



School Uniform Policy

Academic Year 2026 - 2027

Approved by	Coral Snowden - Principal		
Date	01.09.2026	Next review due	01.09.2027

Summary of Changes

Version	Date	Summary of Changes	Approved By
1	01/09/2022	Final	New policy
2	September 2023	Review	No change
3	September 2024	Review	No change
4	September 2025	Review	Changes – Donated boxes located in the office
5	September 2026	Review & Update	Updated to comply with Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026 (only 1 branded item expected); added relaxed uniform allowance for Red Weather Warnings; clarified year-round availability of donated uniform; suggested supermarket purchases for non-branded items.

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1. Aims

All pupils at Western House Academy are expected to dress in full school uniform as we believe this is a very important part of our ethos and culture. Our uniform identifies us as a community, reinforces our culture of high expectations and academic achievement, and fosters a strong sense of belonging and mutual respect among all pupils.

Western House Academy is a proud, inclusive school that encourages individuality while building a collective identity. We promote an environment which encourages effort, enjoyment, and a celebration of the achievements of all our pupils. In setting out our School Uniform Policy, we are deeply mindful of the importance of respecting religious and cultural traditions, keeping uniform costs at an affordable and reasonable level for all families, and maintaining flexibility according to seasonal weather and other exceptional circumstances.

2. Our School's Legal Duties under the Equality Act 2010

The Equality Act 2010 prohibits discrimination against an individual based on protected characteristics, which include sex, race, religion or belief, disability, and gender reassignment. To ensure our school is inclusive, non-discriminatory, and fully compliant with its legal duties, Western House Academy will:

- Avoid listing uniform items based on sex or gender, giving all pupils the freedom to wear the uniform combination they feel most comfortable in, or that most accurately reflects their self-identified gender.
- Make sure that our uniform costs are equal for all pupils, ensuring no financial or material disparity exists between different uniform packages.
- Allow all pupils to have long hair, reserving the right to ask for it to be tied back for hygiene or safety reasons (e.g., during PE, science, or design and technology lessons).
- Allow all pupils to style their hair in a way that is appropriate for school, yet makes them feel comfortable, confident, and respects their cultural heritage.
- Allow pupils to request modifications to school swimwear for religious, cultural, or personal reasons.
- Allow pupils to wear headscarves and other religious or cultural symbols, provided they align with school safety parameters.
- Allow and facilitate reasonable adaptations to this policy on the grounds of equality. Pupils or their parents/carers are warmly encouraged to contact a member of the senior leadership team via the school office to discuss individual needs, ask questions, or submit requests.

3. Limiting the Cost of School Uniform (Government Compliance)

Western House Academy has a statutory duty to ensure that the required school uniform is highly affordable and represents excellent value for money for parents and carers. This policy is fully aligned with the statutory guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) on the cost of school uniforms and strictly complies with the provisions of the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026.

Government Guidance Compliance Note (Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026):

Under national legislation, state-funded primary schools are required to limit the number of compulsory branded items in their uniform and PE kits to three or fewer. Western House Academy goes beyond this statutory minimum to actively reduce financial pressure on our families: we expect only one single branded item across our entire uniform and PE kit—the house-coloured PE top. All other items are fully generic.

We actively limit uniform costs through the following core strategies:

- **Strict Limit on Branded Items:** The ONLY branded uniform item expected is the house-coloured PE top. No other item of daily uniform, outerwear, or sports kit requires a school logo or brand mark.
- **No Branded Jumpers or Cardigans:** Unlike historical policies, a school logo is no longer expected or required on jumpers, fleeces, or cardigans. Pupils wear plain burgundy knitwear/fleeces which can be purchased from any retailer.
- **Supermarket and High-Street Options:** All non-branded, generic items—such as pale blue shirts/polo shirts, grey trousers, grey skirts, grey shorts, plain burgundy cardigans, plain black PE shorts/tracksuit bottoms, and plain black/white trainers—can be purchased widely and affordably from local supermarkets and high-street retailers.

- **Year-Round Second-Hand Uniform Availability:** To support environmental sustainability and provide low-cost options, second-hand uniform items are widely available. Parents and carers are encouraged to donate gently used uniform items via the school office. These donated items are stored in dedicated boxes in the front office and are accessible to all families throughout the year at no cost.

4. Expectations for School Uniform

To ensure fairness and simplicity, our uniform requirements are presented below. Please note that all items can be plain, non-branded (with the sole exception of the PE house top). All items of clothing must be clearly labelled with your child's name.

Uniform Category	Permitted Items & Specifications
Daily Top Layers	Plain burgundy jumper, sweatshirt, fleece, or cardigan.
Shirts & Polos	Plain pale blue shirt, blouse, or polo shirt (short or long-sleeved).
Trousers, Skirts & Shorts	Plain grey trousers, grey skirts, grey pinafore dresses, or grey shorts. (Note: Black bottoms are strictly not permitted for daily wear).
Summer Option	Pale blue and white checked summer dresses, or grey shorts.
Hosiery & Socks	Plain grey, black, or white socks or tights. Socks must be worn with all footwear.
Daily Footwear	Flat, plain black shoes or plain black trainers. Soles, laces, and upper materials must be entirely black; no visible coloured logos, stripes, or patterns are permitted.
PE Kit (Tops)	WHA house-coloured T-shirt (this is the ONLY compulsory branded uniform item).
PE Kit (Bottoms & Outer)	Plain black shorts or plain black tracksuit bottoms/jogging bottoms. For outdoor PE or cold days, a plain black hoodie, fleece, or sweat top is permitted. All PE outerwear and bottoms must be entirely plain black with no visible writing, logos, or patterns.
PE Footwear	Plain black or plain white trainers.

Footwear, Hair, and Jewellery Specifications:

- **Hair & Headwear:** Hairstyles must be appropriate for a school learning environment. Hair accessories (bands, clips, ties, and bows) and headscarves (such as hijabs) must be in school colours (burgundy, pale blue, white, black, or grey). Long hair must be tied back when requested for safety.
- **Jewellery:** For safety and security, no jewellery is permitted other than religious bands and stud earrings. Hooped earrings, necklaces, and rings are strictly not allowed.
- **PE Day Procedure:** To maximise learning time, children must wear their PE kit to school on their designated PE days and remain in it for the entire school day.
- **Swimming Lessons:** Conventional swimming costumes must be worn (one-piece swimsuit for girls; bikinis are not permitted). Pupils may wear a 3-piece swim set or leggings for religious or personal reasons under their swimming costume, provided the fabric is swimming-appropriate (no cotton). All pupils must wear a swimming hat. Any religious jewellery must be securely covered to protect it and others during the lesson.

Weather-Related Uniform Adjustments (Red Weather Warnings)

Western House Academy recognises that extreme weather conditions require practical flexibility to ensure the health, safety, and comfort of our pupils. In the event of a Red Weather Warning (such as extreme heatwaves), officially issued by the Met Office, the school will allow relaxed uniform to be worn. This will always be communicated to parents and carers in advance by the school.

During these designated relaxed uniform periods:

- *Extreme Heat / Heatwaves: Pupils may wear their house PE kit or any other loose fitting clothing. Sun hats are strongly encouraged.*

All relaxed uniform adjustments will be formally announced by the school via email or the school communication app

Where to Purchase Uniform

To make purchasing as convenient and affordable as possible, parents and carers have multiple options depending on the item:

- **1. Branded Items (PE House Tops Only)**

Our sole branded item—the house-coloured PE top—can be purchased directly from our official uniform supplier:

Supplier: School Days Direct LTD

Address: 20a Buckingham Avenue, Slough Trading Estate, SL1 4QA

Contact Number: 01628 665353

- **2. Non-Branded Items (Supermarket Purchases)**

We strongly encourage parents and carers to purchase all non-branded, generic items—such as light blue polo shirts, grey trousers, grey skirts, grey shorts, plain burgundy jumpers or cardigans, and plain black PE bottoms—from local supermarkets (such as Asda, Tesco, Sainsbury's, Morrisons, Aldi, or Lidl) or high-street retailers. These outlets offer highly competitive pricing and multi-pack options that provide the best value for money.

- **3. Second-Hand Donated Uniform (Available Year-Round)**

To support families and reduce waste, gently worn donated uniform items are available throughout the school year at no cost. These items are neatly organised in boxes located in the front school office. Parents and carers are welcome to visit the office during regular school hours to browse and acquire items. We also welcome donations of outgrown, clean, and high-quality uniform items back to the office at any time.

5. Expectations for Our School Community

5.1 Pupils

Pupils are expected to wear the correct uniform at all times (except on designated relaxed-uniform or non-school-uniform days) while on the school premises, travelling to and from school, and at out-of-school events or school-organised trips where they represent Western House Academy.

5.2 Parents and Carers

Parents and carers are expected to ensure their child has the correct, clean, and well-maintained uniform and PE kit, and that every item is clearly labelled with the child's name. Parents/carers are expected to lodge any complaints or objections relating to the uniform policy in a timely and reasonable manner. Disputes concerning cost or requirements will be resolved locally and handled in accordance with the school's Complaints Policy, with staff working closely with families to achieve a mutually acceptable outcome.

5.3 Staff

Staff will closely monitor uniform compliance and address any breaches sensitively. A gentle reminder slip will be sent home to detail any minor uniform breaches. If the situation does not improve, a supportive meeting will be arranged with the family and a member of the Senior Leadership Team. In cases where financial hardship prevents compliance, staff will adopt a highly mindful, considerate, and supportive approach, directing families to our year-round second-hand boxes or arranging alternative assistance.

5.4 Governors

The Governing Board is receptive to all reasonable complaints or feedback from parents/carers concerning the uniform policy, handling each query respectfully and thoroughly. The board will review this policy annually to ensure it remains appropriate for the school context, implemented fairly, safe and practical for all, and representative of excellent value. Supplier contracts will be structured to avoid single-supplier arrangements where possible and will be formally re-tendered at least every 5 years to maintain competitive costing.

6. Links to Other Policies

This School Uniform Policy is closely integrated with, and should be read alongside, our:

- Complaints Policy
- Educational Visits Policy
- Equality Objectives Statement
- Home/School Partnership Agreement