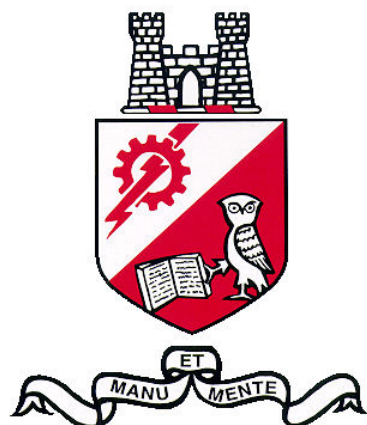


WEST HATCH HIGH SCHOOL



THE BEST THAT I CAN BE

Uniform Policy

Policy Date July 2026

Policy to be reviewed July 2028

Signed by the Headteacher

Schaefer ✓

Ratified on the by the Chair of Governors

Signed:

Adrian Hing

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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

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, sexual orientation, 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, although we reserve the right to ask that long hair be tied back
- Allow pupils to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons, or if they are experiencing discomfort
- Allow pupils to wear headscarves.
- 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 the Headteacher on head@westhatch.net, 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 therefore make sure our uniform:

- Is available at a reasonable cost
- Provides the best value for money for parents and carers

We will do this by:

- Following the statutory limits for compulsory branded items of uniform and PE kit to a maximum of:
 - 4 or fewer, if 1 item is a tie
- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary, and limiting these items where possible.
- Limiting compulsory branded items to low-cost and/or long-lasting items such as ties.

- Considering cheaper alternatives to compulsory branded items, such as logos that can be ironed on, as long as this doesn't compromise quality and durability
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities including (but not limited to) sport, music and drama
- Avoiding requiring different branded items for particular times of the year, such as a branded dress in summer and a branded skirt in winter
- Considering alternative approaches, including loaning compulsory branded items such as sports kit for competitions
- Making sure that opportunities to acquire second-hand items in a timely manner are accessible to parents and carers of both current and prospective pupils.
- 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 uniform in line with the school's complaints policy
- Avoiding single-supplier contracts, to make sure generic items can be purchased from a range of retailers
- Continuing to review this policy, to ensure the cost of our uniform is reasonable and provides the best value for money

4. Expectations for school uniform

4.1 Our school's uniform

Item	Details	From
Skirt & Trousers	Black knife pleat skirt - Worn on the knee Plain black trousers (<i>worsted or terylene material</i>)	Any shop Any shop
Blazer	Black school blazer with school badge * <i>Pin House badge for blazer. First one provided by the school.</i>	Outfitters School
Shirt/Blouse	Plain white shirt or optional school blouse Optional Grey Polo Shirt can be worn for the Summer Term Only instead of a shirt/blouse, tie and blazer.	Blouse from Outfitters Outfitters
Tie	School Tie must be worn with the plain white shirt	Outfitters
Jumper	Yr.7-10 plain grey V-neck pullover Yr.11 only , wear plain black V-neck pullover. Blazer not permitted.	Any shop
Shoes	Plain black leather shoes, low heeled or flat (without any colour or accessories and no trainers, boots, or canvas shoes)	Any shop
Tights and socks	Black, white or grey socks or natural or plain black tights	Any shop
Jewellery	Only plain silver or gold stud earrings are allowed	
Coats	Plain dark coloured outdoor coat (<i>No pattern, decoration, writing or logos</i>)	Any shop
Bags	School bags must be big enough to hold books and equipment.	Any shop

	Expensive/Designer bags are not encouraged by the school	
Cultural or religious Headwear	Plain black scarf or head covering	
PE Kit		
Item	Detail	From
Top	KS3 (Yrs.7-9) Red Polo Top with logo Red ¼ Zip Track Top with logo Optional for KS4 (Yrs.10-11) Black crew neck t shirt with logo	Outfitters Outfitters Outfitters
Bottoms	Plain black shorts or plain black sports leggings or tracksuit bottoms on the colder months	Any shop
Shoes	Sports Trainers, Football boots (studded footwear)	Any shop
Socks	Red Football Socks, White ankle/crew socks	Any shop
Accessories	Shin pads, Gum Shield	Any shop
Swimming	Plain black swimsuit/swimming trunks, Burkini/religious swimwear, Swim hat (advisable for long hair) Goggles (optional)	Any shop

The compulsory items are the school blazer, school tie and the two PE tops all other branded items are optional.

- Hooded tops must not be worn, only a plain dark coloured outdoor coat
- Grey plain V-neck jumpers should be worn in years 7-10 and plain black V-neck jumpers in year 11. No label may be seen, and cardigans should not be worn. No round-neck jumpers are allowed.
- Trousers should not be worn below the waist and with no underwear showing. Failure to adhere to this persistently will result in pupils being required to wear braces for an extended period of time to prevent the same problem occurring.
- Shirts and trousers should be tucked in.
- Nail varnish should be transparent.
- The only jewellery allowed is on pair of plain discrete studded earrings, gold or silver. A religious symbol may be worn around the neck if it is tucked away. All other jewellery will be confiscated, and a behaviour log may be issued.
- Skirts should not be rolled up and should be on the knee. This is in keeping with the professional and smart look that is required of our formal learning environment. Students that persist in wearing their skirt incorrectly will be required to wear school trousers instead of a skirt. Should a student refuse to follow the instructions to wear their uniform correctly, they will be immediately isolated from lessons until they comply with the school rules.
- We ask that only discrete make up is worn by our students. Student's not conforming with the school's expectations will be sent to Student Services to remove it. Where a student fails over three times to conform with the school rules, they will be placed on a monitoring report with a member of staff. If the issue is not resolved, students will be subsequently placed in internal isolation each time that they fail to comply with the school rules.
- A single ear piercing is allowed in each ear where a small stud is worn. All other piercings are not permitted. We will ask students to remove them regardless whether the piercing may close up. Students who fail to comply will be subsequently placed in

internal isolation until the jewellery is removed. This includes lip, tongue, nose, and eyebrow piercings along with additional earrings.

- Trainers are not permitted as part of our school uniform. Failure to wear the correct shoes will result in being given a pair of our school shoes for the day in exchange for the student's mobile phone and / or trainers they are wearing. Students who refuse to do this will be placed in isolation. Please be mindful when buying shoes that a lot of shops market trainers as 'back to school shoes'.
- There may be no extremes of haircut; no patterns or styles that may draw attention to the student. For example, Mohicans, shaved or very short hair, shaved on to the head, hair colour must be natural. Any beads that are worn in the hair should be neutral colours (black, white or clear).
- We have a small amount of both branded and unbranded uniform which is loaned out to students if needed.

4.2 Where to purchase or acquire it

Branded uniform can be purchased from the following retailers:

Carolina's

708 Chigwell Road

Woodbridge

Tel: 020 8504 6420

Web: <http://carolinaschooloutfitters.co.uk>

Forest Casual Wear

144 High Road

Loughton

Tel: 020 8508 2848

Web: <http://www.forestcasualwear.co.uk>

Secondhand uniform can be purchased by contacting the PTA on friendsofwesthatchhighschool@gmail.com.

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 Headteacher on head@westhatch.net 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 the Headteacher on head@westhatch.net 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.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with by 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.

5.4 Governors

The Governing Body 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 Governing Body 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 by the Headteacher every two years. At every review, it will be approved by the full Governing Body.

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

- Behaviour policy (including Anti-Bullying Policy and Exclusion Policy)
- Equality Duty policy
- Complaints policy