



Soham Village College

School Uniform Policy

Version:	3.0
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Approved by:	Advisory Body
Date:	Summer 2023
Review date:	Summer 2024



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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, 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 the Year Head who will consult with the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) on any 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. 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 leveller
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- Considering alternative methods for signalling differences in groups for interschool competitions, such as house colours
- 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 students 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

We expect students to look smart and ready for work. We aim to make our uniform as affordable as possible. The senior leadership team will have the final say on queries related to smartness, decency and safety.

Compulsory College Uniform for all Students

- Black blazer with college badge (the badge is available to purchase from the College Reception)
- Standard plain white collar shirt (long or short sleeves) – worn with top button done up and tucked in
- Years 7 to 10 : Red & black college tie (available to purchase from the College Reception)
- Years 11 : Blue fleur-de-lys college tie (available to purchase from the College Reception)
- Plain black trousers (Not leggings or jeans).
- Alternatively, a grey skirt, which must be just above the knee.
- Plain black shoes - heels no higher than 5cm with no white/coloured logos. (No: open backs, stiletto heels, boots)

PE Kit

- School specific rugby shirt and/or polo shirt
- Plain navy shorts/skirt/tracksuit bottoms (no stripes or logos bigger than 40mm x 40mm)
- Navy Blue sports socks
- Appropriate clean indoor and outdoor footwear
- Shin pads – football
- Gum shield – hockey and rugby
- Kite marked studs – football and rugby
- No jewellery or watches may be worn during PE lessons. No ear studs even if recently pierced and taped over. No false or long nails to avoid scratching other students.

Optional College Uniform

- Plain (no logos at all) grey 'V' neck pullover allowed to be worn under a blazer in cold weather; **no** sweaters/hoodies allowed under blazers.
- Netball skirt, black or dark blue tracksuit bottoms (no stripes or logos more than 40mm x 40mm)
- Apron for technology (available to purchase from College Reception)
- Coats

General Uniform Rules

- The only body piercings allowed are: one small stud in the lower lobe of each ear, and a nose stud with a maximum diameter of 2mm. No other jewellery is allowed.
- We welcome Afro-textured hair worn in all styles including, but not limited to, afros, locs, twists, braids, cornrows, fades, hair straightened through the application of heat or chemicals, weaves and wigs. Headscarves and wraps may be worn provided they are a plain material and a neutral colour; the uniform must remain visible

- Nails and any make-up must be natural-looking
- No false nails allowed due to health and safety concerns in PE and practical subjects.
- Students cannot dye their hair unnatural hair colour (for example: blue, green, pink). A student who is thinking of a particular hair-style but is unsure whether it would be allowed should check with the Head of Year before they have it done. Senior leaders will make the final decision if necessary.
- Any clothing worn under white shirt must be plain white with no logos.
- Only approved school badges on blazer.

4.2 Where to purchase it

Branded items can be purchased through:

- Shop: Paul Day's Sports, High Street, Ely. Tel: 01353 665155
- Online:- <https://www.schooltrendsonline.com/uniform/SohamVillageCollegeCB75AA>

Other mandatory non-branded items e.g. trousers, shirts can be purchased at any clothing retailer that stocks uniform e.g. Tesco, Asda, Sainsbury, Primark etc

Second-hand uniform is available via: Soham Community Uniform Scheme who can be contacted via their Facebook

group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/461742710990925> or
email: sohamcommunityuniformscheme@gmail.com

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 the Head of Year 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 the Head of Year 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 breaching the uniform policy the opportunity to comply, but will follow up with sanctions in line with the behaviour policy if it does not improve.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with by the pastoral team.

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 Advisory Body

The Advisory Body 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 an Assistant Head. At every review, it will be approved by the school's Advisory Body.

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

- Behaviour policy
- Equality information and objectives statement

- Anti-bullying policy
- Complaints policy

These policies are available on our Trust's website: [Staploe Education Trust - Policies for Soham Village College](#)