



## WHITELANDS ACADEMY

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Dear Parents and Carers,

At Whitelands, we are always mindful of the pressures families face including the cost of school uniform. We work hard to keep this as low as possible while still holding onto something we value deeply: pride in how our students present themselves. Looking smart isn't about appearance for appearance's sake; it's about confidence, attitude and the habits that shape young people for life. It's part of the equity we believe in. A simple, consistent uniform helps every child feel they belong, without the pressure to "keep up", and it reflects the Whitelands TRAITs we talk about so often.

With this in mind, we are writing to share a small number of updates to our uniform requirements from September 2026. These changes follow new government guidance on reducing uniform costs, alongside feedback from families and students. While the legislation allows for three branded items plus a tie, we will only be asking for **two branded items and a tie**. We are also very aware that most girls choose to wear a skirt, and we wanted the total to not exceed three because of this.

Plain grey, knitted v-neck jumpers (non-branded, long-sleeved) may now be worn as part of the uniform.

We have also had frequent issues with lost items this year. To help us return belongings quickly, please ensure that all uniform items are clearly named.

### School Ties

We recognise that the current clip-on red ties have not been as durable as we would have hoped. From September 2026, we will move to a navy-blue tie with a house-colour stripe, worn as a traditional tie-up.

For all students in the school in September 2026 — both new Year 7 students and those in other year groups — we will be presenting each student with their new house tie as part of

our start-of-year routine. Replacement ties will be available directly from the school at a cost of £5.20, so you will not need to go through the school supplier.

### Tailored Shorts

To give students more comfort in warmer months, tailored shorts will be an option for boys. Suggested styles are included in the guidance further down. When wearing shorts, students should wear dark grey or black socks.

### Skirts and Socks/Tights

Students wearing skirts should continue to wear either black tights or black socks. Sports logos are not permitted on socks.

### PE Kit Updates

To further reduce costs, we are simplifying our PE kit. From September 2026, the **only branded PE item required** will be the Whitelands sports polo shirt.

All other PE items may be unbranded and should include:

- Navy blue sports leggings, loose-fitting mid-thigh sports shorts, or navy blue non-branded tracksuit bottoms
- A non-branded quarter-zip fleece and/or navy blue windproof jacket
- Plain navy football socks for PE lessons

### Summary of Key Changes for September 2026

#### Uniform

- Only two branded items + tie required (not three)
- School blazer available from Stevensons is **mandatory**.
- Plain grey, knitted v-neck jumper (non-branded, long-sleeved)
- Please ensure all items are clearly named, especially shirts and trousers

#### School Ties

- New navy tie with house-colour stripe (traditional tie-up)
- Available directly from school for £5.20
- **All students** (including new Y7) will receive a house tie at the start of the year at no cost.

#### Tailored Shorts

- Tailored shorts permitted for boys in warmer months.
- Must be worn with **dark grey or black socks**.

#### Skirts & Socks/Tights

- Students wearing skirts: **black tights or black socks** only.
- **No sports logos** on socks.

## PE Kit

- Only **one branded item** required: the Whitelands sports polo shirt available through Stevensons.
- All other items should not have a logo on display and can be unbranded, these include:
  - Navy leggings, mid-thigh loose fit sports shorts, or navy tracksuit bottoms
  - Non-branded quarter-zip fleece and/or navy windproof jacket
  - Plain navy football socks

As always, our aim is simple: to make sure every child feels proud, prepared and ready to learn, without placing unnecessary pressure on families. These updates keep costs down while protecting the sense of belonging and high expectations that define Whitelands. Thank you, as ever, for your support, your feedback and the partnership we value so much. Together, we will continue to build a school where every young person can thrive - looking smart, thinking smart, and carrying our TRAITs into everything they do.

## Example items from high street retailers

### Shorts:

[Charcoal Grey Adjustable Waist Boys School Shorts 2 Pack | School | George at ASDA](#)  
[Buy Grey Single Flat Front School Shorts \(3-14yrs\) from the Next UK online shop](#)  
[2 Pack Boys' Regular Leg School Shorts \(2-14 Yrs\) | M&S](#)

### PE Kit:

[Athletic Sportswear Kids Football Shorts Junior Boys Girls Premium PE Running Gym Sports Fitness Shorts \(Navy, 13-14 Years\) : Amazon.co.uk: Fashion](#)  
[Navy School PE Sports Shorts | Uniform Direct®](#)  
[Football Socks – Navy – Teenywear](#)  
[Buy Navy Blue Football Socks from the Next UK online shop](#)  
[Zuimei 5 Pairs White Sports Socks Mens Cotton Cushioned Socks Crew Socks for Women](#)  
[Plain Tennis Running Socks Breathable for Workout Training Hiking : Amazon.co.uk: Fashion](#)  
[Sports Leggings \(6-16 Yrs\) | Goodmove | M&S](#)  
[Tri Dri Childrens/Kids Training Leggings \(12/13 Years\) \(Navy\) : Amazon.co.uk: Fashion](#)  
[Mountain Warehouse Camber II Kids Half-Zip Fleece - Lightweight & Breathable Microfleece Sweatshirt For Boys & Girls - For Spring Summer, Outdoors & Travelling Jet Black Kids Size 9-10 Years : Amazon.co.uk: Fashion](#)  
[Compare regatta men's dark navy micro lightweight half zip fleece - 1 products from over 5,000 stores](#)  
[FORZA Kids' & Junior Windbreaker Jackets | Net World Sports](#)

We hope these changes will help to make our uniform more practical, comfortable, and cost-effective, while maintaining the high standards and shared identity of our school community. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Kind regards,

**Whitelands Academy**