Empowering all to achieve

Severn Vale School
An Academy

Uniform Policy

Date of Policy	September 2026
Date of Next Review	September 2028
Staff Responsible	Business Manager
Reference	Staff shared area/policies
School/Governor policy	Governor

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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 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 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 a way that is appropriate for school and makes them feel most comfortable
- Allow pupils to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons or if they are experiencing discomfort related to their sex, gender or gender reassignment
- 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/carers to get in touch with Julia Atkinson, School Business Manager on jatkinsone@severnvaleschool.com, 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 uniform.

We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that need 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/carers' 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 Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost and/or long-lasting items, such as ties

- Considering cheaper alternatives to school-branded items, such as logos that can be ironed on, as long as this doesn't compromise quality and durability
- 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 creating posters or labels
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents/carers to acquire second-hand uniform items
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents/carers 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

4. Expectations for school uniform

4.1 Our school's uniform

Uniform - Students are required to wear:

- A branded school blazer and branded year group school tie
- A plain white formal shirt, with a top button, long or short sleeved
- Either tailored black trousers or the branded school skirt.
    - Trousers should meet the shoes and none of the leg should be visible. Trousers that we consider "Skinny", "Drainpipe", "Ankle hugging" "Leggings" or any other unsuitable fashion style are not acceptable school wear
    - The skirt must be worn with the logo visible and should be worn so that it sits just above the knee.
- Plain black shoes. Boots are not acceptable.
- Socks/Tights – plain black or grey socks or tights. Socks should not be higher than knee length. Socks should cover the ankle. Trainer liners are not acceptable socks for school
- A V-necked jumper (optional) to be worn under the blazer. This should be medium grey 'knitted' with no logos or branding. Students can continue to wear the existing branded jumper.
- An outside waterproof coat can be worn to and from school and during break and lunchtime during cold/wet weather

Boys PE Uniform

- Branded Severn Vale PE top
- Plain, dark navy-blue shorts. These must not have any branding or logos.
- Dark navy-blue long games socks
- Sports trainers (not daps), any colour
- Football/rugby boots

The following are optional items:

- Plain, dark navy blue rugby top. This must not have any branding or logos.

- Plain dark navy-blue sweatshirt. This must not have any branding or logos. A hoodie is not acceptable.

NB students can continue to wear existing branded PE kit.

Girls PE Uniform

- Branded Severn Vale PE top
- Either one of the following:
  - Plain, dark navy-blue shorts
  - Plain, dark navy blue skort
  - Plain, dark navy-blue sports leggings
  - Plain, dark navy-blue jogging bottoms
    These must not have any branding or logos.
- Sports trainers (not daps), any colour

The following is an optional item:

- Plain dark navy-blue sweatshirt. This must not have any branding or logos. A hoodie is not acceptable.

Students can continue to wear the branded school PE kit.

4.2 Where to purchase it

- Our specific Severn Vale uniform is available to purchase from Monkhouse (either on line www.monkhouse.com or in their store, 99 Northgate Street, Gloucester, GL1 2AA).
- Other items of uniform can be bought more widely from high-street retailers and supermarkets
- Our website gives information about our second-hand uniform Severn Vale School - Second Hand Uniform Shop

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 their Head of Year / Pastoral team if they want to request an adaptation of 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 their child's Head of Year in the first instance if they want to request an adaptation of 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.

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 their parents/carers breaching the uniform policy the opportunity to comply, but will follow up with the headteacher if the situation doesn't improve.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with in accordance with the school's behaviour 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/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.

6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed biennially by the Headteacher. At every review, it will be approved by Governors CFC committee and ratified by the full governing board.

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

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