

WOODFORD COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

Uniform Policy (Y7 to 11)

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1. Statement

It is our policy that all students in Years 7 to 11 should wear school uniform when attending school, or when participating in a school-organised event outside normal school hours. We provide a complete list of the items needed for school uniform in the Student Planner and in other information that is sent out to parents.

There is a separate dress code for Sixth Form students, detailed in the Sixth Form handbook.

2. Aims and objectives

This policy is based on the premise that school uniform (including clear expectations about the overall appearance of our students) has a positive impact on the school community and thus on educational outcomes for our students.

School Uniform at Woodford:

- promotes a sense of pride in the school;
- engenders a feeling of community and belonging;
- is practical and smart;
- identifies the students with the school;
- is not distracting to other students (as fashion clothes might be);
- makes students feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance;
- supports the school's commitment to promoting equality;
- provides good value for money;
- has been designed with health and safety in mind;
- is consistent with the religious observances of the variety of faith groups represented in the school

3. Expectations of students

All students should wear correct uniform to school and on any occasion that when they represent the school.

The following guidance outlines the school's expectations:

- All students in Y7 to Y11 are expected to wear the school uniform whenever they are representing the school.
- A student's uniform should be tidy and well cared for at all times.
- We do not allow students to wear jewellery. The only exceptions to this rule are earring studs in the lobe of pierced ears (one per ear), and small objects of religious significance, which must be worn on a chain and out of sight. We ask students to remove these objects during PE and games (or in the case of Sikh bangles tape them) on health and safety grounds.
- Students should not wear make-up or nail varnish
- Hair should be of a natural colour and hair long enough to be tied back should be tied back during working school hours. This requirement supports neatness of appearance, it complies with health and safety considerations and it allows teachers to see each student's face when working in class.
- Muslim students may choose to wear the Woodford uniform hijab – a plain navy scarf embossed in the corner with the school logo in navy. Students' faces must be visible at all time so the niqab is not permitted. (The wearing of face masks is temporarily necessitated in corridors and communal spaces for the duration of the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic.)
- The school wants all students to grow into healthy adults. We believe that it is essential for girls to wear shoes that support their feet fully. To ensure this, footwear must be flat with sturdy soles and firmly fixed to their feet by a strap or laces. In addition, we do not allow students to wear trainers to school; these are appropriate for sport or as leisurewear, but



are not in keeping with the smart appearance of a school uniform. Ankle boots and other boots are not permitted other than in periods of extreme winter weather (snow and ice) when the school will advise that such footwear may sensibly be worn.

- In response to student requests the school may sanction the supply of WCHS hoodies to:
 - a. Students of GCSE PE as optional PE kit
 - b. Year 11 students as an end of KS4 souvenir

This concession is made with the strict requirement that WCHS hoodies (like WCHS sports sweatshirts) are at no time worn with school uniform.

4. The role of parents

We ask all parents for their support of the school uniform policy. We believe that parents have a duty to send their daughters to school correctly dressed and ready for their daily school work.

The school welcomes students from all backgrounds and faith communities. If there are serious reasons, for example religious objections, why parents want their child to wear clothes that require minor changes to the school uniform, the school will discuss such requests with the parents. Similarly, should an item of school uniform prove problematic for a pupil with disabilities then parents are invited to draw this to the attention of the Headteacher.

5. The role of governors

The Governing Board supports the Headteacher in implementing the school uniform policy. It considers all representations from parents regarding this policy, and liaises with the Headteacher to ensure that the policy is implemented fairly and with sensitivity.


It is the governors' responsibility to ensure that the school uniform meets all national regulations concerning equal opportunities, and that our school uniform policy is consistent with our policy on equal opportunities.

Governors ensure that the school uniform policy helps students to dress sensibly, in clothing that is hardwearing, safe and practical.

6. Monitoring and review

When monitoring this policy, through its committee work, the Governing Body will:

- consider, with the Headteacher, any requests from parents for individual students to have special dispensations;

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- require the Headteacher to report to the governors on the way the policy is being implemented.
- consider any issues arising from the consultation (with students and a representative group of parents) which forms a part of the review process of this policy.

This policy will be reviewed by the Governing Body every 2 years, or earlier if considered necessary.

7. Approval/Amendment

This policy is approved by the Governing Body of Woodford County High School. Any Amendments to this Policy require approval by the Governing Body of Woodford County High School.

8. Questions

If you have any questions about this policy, please contact the Deputy Headteacher, Woodford County High School, High Road, Woodford Green, Essex, IG8 9LA.