

Uniform and Equipment Policy



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
- Outline the equipment needed in order to maximise learning

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:

- 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
- 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 all students to style their hair in the way that is appropriate for school yet makes them feel most comfortable
- Allow students to wear headscarves and other religious or cultural symbols
- Allow for adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking students or their parents to get in touch with their child's Head of Year (HOY) or Behaviour for Learning Leader (BfL), who can answer questions about the policy. Formal requests for adaptations to the uniform policy for a particular student must be placed in writing to Mrs J Parkin, via admin@winterhill.org.uk

Limiting the cost of school uniform

Winterhill school has a duty to make sure that the uniform we require is affordable, in line with statutory [guidance](#) from the Department for Education on the cost of school uniform. 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. We will make sure our uniform:

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

We will do this by:

- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary
- Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics where possible i.e., School Jumper or cardigan, school tie and the appropriate PE kit
- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost or long-lasting items, such as ties
- Avoiding specific requirements for items students could wear on non-school days, such as coats, bags and shoes
- Keeping the number of optional branded items to a minimum, so that the school's uniform can act as a social leveller
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents to acquire second-hand 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

Expectations for our school's uniform

- Shirt: Plain white.
- Tie: School design – a clip on tie must be worn by all students.
- Jumper / Cardigan: School design – 'V' neck with school badge.
- Trousers: Plain black trousers. Please note that sportswear type trousers are not acceptable – no jeans of any colour or type, no branded or sports leggings.
- Skirt: Plain black material, simple, standard style and of an appropriate length, just above the knee.
- Optional: Girls may wear tunic and trousers with white shirt and tie
- Footwear: Plain black outdoor shoes of conventional design and no adornment – please note that fashion boots are not acceptable, e.g., Ugg boots.

- Outdoor coat: Outdoor coats should not be worn in the school building or as a substitute for other items of uniform, hats/caps of any kind are not allowed to be worn in the school building.
- Technology apron: For use in creative/technology areas. Recommended for garment protection, but this is not essential.
- Jewellery: Plain studs, or small rings for students with pierced ears, a watch and a nose stud or small nose ring may be worn.

Please note: We discourage the wearing of jewellery for reasons of safety – ear studs/small rings, if worn, must be removed for Physical Education. Other forms of body piercing are inappropriate and unacceptable. Lip, tongue rings and studs, naval piercing jewellery and other forms of facial piercings are banned. Persistent disregard for this rule may result in a suspension.

Additionally, the school accepts some variations to school uniform that are required by religious and cultural norms (e.g., head scarves).

It is advisable that all uniform should be clearly marked with the student's name, and it is the responsibility of the student at all times.

The uniform should be clean and in good repair. It should be worn smartly and conventionally.

Students who, without good reason, fail to wear the school uniform correctly will attract a consequence in line with the school's behaviour policy. This could include parental contact and the student being sent home to rectify any breaches of the uniform policy.

During the summer months, depending on the weather we may change to a summer uniform. This decision will be clearly shared as far in advance as practicably possible.

However, the summer uniform will automatically come into effect during the last half term of the academic year.

Expectations for our school's summer uniform

- Shirt: Plain white.
- Tie: School design – a clip on tie must be worn by all students.
- Optional: Jumper / Cardigan: school design – 'V' neck with school badge.
- Shorts: PE shorts Please note that sportswear/branded type shorts are not acceptable.
- Skirt: Plain black material, simple, standard style and of an appropriate length, just above the knee.
- Optional: Girls may wear tunic and trousers with white shirt and tie
- Footwear: Plain black outdoor shoes of conventional design and no adornment – please note that fashion boots are not acceptable, e.g., Ugg boots.

- Outdoor coat: Outdoor coats should not be worn in the school building or as a substitute for other items of uniform, hats/caps of any kind are not allowed to be worn in the school building.

The expectations regarding jewellery remain the same during all parts of the academic year.

It is essential that students come to school wearing the correct uniform, and 'ready to learn'. Therefore, the equipment that students require for the school day, must be brought to school every day. The basic requirements are:

The student equipment required for them to be 'ready to learn'

- Black/blue pen
- Green pen
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Pencil sharpener
- Eraser
- Calculator
- School bag/rucksack, of a suitable size to fit equipment plus any homework books or class materials needed

Expectations for PE uniform

- Winterhill logo PE top
- Winterhill logo PE shorts
- Sports trainers
- Winterhill logo hoodie is optional.

Student Rewards and Sanctions

Students will be rewarded weekly for wearing the correct uniform and being 'ready to learn' via the school points system. These points will be included in the Graduation Process, and subsequently contribute to their participation in the rewards week in the 6th half term of the academic year.

Students who do not come to school wearing the school uniform, and/or not with the correct equipment for them being 'ready to learn' will have points deducted from their profile.

Students who continually breach the school uniform policy and/or do not come to school with the equipment for them being 'ready to learn'; the school will contact parents and they will be sanctioned via using the School Behaviour Policy.

Where to purchase it

School Logo uniform including items of PE kit can be purchased from the following two providers:

Pinders School wear

Old Town Hall
1 Howard Street
Rotherham S65 1JQ

Johnny D

Rotherham Market
33 Howard Street
Rotherham S65 1JQ

Other items which are not logo branded and meet the schools' uniform expectations can be purchased from any appropriate high street or on-line retailer.

The school has a large stock of second-hand uniform, which parents and carers are able to access should they be experiencing difficulties purchasing uniform (Contact your child's Behaviour for Learning Leader)

Expectations for our school community: 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)

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 Mrs J Parkin, the Head teachers PA (jparkin@winterhill.org.uk), if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to:

- Their child's protected characteristics
- The cost of the uniform
- Parents are expected to lodge any complaints or objections relating to the school uniform in a timely and reasonable manner.
- Disputes about the cost of the school uniform will be:
- Resolved locally
- Dealt with in accordance with our school's complaints policy
- The school will work closely with parents to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

Staff

Staff will closely monitor students to make sure they are in 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 doesn't improve.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with by an appropriate sanction set within the school's behaviour policy.

In cases where it is suspected that financial hardship has resulted in a student not complying with this uniform policy, staff will take a mindful and considerate approach to resolving the situation.

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 pupils
- the board will also make sure that the school's uniform supplier arrangements give the highest priority to cost and value for money, for example by avoiding single supplier contracts and by re-tendering contracts at least every 5 years.

Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

- Behaviour policy
- Anti-bullying policy
- Complaint's policy

Policy Review Frequency	Annual
Policy to be approved by	Maxine Owen
Date of Review	June 2026
Key Updates at latest review	Only PE shorts for summer uniform and small nose ring is acceptable.
Approved by Chair	
Next Review	June 2027
Lead Professional / External Review	
Communication	Policy Acceptance via HR System
Document Location	Policy Acceptance, Every Compliance System
PA/HR Officer	Julie Parkin