westgate School

#equippedforlife

Uniform Policy

Approved by:

Date:

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18/09/23

Next review due by:

01/09/24

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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

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 (with the exemption of sportswear and school blazers), 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 a conservative manner that is appropriate for school
- Allow pupils to wear headscarves and other religious or cultural symbols
- Allow for discussions around adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents to get in touch with Roddy Clark or Carys Williams, Assistant Headteachers, 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.

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 as only our school blazer and PE kit has the school logo included
- 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
- 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
- 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 for school uniform

4.1 Our school's uniform

Autumn and Spring Terms – Year 7 to 11

Blazer	School regulation French Navy with logo must be with you at all times. These can be purchased from https://www.schoolcoloursdirect.co.uk/the-westgate-school-i49
Trousers	Tailored charcoal grey or black (no denim or jeans, skintight trousers or leggings of any type) worn around the waist and no lower with a button and zip
Skirts	Plain black or charcoal grey skirts can be worn but must be full length or short which is defined by 5cm above the knee. Tube skirts or stretch fabrics are not permitted.
Shirt	White in colour and buttoned at the front with a collar. This can be purchased at retailers with school sections on offer.
Head Scarfs	Plain blue or black head scarfs should be worn (Head scarfs are part of the uniform, but are optional due to religious or cultural beliefs)
Ties	Tie School regulation in plain blue for Year 7 and community colour for Years 8-11.
Jumper	Optional – plain charcoal grey V-neck
Socks	Socks should be black or white and be formal and short. Black tights are also permitted.
Shoes	Plain or patent black (no trainers or plimsolls, canvas footwear, boots and no sports logos). Trims and any other colours are not permitted.
Jewellery	A small single stud in each ear lobe and watches are permitted, but no other jewellery should be worn.
Hairstyles	Extreme hairstyles including unnatural hair colours and patterns are not permitted. Metal combs or other metal styling items must not be brought to school.
Makeup	Make-up should be natural looking. Lipstick, eyeshadow and heavy make-up should not be worn. This includes coloured nail varnish or fake nails, including acrylic. Additionally, nails must be an appropriate length.
Summer Uniform	

Polo Shirts	These can be purchased from https://www.schoolcoloursdirect.co.uk/the-westgate-school-i49
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Sixth Form Dress Code

Trousers	Tailored trousers are permitted, either individually or as part of a suit.
Skirts and Dresses	Should be formal/tailored and around knee length
Tops/shirts/blouses	Tops should be what you would find in a formal professional setting without the presence of logos and ensuring that an inappropriate amount skin is not showing.
Jackets/Blazers	Should be tailored if you want to wear one or professional looking cardigans are acceptable
Shirts/Ties	Buttoned dress shirts must include a collar. Ties are to be worn with shirts.
Jumpers	Smart plain jumpers may be worn over a collared shirt, but these must not include excessive branding of any kind. Turtlenecks are permitted.
Blazers/Suit Jackets	A blazer or jacket are not essential but are more than acceptable.
Shoes	Formal footwear is to be worn, nothing that could be deemed as trainers or canvas footwear.
Jewellery	discrete jewellery
Hairstyles	Unnatural hair colours and patterns are not permitted. Metal combs or other metal styling items must not be brought to school.
Make Up	Discrete natural makeup is permitted.
Denim, leather, hoodies, casual suede (coats, jackets, shirts, trousers) are not considered professional/business wear.	

Uniform Expectations – Further details

General: All students are expected to wear the full uniform with pride at all times. This includes the blazer, the plain blue tie for Year 7 or community tie for Years 8-11 (worn properly with at least 7 stripes visible), an appropriate length skirt in the appropriate material, trousers need to be formal, have a button and zip and are to be worn at the waist and no lower.

Outdoor Clothing: Students are encouraged to wear outdoor coats to school, especially during colder weather. These should be removed when entering the building. Hooded tops, sports jackets, tracksuit tops, cardigans, hats, bandanas, sunglasses, scarfs must not be worn on school site.

Blazers: Blazers should be worn all year round and can only be removed at the discretion of the school or staff. During the summer months the school withholds the right to allow students to not wear blazers, which will be communicated with parents directly.

Ties: Year 7 must wear the plain blue allocated school tie, for students in Years 8 to 11, ties are currently based on community allocation. The length of tie should show 7 stripes to indicate length. Ties are required to be worn during the Autumn and Winter terms with the summer term being optional as long as the blue polo shirt is being worn in substitute.

Jumpers: A charcoal grey V neck jumper is permitted to be worn with the uniform but is not a replacement for a shirt and tie. All other jumpers are not permitted and will be required to be handed in on entrance to the school site to a member of staff. These will be returned at the end of the school day. This includes all hooded jumpers. Please refer to the uniform guidance booklet on the school website or on the communications sent by the school over the summer holidays.

Skirts and Trousers: All skirts and trousers should be black or charcoal grey in colour. Skirts and trousers are required to be worn at the waist. Skirt length should be no shorter 5cm above the knee and not be in a stretchy material for example tube skirts. Please refer to the uniform guidance booklet on the school website or on the communications sent by the school over the summer holiday

Shoes: The Westgate School permit students to wear traditional black, leather shoes which are deemed as business wear. Black trainers, plimsolls, canvas or boots are not permitted and shoes should not have any logos, markings, trims or any other colours visible. Please be aware students that present inappropriate footwear and will be expected to change or be placed in the withdrawal room until this is resolved.

Socks: Short black or white cotton socks may be worn by all students. All other materials or colours are not permitted.

Jewellery: Students can wear a watch and a small single stud in each ear lobe. Studs must be taken out for PE lessons for Health and Safety reasons. All other earrings will need to be removed, even if they have recently been pierced. All other piercings are not permitted. The Westgate School asks all parents to please not allow students to have piercing through the academic year to remove barriers.

Hair: We expect all students to have professional and appropriate hairstyles. No extreme hairstyles are allowed which includes cuts, patterns, lines and non-natural colours.

Make up and Nails: To maintain a professional learning environment all students should remember that they attend school to learn and fulfill their academic potential. As such make up is not appropriate during school business hours and if worn, must be natural and not heavy. Coloured nail varnish and Acrylic nails should also not be worn. Nails should be maintained to an appropriate length to meet health and safety considerations, specifically in PE.

Breaches of Policy - Withdrawal Room

The Westgate School is committed to raising and sustaining standards around the school's uniform. As a result from September 2023, any students who breach the uniform policy will be placed in the withdrawal room until a resolve is found. This will be achieved by either the student adhering to the policy, parents dropping the item in question at school or in some cases and where appropriate, students to return home to address the issue before coming back to school ready to learn.

When a resolve cannot be found, students will remain in the withdrawal room for the day and will be issued with a uniform slip to come home with stating the date of the sanction and the item that caused the issue.

PE Kit – Boys

- Essentials Polo Shirt (Compulsory)
- APTUS Football Shorts (Compulsory)
- Essentials Multisport Top (Compulsory)
- Essentials Training Pant (Optional)
- Essentials ¼ Zip Top (Optional)
- S-Cut Boys Trousers (Optional)
- Performance Coolmax Socks (Compulsory)

PE Kit – Girls

- Essentials Polo Shirt (Compulsory)
- APTUS Female Training Shorts (Compulsory)
- APTUS Female Leggings (Optional)
- Essentials Multisport Top (Optional)
- Essentials Training Pant (Optional)
- Essentials ¼ Zip Top (Compulsory)
- Performance Coolmax Socks (Compulsory)

4.2 Where to purchase it:

School Uniform

Parents/carers can purchase the branded items from www.schoolcoloursdirect.co.uk, where an account will need to be created. Once the school is selected, parents/carers can buy the blazer, community tie and summer term polo shirt.

PE Kit

Parents/carers can purchase all branded items from www.swischoolwear.co.uk where an account will again need to be created.

For all pupil premium students, parents/carers will need to contact our Pupil Premium Co-ordinators Mrs Ward – VG@westgate.slough.sch.uk or Mr Luke – GEL@westgate.slough.sch.uk who will initiate the order on their behalf.

4.3 Pricing (as of 2023/2024)

- Branded Blazer both Male and Female fit – from £39.95
- Community Tie - from £4.95
- Summer Term Polo Shirt – from £8.95

PE Kit

Pricing is dependent on size and may change in the online basket:

- Essentials Polo Shirt – From £13.80
- APTUS Football Shorts - From £10.45
- Essentials Multisport Top – From 14.25
- Essentials Training Pant – From £17.50
- Essentials ¼ Zip Top – From £17.50
- S-Cut Boys Trousers – From £13.10
- Performance Coolmax Socks – From £6.50
- APTUS Female Training Shorts – From £11.60
- APTUS Female Leggings – From £17.50

4.3 Secondhand Uniform and Financial Support

As a school, we recognise that some families will require support in meeting these expectations. As a result, the school may be able to facilitate a payment scheme in order to spread the cost for any branded items. Please contact finance@westgate.slough.sch.uk to discuss different options available.

Secondhand Uniform

The school will also provide an option of second-hand branded items made available to parents/carers and students. Each item is costed at £2.50 and can be acquired through reception upon request. Please note the stock available is subject to availability and we cannot guarantee that all items and sizes will be available at all times.

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 Roddy Clark, Assistant Headteacher: ric@westgate.slough.sch.uk or Carys Williams, Assistant Headteacher: caw@westgate.slough.sch.uk 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 are also expected to contact Roddy Clark, Assistant Headteacher: ric@westgate.slough.sch.uk or Carys Williams, Assistant Headteacher: caw@westgate.slough.sch.uk 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.

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.

5.3 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 by Tutors/Directors of Learning/SLT

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 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. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by Roddy Clark and Carys Williams, Assistant Headteachers. At every review, it will be approved by full governing board.

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

- Behaviour policy
- Equality information and objectives statement
- Anti-bullying policy

- Complaints policy