

Saffron Walden County High School



Uniform Policy

Updated on: September 2026

Saffron Walden County High School's Uniform Policy

Introduction

Our school uniform plays an important role in promoting a sense of community, belonging and pride in the school. Students are expected to wear the correct uniform at all times and present themselves in a smart and professional manner.

Parents/carers are asked to ensure that all uniform items are clearly named.

The school is committed to maintaining high standards of dress whilst ensuring that uniform requirements remain reasonable, affordable and inclusive.

Uniform Expectations and Headteacher Discretion

The school recognises that there may be exceptional circumstances where temporary adjustments to uniform requirements are necessary. The Headteacher retains discretion to make reasonable modifications to uniform expectations in response to adverse weather conditions, medical needs, disabilities, religious or cultural requirements, or other individual circumstances where a reasonable adjustment may be required.

Any requests for adjustments should be discussed with the school at the earliest opportunity. The school will work collaboratively with students and families to identify appropriate solutions that maintain high standards whilst supporting individual needs.

Seasonal and Weather-Related Adjustments

Summer Term

During the Summer Term, students may choose to wear:

- Black tailored shorts in place of trousers or a kilt.
- Plain black ankle socks with tailored shorts.

Students may continue to wear the full school uniform if they prefer.

Adverse Weather

During periods of exceptionally hot, cold or wet weather, the Headteacher may make temporary adjustments to uniform requirements. Any temporary changes will be communicated to students, parents/carers and staff.

Additional Layers

Students may wear:

- A plain black V-neck jumper beneath their blazer.
- A suitable outdoor coat over their blazer during cold or wet weather.

Hoodies, sweatshirts, denim jackets and leather jackets remain prohibited unless specifically authorised by the school.

Winter Footwear

During periods of severe weather, including snow, ice or flooding, students may travel to and from school in suitable weatherproof boots to ensure their safety.

Where weatherproof boots are worn for the journey to school, students should change into their normal school shoes upon arrival. If this is not practical due to exceptional weather conditions, the Headteacher may make temporary adjustments to footwear expectations and will communicate these arrangements to students, parents/carers and staff.

Students should ensure that any footwear worn in school remains safe, practical and appropriate for the school environment.

Indoor Learning Environment

Unless otherwise directed by staff, students should remove outdoor coats during lessons and whilst inside school buildings to maintain a smart and professional learning environment.

Main School Uniform

Item	Requirement	Status
Blazer	Plain black school blazer with school badge and year bar	Compulsory (Branded) school crest/colour bar can be bought separately
Footwear	Smart plain black school shoes. Leather or leather-effect. Heels no higher than 4cm. No boots, trainers or trainer-style footwear.	Compulsory
Socks	Plain black ankle or knee-length socks. Sports socks are not permitted except as part of PE kit.	Compulsory
School Tie	School tie worn correctly with crest visible. Required when wearing a standard shirt.	Compulsory (where a hard collar shirt is worn) (Branded)
Black V-Neck Jumper	Plain black V-neck jumper worn beneath the blazer. Must not be sweatshirt material.	Optional
Outdoor Coat	Suitable outdoor coat worn over the blazer.	Recommended
White Shirt	White buttoned shirt with collar, long or short sleeves, tucked in and worn with a school tie.	Choice (One Required)
White Revere Blouse	Regulation white fitted revere-neck blouse with short, three-quarter or full-length sleeves. Tie not required.	Choice (One Required)
Black Trousers	Tailored black trousers made of suiting material. Tight-fitting, stretchy or denim-style trousers are not permitted. Sports clothing should not be worn underneath.	Choice (One Required)
Dress McKenzie Tartan Kilt	School-approved kilt worn just above the knee with plain black socks or black tights.	Choice (One Required)
Black Tailored Shorts	Smart tailored black shorts worn with plain black ankle socks during the Summer Term only.	Optional Seasonal Alternative

Kilt Requirements

For students joining the school from September 2025 onwards, the kilt must display:

- The SWCHS Crocus emblem.
- The red fastening button.

Unauthorised alterations to the kilt may result in parents/carers being asked to replace the garment.

Pre-loved kilts can be updated with the school emblem and button through the school's approved supplier.

[Bee Wear](#)

Physical Education Uniform

PE Uniform

Item	Requirement	Status
SWCHS Red & Black Polo Shirt	Students a SWCHS branded polo shirt.	Compulsory (Branded)
SWCHS Black & Red Shorts or Skort	Students must wear SWCHS branded shorts or skort.	Compulsory (Branded)
Red & Black Hooped Games Socks	Games socks for PE activities.	Compulsory
Short White Sports Socks	PE socks.	Compulsory
Appropriate Outdoor PE Footwear	Suitable footwear for outdoor PE activities, including football boots where required by the activity.	Compulsory
Non-Marking Trainers or Plimsolls	Indoor PE footwear.	Compulsory
SWCHS Rugby Shirt	School rugby shirt.	Optional
SWCHS Black & Red ¼ Zip Sweatshirt	School quarter-zip sweatshirt.	Optional
Black Sports Leggings	Suitable sports leggings.	Optional
Black Lycra Cycling Shorts	Minimum 4-inch leg length.	Optional
Plain Black Base Layer	Additional warmth during colder weather.	Recommended
Gum Shield	For relevant activities.	Strongly Recommended
Shin Pads	For relevant activities.	Strongly Recommended
Abdominal Protector	School cricket fixtures only.	Strongly Recommended
Astroturf-Safe Football Boots	When directed by PE staff.	Recommended

School Team Wear

Students who regularly represent the school in sporting fixtures may be required to purchase additional team-specific kit.

Item	Requirement
Cricket Whites	Required for students regularly representing the school in cricket fixtures

Equality and Reasonable Adjustments

The school recognises its responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010.

Requests for reasonable adjustments to uniform requirements on medical, disability, religious or cultural grounds will be considered on an individual basis. The school will work with students and families to identify appropriate arrangements that meet individual needs whilst maintaining the school's high standards and expectations.

Pre-Loved Uniform

The school maintains a supply of pre-loved uniform items to support families and help reduce costs.

Availability of sizes and items may vary depending on stock levels.

Parents/carers wishing to purchase or view available items should contact the relevant Year Office.

Make-up and Nail Varnish

- If worn, make-up should be discreet and appropriate for a school environment.
- Nail varnish is not permitted.
- Nail extensions are not permitted.
- False eyelashes are not permitted.
- Students wearing excessive make-up, nail varnish or false eyelashes may be asked to remove them.

Jewellery

Students may wear:

- A watch.
- One small stud or small hoop earring in each ear.

Hoop earrings must be small enough not to present a health and safety risk.

The following are not permitted:

- Facial piercings.
- Body piercings.
- Tongue piercings.
- Additional jewellery.

Unauthorised jewellery may be confiscated and stored safely by the school.

First Confiscation

The item may be collected by the student at the end of the school day.

Subsequent Confiscations

The item may be retained until the end of the following school day and released following parental contact with the school.

Uniform Support

The school understands that uniform can represent a significant cost for some families.

Parents/carers experiencing difficulties obtaining the required uniform should contact the school in confidence. Where possible, the school will provide support through pre-loved uniform schemes or other appropriate assistance.

No student will be disadvantaged or excluded from education due to an inability to obtain the required uniform. Parents/carers experiencing financial difficulty are encouraged to contact the school in confidence so that appropriate support and assistance can be discussed.

Compliance

All students are expected to wear the correct uniform each day. Where concerns arise, the school will work in partnership with students and families to resolve issues quickly and positively.

The school reserves the right to implement appropriate sanctions where there is repeated non-compliance with the uniform policy and no agreed exemption, reasonable adjustment or agreed support plan is in place.