SOUTH WILTS GRAMMAR SCHOOL

School Uniform Policy

School Aims

South Wilts Grammar School is a progressive grammar school for which aims to maintain high academic standards and cultural achievement within a caring environment. We seek to encourage responsibility and personal fulfilment so that students attain their maximum potential. The School is dynamic and works with the community to prepare its students for life-long learning and adult independence.

South Wilts Grammar School values and respects all students equally and aims to provide equality of opportunity wherever possible.

South Wilts Grammar School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. The school fulfils its responsibilities as laid out in the following key documents: Working Together to Safeguard Children, Keeping Children Safe in Education and the procedures of the Safeguarding Vulnerable People Partnership.

Safeguarding links/ risks associated with this policy: All our students have a right to attend school and learn in a safe environment. School uniform plays a valuable role in contributing to the ethos of a school. It can help to instil pride; support positive behaviour and discipline; encourage identity with, and support for, school ethos; ensure pupils of all races and backgrounds feel welcome; protect children from social pressures to dress in a particular way; and nurture cohesion and promote good relations between different groups of pupils.

General principles

The school believes that the appearance of the members of its community is important. Young people come to school not merely for academic input but also to absorb an ethos and culture which is reflected in the code of conduct, general behaviour and expectations.

All students are expected to always wear the correct school uniform during the school day. This includes to and from school as well as during some school organised events. We expect all students to wear the uniform with pride and to conduct themselves appropriately when representing the school. This also applies when students are off site and in the school community. Students have a responsibility to comply with this Uniform Policy. All garments should be clearly marked with the student's name.

Wearing a school uniform goes a long way towards eradicating social and economic differences between students. The school is a community to which all students belong and with which all students are identified and wearing a uniform contributes to the development of this community ethos. Certain items of clothing can pose health and safety risks, most particularly in practical lessons such as PE, technology and science but also generally around the school. A clear uniform policy takes account of such issues and ensures that students are not put at risk unnecessarily by wearing inappropriate dress. Wearing a uniform helps to prepare students for these future expectations. Having a smart appearance within school is one factor among many which assists in instilling an awareness of, and appreciation for, maintaining high standards generally.

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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 all 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

Through our uniform policy we aim:

- to encourage pride in the school;
- to encourage a sense of equality and cohesion;
- to protect students from social pressures to dress in a particular way;
- to ensure that no student feels excluded because of different social, religious and ethnic backgrounds
- to support teaching and learning;
- to clearly be able to identify students inside and outside the school;
- to ensure that all members of the community (parents, staff and students) clearly understand the uniform requirements;

The school intends that no child is disadvantaged in being able to attend the school because of financial reasons. Financial help may be available to families and there is also a stock of good quality second hand clothing available. For further information on this, please contact the School Business Manager businessmanager@swgs.wilts.sch.uk or visit the uniform page on our website: Uniform | South Wilts Grammar School.

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 age, sex, disability, race, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity, 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
- 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 a way that is appropriate for school and makes them feel most comfortable
- Allow pupils to wear headscarves and/or other religious garments
- Allow pupils with sensory or physical needs to make reasonable adaptations to their uniform depending on their specific needs
- Allow for reasonable adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents to get in touch with Deputy Headteacher (Pastoral), who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis

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 (DfE) on the cost of school uniforms.

We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that need to have a school logo attached or be in a unique fabric or style) cannot be purchased from a wide range of retailers, and that requiring many such items limits parents'/carers' ability to shop around for the best 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:

Following the statutory limits for compulsory branded items of uniform and PE kit to a maximum of:

- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary
    - 3 or fewer
- Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics where possible
- 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
- 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 pupils 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, Years 7 -11

The following information comprises of both essential and optional uniform items. Items marked with an * are only obtainable form the school's official suppliers, Price and Buckland. In bid to minimise the cost of uniform, we have limited the number of compulsory branded items to three, in line with new statutory guidance from September 2026. These are shown in light green in the table and listed below:

- A choice of green jumper/blue sweatshirt/hoodie with SWGS logo
- SWGS kilt (with an alternative option of trousers or shorts)
- SWGS PE top

ITEM	DETAILS
Kilt* **or** Trousers*	Green and navy kilt (to be worn at a length appropriate for a professional/academic environment) Tailored navy-blue trousers (or shorts in warmer weather) with the **school logo**
Jumper*	Green V-neck jumper with **school logo** or navy-blue crew neck sweatshirt/hoodie with **school logo** (as listed in the PE section).
Shirt*	Short-sleeved navy-blue polo shirt with **school logo.** *N.B A plain navy-blue alternative may be worn in lieu of the branded option.*
Coat or Jacket (Should be waterproof)	Appropriate coat No denim or inappropriate logos. Only SWGS PE sweatshirts/hoodies allowed (not team or trip hoodies/sweatshirts and no other hoodies)
Tights	Navy, black or flesh coloured – must be plain
Socks	Plain navy, black or white short or knee-length
Shoes	Black sensible plain leather/vegan leather low-heeled shoes (**NOT** boots, trainers, trainer look alike shoes, sandals, cloth or canvas shoes of any kind)

- Hair styles/colours must be plain, natural-coloured hair.
- Scarves and outdoor coats must not be worn in lessons or tutor time.
- All uniform and personal items brought to school (e.g. purses, school bags and mobile phones) **must be clearly marked** with name tapes or indelible ink on tape.
- Cycle helmets **are strongly recommended** for those who cycle to school.
- **Students are reminded that they must not leave their valuables unattended at any time.** Valuables can be handed into PE staff for safe keeping during PE lessons.
- All jewellery must be removed for PE for health and safety reasons
- New piercings which cannot be removed for PE need to be covered

- Headscarves - Where students wear a headscarf for religious or cultural reasons, this must be plain black, white, green or blue. No part of the face may be covered.

PE Uniform

ITEM	DETAILS
Essential Items:	
PE shirt*	Green & white PE game shirt with **school logo**
SWGS skort* or shorts	Bottle green SWGS skort or plain black loose or cycling shorts (please see photographs below)
PE sweatshirt or hoodie*	Navy blue crew neck sweatshirt/hoodie with **school logo** (as listed in the main uniform section)
PE bag	PE bag of strong material, marked with owner's name on the outside
PE shoes	Trainers suitable for netball and general PE
PE football boots and shin pads	Studded boots, any colour and shin pads
PE socks	Long dark green socks (e.g. football) and short white socks (all other activities)
Optional Items:	
PE leggings	Black leggings
PE tracksuit bottoms	Navy Blue or black tracksuit – useful during winter
PE base layer	Navy blue base layer top
PE Sports bag	Sports bag for trainers when muddy
Other items	All equipment can be borrowed from school for lesson and club use, if a student wishes to bring in their own equipment, e.g. a tennis racket, please ensure this is clearly named.

4.2 School Dress for the Sixth Form

Lanyards must be worn by sixth form students at all times they are on school site. This is an important safeguarding protocol.

Dress code

A privilege of being a Sixth Form student at SWGS is the absence of a uniform. This gives students the opportunity to embrace their individuality without the restrictions of formal attire.

The clothes worn however, must be inoffensive, should enable students to move around school safely and should be respectful to oneself and others.

Additional Guidelines include:

- Facial piercings: One stud or hoop only
- Tattoos must be covered (only allowed if over 18years old)
- No offensive slogans or images
- Vest tops/strappy can be worn but should be appropriate for a school environment and be respectful to oneself and others.
- For health and safety reasons, you cannot wear flip-flops or other open backed footwear
- No hats in lessons/tutor period

There may be times of year and certain events for which students are expected to dress more smartly for example speech day and music events.

Branded Sixth Form T-shirts, hoodies, PE kit is available for students to purchase but this is optional. However, students will be expected to wear appropriate clothing if they take part in PE.

Students helping at an open event or with tours of the school will be expected to wear a South Wilts Sixth Form T Shirt which will be provided by the Sixth Form team.

4.3 Where to purchase or acquire uniform

For information regarding the purchasing of school uniform, and the costs per item, refer to the school website: https://www.swgs.wilts.sch.uk/parents/uniform/. The school will ensure that regular tendering for suppliers of the school uniform is undertaken every three years, to guarantee best value.

The school intends that no child is disadvantaged in being able to attend the school because of financial reasons. Financial help may be available to families and there is also a stock of good quality second hand clothing available. For further information on this, please contact finance@swgs.wilts.sch.uk.

In line with our sustainability ethos,second hand uniform can be purchased using the online platform https://www.uniformd.co.uk

5. Expectations for our school community

5.1 Students

Students 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)

Students are also expected to contact Deputy Headteacher Pastoral 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/carers are also expected to contact Deputy Headteacher Pastoral 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/carers are expected to lodge any complaints or objections relating to the school uniform in a timely and reasonable manner in accordance with the school's complaints policy.

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 correct uniform. They will give any pupils and families breaching the uniform policy the opportunity to comply but will follow up with the Deputy Headteacher, Pastoral if the situation doesn't improve.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with by student behaviour and sanctions 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 and the pupil will not miss classroom teaching because of a sanction. This is in line with the statutory guidance.

5.4 Trustees

The board of trustees 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/carers, 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 3 years.

6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by Deputy Headteacher, Pastoral. At every review it will be approved by Full Board of Trustees.

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

- Student Behaviour and Sanctions policy
- SWGS Equality Information and Objectives policy
- Anti-bullying policy
- Complaints policy

Reviewed by	Date of Review / approval	Review cycle	Next Review Date	Statutory / Non statutory	Website
Education Experience Committee	Summer 2026	Annually	Summer 2029	Statutory	Yes