



School Uniform Policy

Policy Lead	H Thurland
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Approval needed by:	Local Governing Board
Version:	3

SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY



Introduction

We take pride in the high standard of appearance of CHS students and ask parents/ carers to give their full support in maintaining these high standards. Our policy is called “Dress for Success”.

The wearing of a school uniform encourages students to have a sense of pride and belonging as well as reinforcing the high standards established within the local community. Our school uniform has been designed to be smart, fashionable, affordable and flexible.

Core Purpose

To ensure that uniform reflects the ethos, standards and principles of the school.

Broad Purposes

To facilitate equality and inclusivity for all.

To ensure that the uniform is accessible and affordable for all.

To ensure that all students feel confident and prepared for learning.

That the uniform easily identifies CHS students for both ambassadorial and safety reasons. That the uniform provides flexibility, comfort and is fit for purpose, without being open to interpretation. To keep children safe during the busy school day.

Policy Details

In choosing Congleton High School parents/carers are making a commitment to ensure that their child wears the uniform correctly. The list below makes clear all compulsory and optional items and indicates where the items may be purchased. The school provides items directly from the manufacturer ensuring the lowest possible prices. However, the school is able to offer flexible payments to help parents spread the cost. Good quality used items of school uniform, particularly blazers, are often available. Please contact the school office for details.

All items should be clearly labelled with the name of the owner.



UNIFORMS BY YEAR GROUP

CHS Uniform (Years 10-11)

- Black CHS logo blazer (**compulsory branded item 1**)
- Black unbranded tailored trousers, straight leg, zip up / button up (jeans, Lycra® trousers, flares, boot-cut or leggings are not permitted) (optional item)
- Black unbranded tailored shorts (optional item)
- Black CHS logo skirt to be worn within 10cm of mid knee (optional item) / Black skirt no logo (due to unavailability of older logo items) – (optional item)
- Unbranded white shirt with collar that buttons to the neck
- Black school clip-on tie with CHS logo and house colour (**compulsory branded item 2; 1st tie provided free to all new starters in Yr7**)
- Ankle socks or knee-high socks (must be worn below the knee and black) or tights.
- Trainer socks are not permitted. Ankle socks must be logo free.
- Plain black shoes with a heel of not more than 5cm (boots, trainers, trainer/shoes or casual shoes are not permitted)

CHS PE Kit (Years 10-11)

- Purple branded CHS polo shirt (**compulsory branded item 3**)
- 1/4 zip CHS fleece sweatshirt or hooded sweatshirt
- Black CHS shorts, CHS skort, CHS leggings or black CHS bottoms – (**Compulsory branded item 4**)
- CHS rugby/games shirt – optional item
- Short white unbranded sports socks
- Trainers
- Football boots/Astroturf shoes
- Shin pads
- Gum shield - recommended

CHS Uniform (From September 2024 for all Year 7 - 9 students)

- Grey branded CHS logo blazer (**Compulsory Branded Item 1**)
- Black unbranded tailored trousers, straight leg, zip up / button up (jeans, Lycra® trousers, flares, boot-cut or leggings are not permitted) – optional item
- Grey tartan CHS skirt to be worn within 10cm of mid knee – optional item
- Black tailored shorts – optional item
- Unbranded white shirt with collar that buttons to the neck
- Black school clip on tie with the new CHS logo and house colour (**compulsory branded item 2; 1st tie provided free to all new starters in yr7**)
- Ankle socks or knee-high socks (must be worn below the knee and black) or tights – trainer socks are not permitted and socks must be logo free, unbranded



- Plain black shoes with a heel of no more than 5cm (boots, trainers, trainer/shoes or casual shoes are not permitted)
- Plain black 'v' neck jumper – optional

CHS PE Kit from (From September 2024 for all Year 7-9 students)

- Purple CHS t shirt – **(Compulsory branded item 3)**
- ¾ zip sweatshirt CHS logo / ¾ zip sweatshirt unbranded – optional item
- Black CHS shorts, CHS skort, CHS leggings or black CHS bottoms – **(Compulsory branded item 4)**
- Trainers
- Football boots / Astro shoes
- Shin pads
- Gum shield - recommended

Blazers, trousers, skirts, ties and the PE Kit are available to buy online from DP Sportswear in store or online at <http://www.dpsportswear.co.uk>.

You can find details of DP Sportswear, a price list and a link to the website in the 'Parent Area' of our website at www.congletonhigh.com.

Any unbranded items can be purchased from **any** supplier in line with the relevant design/style. Ties and gum shields can also be purchased from Student Reception. See Appendix 1 for FAQ in relation to updated guidance.

Please find our school uniform on our website at: [CHS School Uniform](#)

JEWELLERY/HAIR AND MAKEUP

Jewellery:

The only jewellery that is allowed is:

- A watch.
- One pair of stud earrings, worn in the ear lobe (one stud in each lobe)
- All other forms of piercings are not allowed in school.
- A clear, plastic spacer that cannot be seen is permitted but facial piercings may not be covered with plasters or similar.
- Non-compliant jewellery will be confiscated and held in reception until the end of the school day. The Behaviour policy will be applied with persistent breaches of these expectations.

(Facial piercings include, but are not limited to nose studs/rings, helix, rook or conch, lip and tongue piercing)



Hair and Make-up:

- Subtle, unobtrusive make-up is acceptable. False eye lashes are not suitable for school. Extreme fake tan is not permitted.
- Natural hair colours only, no extreme styles, for example – tramlines, skin head and Mohican styles. Hair styles including dip dye, balayage, coloured braids, tinsel braids or holiday braids will not be permitted.
- Hair must not be dyed more than one natural colour. Highlights/Lowlights must be subtle and natural in affect. Hair extensions are not permitted.
- Students having long hair must fasten it back in laboratories and practical rooms and for PE. The school reserves the right to make the final decision on whether a hairstyle is deemed to be extreme.
- No nail varnish or acrylic nails and fingernails must be kept short.

(If you are unsure about the suitability of a hairstyle or any other aspect of your child's appearance, please contact your child's Year Team Leader in the first instance.)

Bags:

- Bags must be large enough to carry an A4 folder and we would recommend a backpack/rucksack style of bag

Bicycles/Scooters:

- All cyclists MUST wear a safety helmet.
- In the interests of safety, students travelling in the dark are advised to wear fluorescent armbands or sashes.
- Bikes/scooters must be locked into the bike racks in the Quad area of the school.



THE HALO CODE



Our school champions the right of staff and students to embrace all Afro-hairstyles. We acknowledge that Afro-textured hair is an important part of our Black students' and staff's racial, ethnic, cultural, and religious identities, and requires specific styling for hair health and maintenance.

We celebrate 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, wigs, head-scarves, and wraps.

In this school, we recognise and celebrate our students' and colleagues' identities. We are a community built on an ethos of equality and respect where hair texture and style have no bearing on a student's or staff member's ability to succeed.

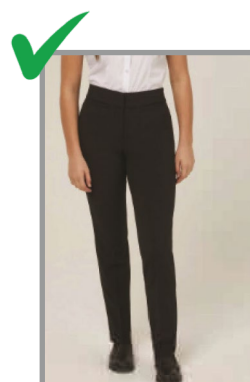
We thank our students and their families for supporting the Halo Code and being aware of sensitivities around Cultural Appropriation.

- The Halo Code Applies to students with Afro-textured hair
- Head wraps and scarves must be plain black and should be secured for health and safety reasons.
- Hair colour must be in line with the wider school uniform and personal appearance policy.

We take pride in the general high standard of appearance of CHS students and ask parents to give their full support in maintaining these high standards. We believe in 'Dressing for Success'.

To avoid any ambiguity regarding acceptable/unacceptable items of school uniform, please use the following guide together with the full uniform list.

The following Skirts/Trousers are acceptable items of school uniform:



The following Skirts/Trousers are NOT acceptable items, of school uniform:

The following shoes examples of what are acceptable items of school uniform:



Skirts that are shorter than 10cm from mid-knee.

Skirts should not be rolled up



Jeans or slim leg trousers



Jeans, leggings, jeggings or Lycra trousers



The following shoes are examples of those NOT acceptable items of school uniform:

In addition to the shoe styles on the previous page, we have had recent queries about the following designs and would like to make parents/carers aware that these are also not appropriate as part of the school uniform policy:



UNIFORM EXPECTATIONS

Information explaining what will happen if the uniform expectations are not met, for example if a student is wearing fake nails, lashes, has coloured their hair an unnatural colour or is wearing an item of clothing that is not part of our policy:

The aim is always to maintain the highest standards whilst ensuring children fully engage in their learning.

1. Student will be supported by a member of staff to resolve the issue - for example by borrowing a tie or a pair of school shoes for the day or handing over the item of clothing*.
2. Parents/carers will be contacted to help to rectify a situation that school cannot resolve such as an unacceptable hair style/colour, false nails, or to drop off a replacement shirt, alternative pair of shoes or tie.



3. Students will be placed in the RESET room to complete work until the issue is resolved.
4. A suspension may ultimately be issued if standards are repeatedly not met.

**Non-compliant clothing/items will be confiscated and held in reception until the end of the school day. We trust our students to resolve issues themselves and in the first instance will allow a student to collect their items between 3-3.30pm. Parents / carers will need to collect items that are confiscated on more than one occasion. Consequences will be issued in line with the RBFL policy for failure to comply.*

We will always endeavour to work in partnership with our families. We understand that not every family can afford to replace items of uniform at short notice, and we will always try to offer an alternative.

Please contact your child's Form Tutor or Team Leader if you need support with uniform items.

Appendix 1:

FAQ: In response to enquiries in relation to the updated uniform guidance please see the information below.

Having reviewed our policy against the statutory guidance *Cost of School Uniforms (July 2026)* and *Developing School Uniform Policy (July 2026)*, we are satisfied that the school's uniform arrangements comply with current statutory requirements.

Compulsory Branded Items

The legislation requires secondary schools to limit compulsory branded uniform and PE kit items to a maximum of four where one of those items is a tie. At Congleton High School the compulsory branded items are: School blazer; School tie; PE t-shirt; One PE bottom item. Where pupils may choose between alternative items and only one is required, this counts as a single branded item. Students may wear plain black tailored trousers / plain black tailored shorts and are not required to purchase a school skirt. The skirt is therefore an optional item and does not constitute an additional compulsory branded item. We are satisfied that the school remains within the statutory limit.

Affordability

Our policy includes flexible payment arrangements, access to second-hand uniform, support for families experiencing financial difficulty and the use of generic alternatives for a number of items. The governing body remains committed to ensuring that uniform costs are kept as low as reasonably possible while maintaining a smart and consistent school identity. Durability of items is also important, we have taken care to ensure high quality that lasts and reduces costs over time.

Equality and Inclusion

The policy supports equality and inclusion and incorporates the principles of the Halo Code. It also provides flexibility through alternative uniform options, including the choice of wearing trousers rather than a branded skirt.



Supply Arrangements and Use of a Local Supplier

In relation to the school's use of a designated uniform supplier.

The Department for Education guidance does not prohibit schools from using a single supplier. Rather, governing boards are required to ensure that cost and value for money for parents are the primary considerations when determining uniform supply arrangements and to be able to demonstrate that their chosen arrangements provide appropriate value. The guidance recognises that schools may continue to use designated suppliers where they are satisfied that these arrangements are in the best interests of families.

The school has deliberately chosen to work with a local supplier because of the additional benefits available to families, including:

- A local retail presence within the town.
- In-person fitting appointments to ensure parents purchase the correct size first time.
- Personalised customer service and advice - Face to face support – not a call center / email that may not be dealt with quickly or effectively. DP sports work hard to build a relationship with our families to ensure high quality service.
- Availability of replacement items throughout the year.
- Ease of ordering and returns
- Repair and alteration services which help extend the life of garments and reduce replacement costs.
- Ongoing collaboration with the school to maintain affordable pricing wherever possible
- £2500 Charitable fund to support financially disadvantaged families in the local community
- DP Sports are part of the schoolwear association which ensures responsible sourcing and includes fair wages, ethical working conditions and quality / sustainability sourcing of garments.
- Tender process is undertaken every 5 years and was undertaken with the recent changes to uniform, families were also consulted on their preference of supplier 98% supported DP sports as the preference

These services provide practical and financial benefits to families that would not necessarily be available through a national online-only retailer. They also support the school's commitment to sustainability by encouraging reuse and repair of uniform items wherever possible.

Families are able to purchase any unbranded item from a supplier of their choice as long as it is in line with the relevant design/style.

Ongoing Review

Following feedback from families in our updated policy we have made it clear where the compulsory items apply, signposted that unbranded items can be purchased from other suppliers as long as in line with relevant design and clearly identified optional items.

We review our policy annually.