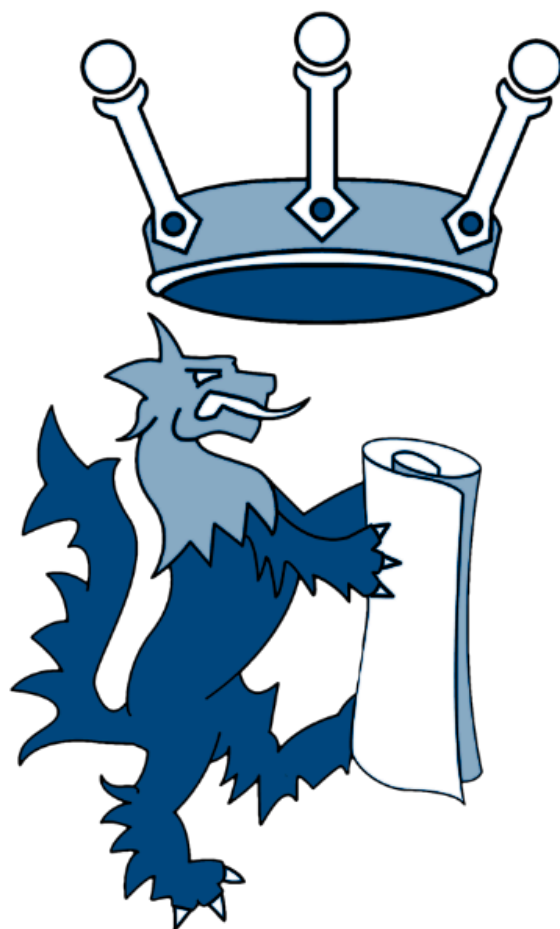


# Uniform Policy

The Sittingbourne School



**Approved by:** Lynn Lawrence

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### 1. Policy Statement

The Sittingbourne School holds high expectations and standards for all our young people, and we encourage a professional learning environment which prepares our students for the world of work and employability. We are developing a reputation in the local community as being a school that is well respected for its high standards and as an integral part of that we encourage our students to wear their uniform with pride. The wearing of uniform also removes opportunities for peer pressure and bullying with all students dressed to the same standard.

All Sittingbourne School students are therefore expected to maintain this high standard by coming to school smartly dressed in their full school uniform and wearing it in the conventional school style.

To further maintain this high standard of uniform, students are not allowed to wear any jewellery, including earrings and any other piercing, with the exception of a wristwatch. (We would recommend that ears should be pierced only at the beginning of a main holiday to allow time for healing so the earrings can be removed on return to school.) Discreet, natural make-up is allowed; however, any form of painted or acrylic nails, fake eyelashes or brightly coloured make-up is not.

Parents and carers are reminded that you must be at least 18 years before you can have a tattoo; it is illegal for anyone to have a tattoo under 18 even with a guardian's consent.

The school welcomes children from all backgrounds and faith communities. If there are any questions or queries regarding the school uniform linked to religion or those who share protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010 please contact the Headteacher.

If any parent has comments/ideas relating to school uniform they should make representation to the Headteacher in the first instance.

### 2. Aims

This policy aims to provide clear expectations for all stakeholders to ensure that all members of our school community can be included.

We anticipate the full support of parents and carers in maintaining a high standard of dress and see the wearing of the school uniform correctly as the responsibility of all members of the school community: students, parents/carers and staff. This policy will be used by all staff in conjunction with the school's behaviour policy and non-compliance of uniform expectations will be addressed by communities. Students not conforming to our uniform expectations, and not willing to resolve any issues, may be sent home to change or will be isolated within school. In order to support, students without correct uniform will be lent the required items by the school for a short period of time; they are expected to comply with this and return the items at the end of the school day. Students refusing to borrow the required clothing may not be permitted in lessons and parents will be contacted.

We do understand that the initial expense of a school uniform can be costly, but over time it has been found that it becomes more affordable, avoids conflict and is more manageable both for the students and their families. In order to support the expense, only our blazer, tie and school PE top are restricted to our school uniform suppliers, with generic items such as skirts, trousers and shirts being widely available from the large retailers and supermarkets. To further support in this initial outlay, one of our main suppliers also provides a six-weekly payment plan for the purchase of uniform.

In order to prevent lost items, we ask that all items of uniform are clearly marked with the owner's name. This is particularly essential for blazers and P.E. kit, which are both easily misplaced and expensive to replace.

### 3. Travelling to and from school

When students are travelling by public transport, or are walking or cycling to or from school, they are expected to conform to the uniform policy. This includes days when a student's first/last lesson is PE.

Students are expected to wear their full uniforms on attendance to any school trips.

### 4. Uniform Expectations

UNIFORM	EXPECTED	School Supplier	UNACCEPTABLE
Blazer	Navy blue blazer with school crest embroidered on pocket, to be worn at all times.	Forsters or Eastenders	
Year group tie	Colour stripe is specific to communities. It is to be worn in an appropriate and conventional length and style.	Forsters or Eastenders	Short length or unconventional knots.
School pullover (optional)	Plain, woolen, navy blue, V-neck, school style jumper worn underneath blazer in colder weather.	Forsters or Eastenders	Sweatshirts, hooded fleece tops or similar items are not permitted. Crew necks or logos.
School shirt or blouse	Plain white, standard collar with a top button which should be worn tucked into the waistband of skirt or trousers.	Any uniform retailer	A plain white under layer can be worn under the shirt for warmth but must not show past the shirt

			sleeves or any logo be visible through the shirt or blouse fabric.
School trousers	Plain black, straight leg trousers.	Any uniform retailer	Not denim, cord, jeggings, leggings, tight or low fitting. No cargo trousers, skinnies, or fashion styles.
School skirt	Black skirt with Charleston style pleats, worn at knee length.	Any uniform retailer	Jersey, stretch, satin, denim, lace, cord or patterns are not permitted, and skirts should not be tight to the hips.  Skirts should be knee length. As a guide, skirts should be longer than the ends of the fingertips when arms and hands are held straight down by the side of the body.
School shorts (term 6 only)	Black, knee length and smart, tailored/chino style shorts in school trouser material	Any uniform retailer	Sports shorts; bermuda shorts; cargo/combat shorts; lycra shorts; denim/jean shorts; jogging bottom shorts.
Shoes	Plain black leather or leather style shoes, fully closed in with a low heel. Plain black boots may be worn underneath trousers.	Any uniform retailer	Backless, open toes, sling-backs, or high heels are not allowed. Trainers must not be worn in place of shoes.
Socks	Plain black.	Any uniform retailer	Over the knee socks or shoe liners. Socks need to be visible above the ankle.
Tights	Plain black or natural tights.	Any uniform retailer	Coloured or patterned tights. Bare legs are not permitted without socks.
Coat	Conventional, warm, waterproof outer coat, preferably black, blue or grey.	Any retailer	Half zipped tops, sweatshirts sports tops, gilets, denim, hooded fleece tops or similar items are not permitted.

### 5. Summer uniform - term 6 only

To ensure student comfort and well-being during the warmer summer months, specific adaptations to the standard school uniform are permitted during term 6 only. These include the following:

- Blazers do not need to be worn or brought into school;
- Students can choose to wear tailored smart black shorts (rather than trousers or a skirt);
- Top buttons on shirts can be undone;

- Ties can be worn loosely;
- Sixth form students can wear polo shirts.

These adjustments are made to alleviate discomfort from higher temperatures, promote air circulation and prevent overheating, thereby supporting a more focused learning environment during the summer term.

However, these adaptations, while practical for the summer, are not appropriate for the remainder of the academic year. The full uniform, requiring blazers, formal trousers/skirts, fastened top buttons and neatly worn ties, is essential for maintaining the high standards of smartness and formality expected of our students.

## 6. Equipment

All students will be required to bring to school sufficient equipment to engage in a full day's learning.

Students must have the following items with them every day in school:

- A bag big enough to carry A4 exercise books to and from school
- Black or blue ink pens
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Scientific calculator
- Reading book (from school library)
- Reusable water bottle

## 7. PE Kit

PE KIT	EXPECTED	School Supplier	UNACCEPTABLE
Top	Navy blue with white shoulder flash.	Forsters or Eastenders	Any colour other than navy.
Joggers or leggings	Plain, navy blue.	Any retailer	Any colour other than navy. Obvious, visible logos. Jersey tracksuit bottoms, lounge wear.
Shorts	Plain, navy blue.	Any uniform retailer	Large, visible logos.
Base layer (optional)	Plain, navy blue.	Any retailer	Any colour other than navy.
Rugby Top (optional)	Reversible, navy blue and white.	Forsters or Eastenders	
Sweatshirt (optional)	Plain blue crew neck sweatshirt.	Any retailer	

Trainers and football boots		Any sport retailer	
Gumshield (highly recommended)		Any retailer	
BTEC sports studies top (optional)	Individually named.	School	

### 8. Jewellery & make-up

To further maintain this high standard of uniform, students are not allowed to wear any jewellery, including earrings and any other piercing, with the exception of a wristwatch. All jewellery other than a watch will be confiscated if seen in school.

	PERMITTED	UNACCEPTABLE
Jewellery	Wristwatch.	Any other jewellery, including earrings, ear studs, nose studs and bracelets. Any other jewellery seen in school will be confiscated.
Make-Up	Discrete, natural make-up.	False nails, painted nails, fake eyelashes or noticeable make-up.

### 9. Common questions and answers

#### **Q) Trainers/a hoody/earrings don't disturb their learning so why can't my child wear them in school?**

**A)** As soon as there is variation in what a child can wear there becomes the option for the item to be either expensive or cheap, fashionable or unfashionable. Once this happens, students can feel anxious about falling victim to unkind comments for wearing the "wrong" type of clothing or jewellery.

Therefore, to reduce anxiety, increase safety and reduce potential distractions caused by students wearing "fashion items" in class, uniform is compulsory for all students.

When wearing a hood, it makes an individual harder to identifying. This can then cause a safety issue as we may be unable to identify if a person is meant to be on the school site or not.

#### **Q) Uniform can be expensive. What shall I do if I can't afford to buy/replace what is needed?**

**A)** Any parents/carers who are struggling to purchase the required uniform should contact their child's year team. We are able to provide support to families by lending or purchasing items to/for students to ensure they comply with the uniform policy.

**Q) My child had their ears/nose pierced over the holiday/for their birthday but the hole will heal up if they take the piercing out within two weeks. Can they keep the earring/nose stud in for just a week or two to prevent this?**

A) We would recommend that ears should be pierced only at the beginning of a main holiday term (not half term holidays as they are only one week long) to allow time for healing so the earrings can be removed on return to school. All jewellery other than a watch will be confiscated if seen in school.

**Q) In the summer months, why can't students just wear PE kit?**

A) It's understandable why some might suggest wearing PE kit during the summer months. However, crucially for summer comfort, we believe students will actually be cooler in their white cotton school shirts with shorts or skirts than in a navy polyester PE kit. Cotton is a natural, breathable fabric that allows for better air circulation and prevents sweat more effectively than polyester, especially in direct sunlight. Darker colours like navy also absorb more heat.

In addition, while our PE kit is designed for physical activity, it's not intended as a substitute for a full school uniform. The school uniform, even with summer adaptations, maintains a level of formality and distinction that the PE kit doesn't. This helps foster a more focused and academic environment, setting it apart from sports lessons.

## **10. Department for Education guidance to schools**

Department for Education guidance to schools on uniform can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-uniform/school-uniforms>

The Sittingbourne School welcomes constructive feedback from all stakeholders regarding uniform.