



# Thirsk School

& Sixth Form College

## School Uniform Policy

### visions

TOLERANT

HAPPY

INSPIRATIONAL

RESILIENT

SUCCESSFUL

KNOWLEDGEABLE

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TOGETHERNESS

HONESTY

INCLUSIVITY

RESPECT

SUPPORT



KINDNESS

**values**

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## Thirsk School & Sixth Form College

### School Uniform Policy

Document Status			
Date of Next Review	February 2024	Implemented by	Governing Board
Origin of Policy	Adapted		
Date of Policy Adoption by Governing Board: 7 <sup>th</sup> February 2023		Signed	
			
		Emma Lambden Headteacher	
			
		Nick Horn Chair of Governors	

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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 sex, race, religion or belief, and gender reassignment.

To avoid discrimination, our school will:

- Make sure that our uniform costs the same for all students
- Allow all students to have long hair (though we reserve the right to ask for this to be tied back)
- Allow students to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons
- Allow students to wear headscarves and other religious or cultural symbols where appropriate in discussion between home and school
- Allow for adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking students or their parents to get in touch with the relevant Head of School, who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests
- Avoid listing uniform items based on sex, to give all students the opportunity to wear the uniform they feel most comfortable in or that most reflects their self-identified gender

## 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.

The DfE states that 'it is for the governing body of a school to decide whether there should be a uniform policy and if so, what that should be'.

We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that have 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' ability to 'shop around' for a low price. However, whilst the DfE recommends value for money is considered, the cost of our branded items is competitive when compared to other schools, and we will aim to host one Saturday 'pop-up' shop per term at school, to reduce the cost and inconvenience of travelling to our school uniform supplier.

That said, we will continue to make sure our uniform:

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

We will do this by:

- Continually considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary
- Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics where possible. Currently, we ask that students have four branded items:
  - The school blazer
  - Trousers or skirt
  - The school tie
  - PE top
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups other than school ties
- Avoiding too many different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents to acquire second-life/preloved uniform items
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents of any changes
- Consulting with parents and students 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**

All students are required to wear:-

- Black skirt or trousers with the school logo
- Blue Blazer with the school logo
- School tie (red stripe for Lower School and Yellow stripe for Upper School)
- White shirt (long or short sleeved)
- Black leather look shoes (not fabric trainers)
- Where the school skirt is worn black opaque tights must be worn
- There are optional choices of the school jumper with the school logo (Lower and Upper School option) and the Summer polo shirt that can be worn in the Summer season.
- PE kit is required in all PE lessons – with the PE top (school specific item) being the required kit. Navy or black leggings or jogging bottoms can then be worn (generic items). The school PE hoodie is an optional item that can be purchased. If another

hoodie is worn it must be plain navy. There are other PE items available but are not required such as the school skort and PE socks (Thirsk School specific).

- Students are not permitted to have facial/body piercings under any circumstances; small ear rings can be worn in the lower lobe.
- In Upper School one chain necklace can be worn underneath shirt, one thin bracelet and one simple thin ring – decisions/judgements regarding this are at the discretion of school staff
- No makeup is to be worn in Lower School. In Upper School, students may wear natural makeup, French manicures and short acrylic nails (again, French polish only) – as above decisions/judgements regarding this are at the discretion of school staff
- Hair must be of a natural hair colour, if dyed (no pink, green etc.) and appropriate style; as stated earlier, we reserve the right to ask for long hair to be tied back, if necessary

## 4.2 Where to purchase

- Our official school uniform supplier is Schoolshop
- Website: <https://school-shop.co.uk/>
- Address: Unit 4-5 Handley Court Industrial Estate, Elvington, York YO41 4AR
- Opening hours: 9AM-4:30PM
- Phone: 01904 607331
- Email: [sales@school-shop.co.uk](mailto:sales@school-shop.co.uk)
- Our uniform consists of both branded, and non-branded items; for any non-branded items of uniform, parents are welcome to use any other high street supplier
- We facilitate the sale of second-life/preloved uniform via the Uniformly website; this is managed by school and supported by the Friends of Thirsk School (PTA), preloved uniform can also be sourced via a community run facebook page, some charity shops within the town and Thirsk Clock

## 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 their Head of Year 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 are also expected to contact their child's Head of Year initially, followed by relevant Head of School, if they have any issues regarding the school uniform.

### **5.3 Staff**

Staff will closely monitor students to make sure they are in the correct uniform. They will give any students and families breaching the uniform policy the opportunity to comply, but will follow up with the Headteacher if the situation does not improve.

Ongoing breaches of our Uniform policy, will be dealt with by the relevant Head of Year and/or relevant Head of School.

In cases where it is suspected that financial hardship has resulted in a pupil not complying with this Uniform policy, school 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 and students
- Offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all students

The board will also make sure that the school's uniform supplier arrangements give the highest priority to cost and value for money, where possible, and will aim to re-tender contracts every 5 years

## **6. Monitoring arrangements**

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Senior Leadership Team (SLT). At every review, it will be approved by the full Governing Board.