

South Shore Academy

School Uniform Policy



Approved by:	N Kay
Last reviewed on:	1/9/2026
Next Review due by:	1/9/2027

Contents

1. Aims
2. Our school's legal duties under the Equality Act 2010
3. Limiting the cost of school uniform
4. Expectations for school uniform
5. Expectations for our school community
6. Monitoring arrangements
7. Links to other policies

1. Aims

The aims of this policy are:

- Promoting Dignity: It promotes equality and helps to reduce socio-economic differences among students, creating a sense of unity and promoting individual dignity.
- Building Community: Wearing a uniform helps to foster a sense of belonging and community among students, promoting school spirit and a shared identity.
- Establishing Discipline: A uniform helps to establish discipline and a sense of responsibility in students, preparing them for future experiences in the workplace.
- Representing the School: Wearing a uniform helps to represent the school and its values, promoting a positive image and creating a professional demeanor.
- 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 uniforms.

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 pupils to wear headscarves and other religious or cultural symbols such as a kara, cross, or religious bracelet
-

Allow for adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents to get in touch with our Assistant Headteacher – Inclusion, 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: 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 and shoes
- Keeping the number of optional branded items to a minimum, so that the school's uniform can act as a social leveler
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for Parents/Carers to acquire second-hand uniform items through the school office or a Family Support worker.
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents of any changes
- Consulting with Parents/Carers and pupils on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy

3.1 Support for families experiencing financial hardship

"We understand that the cost of school uniform can be a burden for some families. If you are experiencing financial hardship and are struggling to afford uniform items, please contact our Assistant Headteacher – Inclusion in confidence. We can offer support through:

- Uniform grants/loans
- Access to free or reduced cost second-hand uniform
- Payment plans
- Referral to local support services

All requests will be treated in the strictest confidence

3.2 Second-hand uniform

Second-hand uniforms are available from our school office. Items are available by contacting our Pastoral Team. This uniform is free or at significantly reduced cost. The scheme is run by our Pastoral Team. Parents can donate outgrown uniform items in good condition to our school office

4. Expectations for school uniform

Uniform List

Blazer	Green with School badge	Supplier – Whittakers
Shirt	White with formal collar and top button. Optional sleeve length. Tucked in.	
Tie	Tie Green/Yellow with school badge	Supplier – Whittakers
Jumper (Optional)	Green V Neck Jumper – If a jumper is purchased, a blazer must still be worn	Supplier – Whittakers
Tailored school trousers or Skirt	Trousers: Black tailored trousers (no cords, cotton denim, chino material, skinny leg, bootleg, stretch material, slits or decoration) Skirt: Black badged skirt, length 22/24 inch	Pupils may choose either option. Skirt from Supplier – Whittakers
School Bag	Rucksacks	
Socks	Plain BLACK socks.	No frills, patterns, over the knee or trainer socks.
Tights	Opaque black or flesh coloured No patterns.	Tights and socks should not be worn together.
Hats	A woollen hat is permitted in poor weather for the journey to and from school.	No baseball caps.
Jewellery	A watch may be worn (not a smart watch unless required for medical reasons or agreed by the Assistant Headteacher – Inclusion. Smart watches must not be used to access the internet or communicate during the school day). Religious or cultural jewellery may be worn (e.g., kara, cross, religious bracelet).	No other piercings or jewellery permitted. Parents should contact the Assistant Headteacher – Inclusion if they wish to request an exception on religious or cultural grounds.
Make up	No makeup	No False eyelashes / nails/ tan and nail varnish.
Hair	Shoulder length hair must be tied back for safety in all practical lessons	Extreme hairstyles e.g. unnatural hair colour, two-tone hair colour or shaved hair on less than a number 2 or hair with patterns or lines are not acceptable. Braided & Beaded hair will always need to be tied back.

If a pupil is missing a piece of uniform and cannot give a valid reason as to when it will be replaced, we will issue the piece of uniform and will add the charge for this to your ParentPay account.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION KIT

The P.E. kit is an essential part of the school uniform and will be required from the beginning of the school year.

Physical Education Kit:

Badged PE Top (unisex, Black)

Optional - 3/4 Zip Badged Sweatshirt (Unisex)

Shorts (Black)

Optional - Leggings (Black) or Tracksuit bottoms (Unisex, Black)

Green/Black PE Socks

Training Shoes (pumps not acceptable)

Shin Pads

Football Boots (optional)

OPTIONAL EXTRA: Navy base layer top for colder weather

Parents should always consult this list or school BEFORE purchasing any item so that costly and unacceptable mistakes can be avoided. In exceptional circumstances where a pupil's clothing poses a health and safety risk, parents will be contacted immediately and asked to bring appropriate clothing to school or to collect their child. A pupil will never be sent home alone. This will be recorded as an authorised absence. The headteacher will make the final decision in such cases. If a pupil is missing a piece of uniform, we will provide a temporary loan of the item. Parents should contact the Assistant Headteacher – Inclusion to discuss when the uniform can be replaced. If financial hardship is preventing the purchase of uniform, please see Section 3.1 for support available. Loaned items should be returned clean at the end of the school day or week

ALL ITEMS SHOULD BE CLEARLY NAMED.

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 Assistant Headteacher – Inclusion 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 and Carers are also expected to contact the Assistant Headteacher – Inclusion if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to:

Their child's protected characteristics or the cost of the uniform

Parents and Carers 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/Carers to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

5.3 Staff

Staff will closely monitor pupils to make sure they are in the correct uniform. They will give any pupils and families breaching the uniform policy the opportunity to comply, but will follow up with the pastoral team if the situation doesn't improve.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with by the pastoral team in accordance with academy policy. 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 governing committee 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 . At every review, it will be approved by the full governing committee.

The governing board will review the uniform supplier contract at least every 5 years. The contract with Whittakers was last tendered in January 2026 and is due for review in January 2031. The governing board will ensure that any contract offers best value for money and will consider alternatives to single-supplier arrangements.

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

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