



# UNIFORM POLICY

June 2026

*Wellbeing  
Committee*

Wallingford School, St. George's Road,  
Wallingford, Oxfordshire, OX10 8HH  
t: 01491 837115  
e: [governance@mtoat.co.uk](mailto:governance@mtoat.co.uk)  
[www.wallingfordschool.com](http://www.wallingfordschool.com)

Version Control	
Policy	Uniform Policy
SLT	LBU
Reference	MTOAT_Wallingford School Uniform Policy_June2026_FinalApproved
Committee	Wellbeing Committee
Circulation	Website
Status	Approved
Version	Draft: Redrafted from Nov2025 school policy based on the Key model incorporating new (Sept 26) guidance
Governing body approved	WBC: 20.04.2026 FGB: 18.05.2026
Consultation	May 2026
Review cycle	Annually

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## 1. Policy Aims

Wallingford School believes that a consistent school uniform policy is vital for:

- Promoting the ethos of the school.
- Providing a sense of belonging and identity.
- Creating a positive learning environment.

This policy aims to clarify our expectations for school uniform, set out uniform requirements based on reasonable cost and best value for money, and explain how we will avoid discrimination in line with our legal duties under the Equality Act 2010.

## 2. Definitions

For the purposes of this policy, “**uniform**” includes:

- **Clothing worn at school**, including PE kit (from September 2026, limited to four compulsory branded items)
- **Coats, bags and footwear**
- **Jewellery and other accessories**
- **Hairstyles and headwear**
- **Cosmetics** such as makeup and nail polish

We make reasonable adjustments for students with disabilities, and respect religious and cultural requirements in line with the Equality Act 2010.

**Seasonal uniform:** We do not have different uniform requirements for different times of year. Temporary adjustments in response to warmer or colder weather will be communicated separately.

**Expectations for non-uniform days:** These will be communicated separately at the time.

## 3. School Uniform and Expectations

### 3.1 Where to buy

Most **branded items** can be purchased from SWI Schoolwear:

<https://www.swischoolwear.co.uk/>.

**Ties and some PE sale items** are sold via a separate school uniform shop. This can be accessed via a link on our school website:

<https://wallingfordschool.com/index.php/parents-2/uniform-regulations>.

**Non-branded items** can be purchased from any retailer, as long as they meet our specifications – colour, fit and suitability for school. SWI Schoolwear often stocks versions of these items with the school logo, but the branded versions are not required.

### Second-hand uniform

We hold an annual second-hand uniform sale in the summer term. The sale is open to all parents/carers, including parents of new starters joining in September. Details are published on the school website and are communicated via email and social media.

**Need uniform outside of the sale period?** If you need second-hand uniform and cannot wait for the annual sale, please contact your head of year, who may be able to help.

### How to donate uniform:

If you have uniform in good condition that your child has outgrown, please bring it to the school office at any time during the year.

## 3.2 Our school’s standard uniform

The following items are **compulsory for standard uniform**.

★ = Compulsory **branded item**.

Item	Details
<b>Jumper</b> ★	Navy V-neck <b>with school badge</b> .
<b>Tie</b> ★	Wallingford school tie with house stripe. To be worn from the top collar to the waistband.
<b>Shirt</b>	Plain white short or long-sleeved shirt with collar, buttoned to the neck and worn with a school tie.  <i>Coloured t-shirts or t-shirts with logos should not be worn under shirts.</i>
<b>Skirt OR trousers</b>	<b>Skirt:</b> Plain black, pleated and knee length. <b>Trousers:</b> Plain, black, ankle-length and tailored.  <i>No denim, cord or canvas, studs, visible zips, patch pockets. Trousers should not be skinny fit, combat or flared styles.</i>
<b>Tights OR socks</b>	<b>Tights:</b> Plain black, non-patterned and non-see-through <b>Socks:</b> Plain black, ankle length  <i>Tights and socks should not be worn together.</i>

<b>School shoes</b>	<p>Flat, plain black formal school shoes made of leather or similar weather-resistant material. Shoes must not be overly decorative or have white soles.</p> <p><b>Not permitted:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sports-branded footwear (e.g. Vans, Converse, Nike, Adidas)</li> <li>• Trainers and trainer-style shoes (including unbranded trainers and black leather trainers)</li> <li>• Canvas shoes</li> <li>• Boots</li> </ul> <p><b>Important:</b> If you're unsure whether shoes are acceptable, check the visual examples on our website before purchasing or contact your head of year.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Sports-branded trainers ARE permitted for PE kit - see section 3.3.</p> <p>Velcro fastenings are permitted provided all other criteria are met.</p>
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### 3.3 Our school's PE kit

The following items are **compulsory for PE**.

★ = Compulsory **branded item**.

Item	Details
<b>Short-sleeved PE top ★</b>	"Vapour" navy, short-sleeved PE top with school logo. Or "Haze" top while stocks last.
<b>Outdoor rugby shirt ★</b>	With school logo.
<b>Shorts OR skort</b>	Shorts: Navy sports shorts. Skort: Navy sports skort.
<b>Knee-high sport socks</b>	Knee high with cuff – plain navy or navy with gold cuff.
<b>Gum shield</b>	Fitted.
<b>Shin pads</b>	Fitted.
<b>White socks</b>	Ankle length, white sports socks.
<b>Football boots</b>	Correctly studded. (See below for when needed.)

<b>Sports trainers</b>	Must be laced. Non-marking soles. <i>Leisure and skateboarding trainers are not permitted.</i>
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**When football boots are needed:**

- Years 7-9 boys and mixed classes: from term 1 (September)
- Year 7-9 girls in all-girl classes: from term 4 (February after half term)
- Years 10-11: boys and GCSE girls only, terms 1-4

You will be informed in September which PE class your child is in e.g. whether in a mixed class. Contact your child's head of year if you have questions or difficulty acquiring boots on time.

The following items are **optional for PE (not required)**.

Item	Details
Qtr zip training top	Navy quarter zip training top.
Training pants	Navy training pants with ankle zips.
Base layer top	Navy thermal base layer top.
Leggings	Navy base-layer leggings.

### 3.4 Coats and bags

#### Coats

A waterproof outdoor coat or anorak with sleeves is desirable. Accident prevention groups recommend light colours or fluorescent and reflective strips for better visibility whilst commuting to and from school.

**Not permitted:** Denim jackets, non-uniform sweatshirts, jumpers or hoodies, and clothing with excessive logos or emblems.

#### Bags

Students must use an appropriately-sized waterproof bag to carry their books and equipment. It must hold A4-sized workbooks comfortably without causing any damage.

School bags featuring inappropriate images, slogans or phrases will not be permitted.

The school discourages students from bringing valuable bags to school. The school will not be liable for lost or damaged school bags.

### 3.5 Labelling belongings

All belongings, including clothing and footwear, should be clearly named to facilitate swift return if items are lost. Any lost property will be taken to the school office and if unclaimed after a period of time, will be disposed of or offered for re-sale.

### 3.6 Jewellery

#### Students may wear:

- One watch
- One pair of plain silver or gold ball stud earrings (maximum 3mm diameter, worn in lower ear lobes only, one in each ear)

#### Not permitted:

- Nose studs, other body piercings or ear stretchers.

#### Important information

- Earrings must be removed for PE and practical subjects.
- Unauthorized jewellery will be confiscated in line with our behaviour policy. The school cannot be held liable for loss or damage to confiscated items.
- If you have a religious requirement for jewellery, please contact your head of year.

### 3.7 Hairstyles and headwear

#### Hair must:

- Be a natural colour (unnatural colours such as red, green, purple or blue are not permitted)
- Be neat and tidy
- Not obstruct vision or cover the face and be tied back, if long, for PE and practical subjects

**Hair accessories** should be navy or black, plain and discreet. Excessive or oversized accessories are not permitted.

#### Headwear:

- Religious head coverings (such as hijabs, turbans, or kippot) are permitted in plain navy or black
- Other headwear is not permitted unless required for medical reasons
- Headwear must not display inappropriate language or imagery

We respect natural Afro hairstyles and protective styles and follow the Equality and Human Rights Commission's guidance on preventing hair discrimination.

### 3.8 Makeup and cosmetics

The following are not permitted:

- Make-up
- False eyelashes
- False nails, nail extensions, or acrylic nails
- Nail varnish

Students wearing make-up will be asked to remove it in private. Make-up remover will be provided. If your child needs to wear make-up for medical or cultural/religious requirements, please contact your head of year to discuss. We will consider all requests individually and may ask for supporting evidence (e.g. a letter from a GP for medical reasons).

## 4. Limiting the Cost of School Uniform

### 4.1 Our commitment to affordability and value for money

We comply with the DfE's statutory guidance on the cost of school uniforms. From September 2026, we are limiting **compulsory branded items** to four:

- School tie
- School jumper
- Short-sleeved PE top
- Outdoor rugby shirt (PE)

A 'branded' item includes items with our school logo or items with distinctive characteristics unique to our school. Non-branded items may be purchased from multiple retailers.

#### How we keep costs down

- Second-hand uniforms are available (see section 7.2 for details).
- We brand long-lasting items (ties), rather than items needing frequent replacement (shirts).
- We work with suppliers through competitive procurement to ensure value for money.
- We minimise variations between year groups so items can be passed between siblings.
- When we change our uniform policy, we allow students to continue wearing old uniform for a reasonable period.

### 4.2 Who we consider and support

When reviewing uniform requirements, we particularly consider the impact on:

- Families experiencing financial hardship
- Parents with multiple children at the school

- Parents of younger children who grow quickly
- Parents of looked-after and previously looked-after children
- Families where uniform costs may be higher due to protected characteristics (e.g. religious requirements)

**If you're experiencing difficulty affording school uniform**, please contact your head of year in confidence to discuss support options.

## 5. Expectations for Our School Community

**Students:** Wear correct uniform at all times, keep it clean and in good condition.

This applies on the school premises, travelling to and from school and at out-of-school events or trips organised by the school or where students are representing the school.

**Parents/carers:** Provide correct uniform in the right size and condition, and contact the head of year if there are any issues or exemptions needed.

**Form tutors:** Check uniform daily, address issues promptly with students and parents, refer persistent problems to heads of year. Be mindful of financial hardship.

**Classroom teachers:** Deal with immediate uniform issues in lessons where necessary. Refer anything that can't be quickly resolved to the student's form tutor or head of year.

**Heads of year:** Support form tutors with persistent issues, approve temporary exemptions and meet with families to resolve concerns.

**Senior leadership team:** Ensure consistent implementation, support staff with complex cases, process requests for uniform support.

**Headteacher:** Ensure policy is accessible, affordable and inclusive. Comply with DfE statutory guidance. Consult with school community on changes.

**Governing body:** Approve policy, monitor compliance with statutory guidance, review regularly.

## 6. Equality and Inclusion

The protected characteristics relevant to our uniform policy are: sex, race, religion or belief, disability, gender reassignment, and pregnancy and maternity.

### Gender

We operate a gender-neutral uniform. Students may wear any uniform items listed in this policy, regardless of their gender or the legal sex recorded on our school records. We support transgender students to wear uniform that reflects their gender identity. Uniform costs are comparable across all options.

### **Religion and belief**

Students may wear items required by their religious beliefs, including religious hair coverings (see section 6.6) and modest clothing in line with religious requirements.

### **Race and ethnicity**

We respect natural Afro hairstyles and protective styles and follow the Equality and Human Rights Commission's guidance on preventing hair discrimination. See section 6.6 for further information.

### **Disability and medical conditions**

We make reasonable adjustments for students with disabilities or medical conditions, including adaptations to uniform for sensory needs, alternative footwear and adjustments to PE kit requirements.

### **Requesting adjustments and discussing requirements**

If your child requires an adjustment to our uniform policy due to a protected characteristic, disability or medical condition, or if you have a religious/cultural requirement please contact your head of year. We will consider all requests individually and work with you to find a suitable solution.

### **Consultation**

When reviewing or changing our uniform policy, we consult with parents/carers and students. Where appropriate, we specifically seek views from students and families who may be particularly affected by changes, including those who are transgender or non-binary, have specific religious or cultural dress requirements, or have SEND or sensory needs.

## **7. Complaints and Challenges**

If you have concerns about our uniform policy that cannot be resolved through discussion with staff, please follow our school complaints policy available on our website.

This includes concerns about:

- The cost of uniform
- Equality and discrimination issues
- The practicality or suitability of uniform items
- How the policy is enforced
- Any other aspect of our uniform requirements

We will handle all complaints in accordance with our complaints policy and work with you to reach a resolution.

## 8. Enforcing Uniform Expectations

All students are expected to wear correct uniform every day, including wearing items appropriately (e.g. skirts at the correct length, shirts tucked in, ties worn properly).

### 8.1 If your child cannot wear correct uniform

There may be circumstances where a student cannot wear correct uniform. We will give reasonable allowance for:

- Replacement uniform needing to be purchased
- Medical, disability or sensory issues
- Financial difficulties

**What you need to do:** Please contact your child's form tutor or head of year as soon as possible, and before the school day, to explain the situation. We will work with you to find a solution. Uniform cards will be issued to the student where necessary.

### 8.2 Our approach when uniform is incorrect

#### All staff responsibility

All staff have a responsibility to challenge uniform issues when moving around school.

#### Minor uniform infringements

Minor uniform infringements can be dealt with easily and should be resolved straight away, including:

- Shirts tucked in
- Jumper on
- Top button done up
- Ties neat
- Skirts unrolled

For minor uniform issues that are resolved immediately, a same-day break time uniform detention may be issued to students.

#### Major uniform issues

Major uniform issues cannot be resolved immediately and may include:

- Incorrect trousers or skirt
- Missing uniform item (e.g. tie)
- Incorrect footwear
- Wearing non-uniform items (e.g. inappropriate jewellery and hooded jumpers)

This will result in a same-day break-time uniform detention. We will also:

1. Contact home the same day
2. Offer students the opportunity to wear alternative uniform from the school store (e.g. shoes, skirt, jumper and ties)

### **Confiscation of non-uniform items**

All non-uniform items (e.g. jewellery and hooded jumpers) are to be confiscated straight away and handed to the school office. These can be collected at the end of the school day by students.

### **Refusal to comply**

A student refusing to comply with uniform expectations, may include the following:

- Refusing to wear alternative uniform from the school store
- Refusing to remove or hand over a non-uniform item
- Repeated infringements despite sanctions

In these instances:

- On Call will be contacted immediately
- Students will work in the reset room until the issue can be resolved
- Heads of year will make direct contact home

### **Loaned uniform**

Items from the school store will be loaned to students on a temporary basis for the school day. Students must return these items at the end of the school day. Heads of year will contact home for students who do not return loaned uniform.

## **9. Legal Framework and Related Policies**

This policy complies with:

- The Education (School Uniform) Act 2024 and DfE statutory guidance on uniform costs
- The Equality Act 2010 (our approach to equality is in section 8)
- The Human Rights Act 1998

From September 2026, we are limiting compulsory branded items to four (three items plus tie).

This policy is also linked to our school behaviour policy, school equality information and objectives statement, school anti-bullying policy and the trust complaints policy.

## **10. Monitoring and Review**

This policy will be reviewed and updated regularly – approximately every year or where there are changes in statutory guidance, if feedback from the school community indicates issues or if suppliers or cost considerations change.