



**William Henry Smith
School and Sixth Form**

William Henry Smith School Uniform Policy

Policy Details

Frequency of review:	Annually
Lead member of staff:	Sarah Kaler
Responsibility of:	Sarah Kaler
Last reviewed:	Spring 2026
Next Review Date:	Spring 2027
Policy Number:	SWS14

1.0 Policy Statement

The William Henry Smith Foundation is committed to providing a school environment that is inclusive, supportive and conducive to learning, wellbeing and personal development. School uniform plays an important role in promoting a sense of belonging, equality and pride in the school community.

From the beginning of the academic year 2025, the school introduced a revised uniform in line with its updated branding and its commitment to providing a practical, inclusive and active uniform for students.

2.0 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to:

- set out the school's expectations in relation to uniform
 - ensure consistency in dress across the school
 - provide clarity for students, parents/carers and staff
 - support inclusion, comfort and readiness for learning
 - outline arrangements for the implementation of the revised uniform
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3.0 Principles

The school believes that uniform should:

- promote a sense of identity and belonging
- be practical for the needs of the school day
- support comfort, movement and participation
- be inclusive and sensitive to individual needs
- reflect the values and ethos of the school

The revised uniform has been designed to support students to move comfortably throughout the day and to provide clothing that is suitable for a wide range of school activities.

4.0 Required Uniform

The school uniform consists of the following items:

- jogging trousers or training pants
- hoodie or training top
- breathable sports polo shirt
- a choice of two styles of shorts
- lightweight waterproof jacket

Colour

- All uniform items will be navy
- Year 9 and above students will wear a white polo shirt

5.0 Optional Items

Students in **Year 9 and above** may continue to wear a blazer if they prefer during the transition period. The school intends to phase out the previous uniform over time.

6.0 Footwear

Students should wear **plain black leisure-style active shoes**.

Footwear should be safe, practical and appropriate for everyday school use.

7.0 Implementation Arrangements

The revised uniform will be introduced from the start of the new academic year.

The school will make every effort to distribute the new uniform to students as soon as possible. As this may take a number of weeks to complete, students should continue to attend in their current uniform until their new uniform has been issued.

There will be no cost to parents/carers for the new uniform. The provision of uniform forms part of the school's inclusive offer and reflects our commitment to ensuring that all students can access appropriate, comfortable and practical clothing for the school day.

The school recognises that changes to uniform can be significant for students and will ensure that appropriate support is provided throughout the transition.

8.0 Equality, Inclusion and Reasonable Adjustments

The school is committed to applying this policy in a way that is fair, inclusive and responsive to individual needs.

Reasonable adjustments to uniform expectations may be considered where appropriate, including in relation to sensory needs, medical needs, disability or other individual circumstances.

Parents/carers should contact the school if they wish to discuss an adjustment to uniform requirements.

9.0 Roles and Responsibilities

School

The school will:

- communicate uniform expectations clearly to parents/carers and students
- provide support during the transition to the revised uniform
- consider reasonable adjustments where appropriate

- apply this policy consistently and sensitively

Parents/Carers

Parents/carers are expected to:

- support their child in attending school in the correct uniform
- ensure clothing and footwear are appropriate and safe
- contact the school if support or clarification is needed

Students

Students are expected to:

- wear the agreed school uniform each day
- take pride in their appearance
- follow staff guidance in relation to uniform expectations

10.0 Monitoring and Review

This policy will be monitored by school leaders and reviewed periodically to ensure that it remains appropriate, inclusive and aligned with the needs of the school community.

Appendix 1

Letter to Parents/Carers Regarding New School Uniform

I am excited to announce that, from the start of the new academic year 2025, we will be introducing a new school uniform to coincide with our new school brand.

Our new branding and uniform reflect a fresher, more modern approach than our current traditional look. As part of this rebrand, we have not only focused on visual identity, but also taken the opportunity to think carefully about how our values are reflected in everyday school life.

Recent research has started to question the traditional approach to formal school uniforms. Findings suggest that stiff, formal clothing can restrict movement and reduce opportunities for children and young people to stay active throughout the day. In contrast, when students wear comfortable clothing designed for movement, they are more likely to stay active and feel better, both physically and emotionally.

Organisations such as Sport England and the Active Uniform Alliance are championing “Always Active” uniforms, which are designed to allow students to move freely throughout the day without needing to change for PE. These uniforms can also promote inclusion, particularly for children and young people with sensory needs, by offering more comfortable and flexible options.

In line with this thinking, we are making changes to our school uniform. Just like our new brand, we want our uniform to say something about who we are: forward-thinking, inclusive, unique, and not afraid to lead the way.

We have already shared samples of the new uniform with students across school, and feedback through student voice has been overwhelmingly positive, particularly from the boys.

Our new uniform

The new uniform will include:

- jogging trousers or training pants
- hoodies or a training top
- breathable, flexible sports polo shirts
- a choice of two different styles of shorts
- a lightweight waterproof jacket

All items will be navy, with the exception of Year 9 and above students, whose polo shirts will be white.

Students in Year 9 and above will still have the option to wear a blazer if they prefer, although our intention is to gradually phase out the old uniform over time.

School shoes should be plain black leisure-style active shoes.

There will be no cost to parents/carers for this new uniform, as it forms part of the school’s inclusive offer. We want to ensure that all students have equal access to comfortable, practical and appropriate uniform without this creating any financial pressure for families.

We recognise that this is a significant change for our students, and all staff will be mindful of this and will support students carefully through the transition.

We are very excited to see our students and staff wearing the new uniform, and we hope that, as parents and carers, you will agree that a more active and inclusive school uniform is a positive step forward.