



SIR WILLIAM ROBERTSON  
ACADEMY

UNIFORM POLICY

OCTOBER 2022

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## **Statement of intent**

Sir William Robertson Academy believes that a consistent school uniform policy is vital to promote the ethos of the school and provide a sense of belonging and identity for all pupils, regardless of their protected characteristics or socio-economic circumstances.

This policy lays out the measures the school has taken to ensure a consistent, fair and inclusive uniform policy, and to implement a uniform that reflects the needs of all pupils, and is affordable and the best value for money for the school and pupils' families.

We believe that pupils learn most effectively and achieve their best outcomes when they are comfortable, able to be themselves, and dressed in such a way that sets an appropriate tone for education.

## 1. Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Education Act 2011
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Equality Act 2010
- The UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)
- Data Protection Act 2018
- Education (Guidance about Costs of School Uniforms) Act 2021

This policy has due regard to all relevant guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- DfE (2021) 'Cost of school uniforms'
- DfE (2021) 'School Admissions Code'
- DfE (2021) 'School uniforms'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Complaints Procedures Policy
- Behaviour Policy

## 2. Roles and responsibilities

The governing board is responsible for:

- Establishing, in consultation with the headteacher and school community, a practical and smart school uniform that accurately reflects the school's vision and values.
- Ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible and inclusive, and does not disadvantage any pupil by virtue of their protected characteristics or socio-economic status.
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of parents, pupils and the wider school community regarding changes to the school's uniform.
- Ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible and affordable.
- Demonstrating how best value for money has been achieved in the uniform policy.
- Ensuring compliance with the DfE's ['Cost of school uniforms'](#) guidance.
- Processing and approving all eligible School Uniform Assistance Application Forms.

The headteacher is responsible for:

- Enforcing the school's uniform on a day-to-day basis.
- Ensuring that teachers understand this policy and what to do if a pupil is in breach of the policy.
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of the school community in regard to the school's uniform and making appropriate recommendations to the governing board.
- Providing pupils with an exemption letter as appropriate, e.g. for a pupil who has a broken arm and requires a loose-fitting top.

Staff members are responsible for:

- Ensuring that pupils dress in accordance with this policy at all times.
- Disciplining pupils who are in breach of this policy.
- Ensuring that pupils understand why having a consistent and practical school uniform is important, e.g. school identity.

Parents are responsible for:

- Providing their children with the correct school uniform as detailed in this policy.
- Informing the Head of Year if their child requires a more relaxed uniform policy for a period of time, including why.
- 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 headteacher has granted an exemption.
- Looking after their uniform as appropriate.
- Understanding and respecting why a school uniform is important to the school, e.g. school identity and community.

### **3. Cost principles**

The school is committed to ensuring that its school uniform is affordable and accessible to all pupils, and does not place an unreasonable financial burden on parents.

In accordance with the 'School Admissions Code', the headteacher will ensure that the school's uniform policy does not discourage parents from applying for a place for their child.

The school will assess the overall cost implications of its uniform policy regularly, including prior to making any changes to the school uniform. When evaluating whether costs are reasonable and proportionate, the school will take into account the opinions and situations of:

- Economically disadvantaged parents.
- Parents with multiple children who are, or will be in the future, pupils at the school.
- Parents of younger children, as they are likely to grow quickly and require new sets of uniform more frequently.
- Parents of pupils with protected characteristics that may impact their ability to access the uniform due to costs.
- LAC and PLAC.

The school will evaluate the cost of its uniform based on the overall collection of uniform items that parents would need to purchase for a pupil, rather than on the cost effectiveness of individual items; this will include consideration of the fact that parents will need to purchase multiples of certain items, e.g. shirts and socks, to ensure their child can come to school in clean uniform every day.

The school keeps variations in school uniform for different groups of pupils, e.g. year group-specific items or house colours, to a minimum where possible to ensure that pupils can get the most wear out of their uniform possible and that parents can pass some items down to younger siblings.

The school keeps branded uniform items to a minimal level that is reasonable for all members of the school community. The school defines a branded uniform item as any item of clothing that cannot be purchased at a range of retailers, including by virtue of logos, colours, design and fabrics. Where the school decides to require an item of branded clothing, it will conduct an assessment to ensure prices are kept as low as possible, e.g. by offering sew- or iron-on logo badges for jumpers that can be bought at retailers instead of requiring special branded jumpers.

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 the best value for money possible. Any savings negotiated are passed to parents where possible and does not enter into exclusive single supplier contracts or cash-back arrangements. More information on supplier processes can be found in the 'School uniform supplier' section of this policy.

The school will not amend uniform requirements regularly and will take the views of parents and pupils into account when considering any changes to school uniforms.

#### **4. Equality principles**

The school takes its legal obligation to avoid discriminating against any protected characteristic unlawfully very seriously, and aims to ensure that the uniform policy is as inclusive as possible so that all pupils are supported to access a school uniform which is comfortable, suitable for their needs, and reflects who they are.

The school will work to ensure that school uniform's cost does not disproportionately affect any pupils by ensuring that uniforms for all genders are as equal in price as possible and by adhering to the cost principles laid out in section 3.

The school will ensure that parents and pupils are consulted over any changes to school uniform, and that views and advice is sought specifically from pupils, and parents of pupils, who:

- Are transgender, including non-binary pupils.
- Have SEND and/or sensory needs.
- Are of a religious or cultural background that has dress requirements.

The school implements a gender-neutral uniform, meaning that pupils are not required to wear specific items based on their gender, and may wear any of the uniform items listed in the 'School uniform' section of this policy regardless of the legal sex recorded on the school's records.

Transgender pupils are supported to access the uniform that best reflects their gender expression.

The school ensures that pupils who are required to follow certain dress requirements, e.g. by virtue of their membership of a particular religious or cultural group, are afforded flexibility to allow them

to wear a uniform that adheres to their requirements as far as possible. The school endeavours to meet all requests for amendments to the uniform for these purposes; however, will ensure that the needs and rights of individual pupils are weighed against any health and safety concerns for the entire school community.

Parents' concerns and requests regarding religious clothing are dealt with on a case-by-case basis by the headteacher and governing board, and always in accordance with the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.

The school ensures that the needs of pupils with SEND and/or sensory difficulties are considered in the uniform policy, e.g. ensuring soft, stretchy fabrics and avoiding intricate buttons or hard seams; however, where the needs of these pupils cannot be met in the standard uniform policy, individual adaptations to the uniform will be considered and permitted wherever possible.

## **5. Complaints and challenges**

The school endeavours to resolve all uniform complaints and challenges locally and informally, in accordance with the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.

To make a complaint, parents should refer to the Complaints Policy and follow the stipulations outlined.

When a complaint is received, the school works with parents 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.

## **6. Uniform assistance**

The school holds second-hand school uniforms in the school office for parents to access; access to these uniforms is available upon request made to the school office. Parents are invited to donate their child's uniform when they no longer need it.

Parents of children who attract pupil premium funding may be eligible for support in meeting the costs of uniforms. Parents should contact the school office to discuss support required.

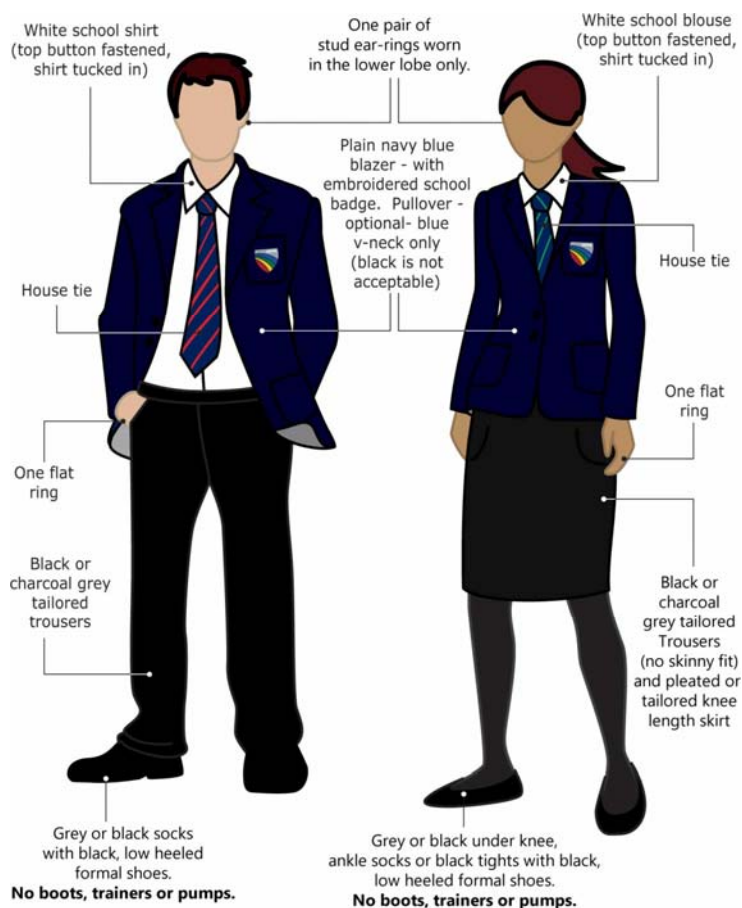
## **7. Non-compliance**

Staff members are permitted to discipline pupils for breaching this policy, in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy.

## 8. School uniform

### Clothing

We expect students to take pride in their appearance. All pupils are, therefore, expected to wear the school uniform.



### Years 7 – 11

- plain navy blue blazer with embroidered school badge
- plain white school shirt. Must be long enough to tuck in to trousers or skirt.
- tie in house colour
- plain, dark grey/black tailored trousers (no skinny fit trousers) or plain dark grey/pleated skirt/tailored knee length skirt (not stretchy/lycra skirts)
- plain navy blue, V-neck jumper (no sweaters)

**Socks:** Socks or tights should be worn and should be plain black or dark grey. They should be worn below the knee or ankle length.

**Shoes:** Shoes must be plain black leather (or leather look) school shoes. They must have a low heel and have no 'flashes' or lighter colours. They should be clean for the beginning of the day. Trainers, boots or excessively platformed shoes are not allowed.

**Belts:** if a belt is worn it should be plain black or dark grey.



**Outdoor Clothes:** Denim or leather jackets are not permitted in school.

## Physical Education

### Outdoor winter activities kit

- black and white rugby shirt (plain black thermal top/skins can be worn underneath for warmth)
- skort **or** black leggings with SWRA emblem **or** black shorts
- black socks
- trainers
- plastic studded football boots (suitable for use on the 3G pitch) [Football Foundation Rules for better play \(swracademy.org\)](https://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/rules-for-better-play)
- gum shield\* (recommended for rugby and lacrosse)
- shin pads
- ¼ zip black fleece (optional)

### Indoor winter and summer activities kit

- polo shirt with SWRA emblem
- black shorts
- skort **or** black leggings with SWRA emblem
- white socks
- trainers

**Jewellery:** Earrings, other than one pair of small studs, are not allowed in school as they constitute a health and safety hazard. In the event of a child having her or his nose/eyebrow/lip/tongue/upper ear, etc. pierced, the stud must be removed during school hours. Plasters simply covering up these types of piercings will not be an acceptable alternative.

## Hairstyles

The school reserves the right to make a judgement on where pupils' hairstyles or hair colours are inappropriate for the school environment; however, will ensure that any such judgements do not discriminate against any pupil by virtue of their protected characteristics. Each individual pupil's scenario will be taken into account where any judgements on appropriateness are to be made, and parents will always have the freedom to complain via the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.

Pupils with long hair must ensure that this does not impede their vision, cover their face or provide a health and safety risk. Long hair must be tied up during practical lessons, e.g. during PE.

The following hairstyles are not considered appropriate for school:

- Brightly-coloured, dyed hair.
- Headwear with bold patterns or colours.
- Excessive hair accessories.

## Makeup

The school rules on makeup are as follows:

- Only light, natural-looking makeup is permitted.

- False nails and nail extensions are not permitted.
- Only clear nail varnish may be worn.
- Temporary tattoos are not permitted.

Pupils wearing excessive makeup are required to remove it.

## **9. Adverse weather**

All pupils are required to wear weather-appropriate clothing that covers as much of their skin as possible during adverse weather.

Pupils are advised not to wear any jumpers or blazers during heatwaves. If outside during break times, pupils not wearing sun-safe clothing are advised to stay in an area protected from the sun, or spare clothing is provided.

For cold temperatures, this includes wearing:

- Scarfs, gloves, coats and hats when they are outside.
- Warm jumpers that conform to the school's uniform policy.
- Trousers, or thick tights with skirts.
- A waterproof coat (children may need to wait outside for their transport)

## **10. Labelling**

All pupils' clothing and footwear should be clearly labelled with their name.

Any lost clothing is to be taken to the lost property box in the school bag-rack (please contact school office for details). All lost property is retained for one week and may be disposed of if it is not collected within this time.

## **11. Monitoring and review**

This policy is reviewed annually by the chair of governors and the headteacher.

The scheduled review date for this policy is **September 2023**.