



Dear Parents and Carers

### **Updated School Uniform Requirements – Effective September 2026**

We are writing to share the updated school uniform expectations, which will come into effect from September 2026. These updates follow the latest Department for Education (DfE) statutory guidance on affordability, value for money, and equality of access.

This updated policy has been developed in collaboration with students and parents through our Student Voice and Parent Surveys, alongside the full involvement and approval of the Governing Board. The feedback from all stakeholders has been central in shaping a uniform that is practical, fair, and reflective of our school community.

### **Why the Uniform Is Changing**

The DfE guidance requires schools to:

- Minimise branded items
- Ensure items are widely available from multiple retailers
- Avoid unnecessary or expensive items
- Provide clear information well in advance
- Support pre-loved uniform provision

Our revised uniform meets these expectations while maintaining high standards of presentation and pride.

From September 2026, students will be expected to follow the updated requirements for both the main school uniform and PE kit.

To support families in preparing for these changes, the full uniform policy and detailed uniform grid can be accessed here:

Link to full [Uniform Policy](#)

Link to detailed [Uniform Grid](#)

These documents includes item details, pricing guidance, transition arrangements, and supplier information.

### **Affordability and Support for Families**

We recognise that changes to uniform can place financial pressure on families. To support you:

- Our pre-loved uniform shop will continue to operate throughout the year

- Financial support is available for families who may need assistance
- Transition arrangements are in place to avoid unnecessary replacement of items

### **Working Together**

A consistent uniform promotes a strong sense of belonging, pride, and equality across the school. We appreciate your continued support in ensuring that students arrive each day in the correct uniform, ready to learn.

We have also provided the answers to some frequently asked questions which you may find useful.

Kind regards



Mr P Foster

Headteacher

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **Why is the uniform changing?**

The changes reflect updated DfE statutory guidance to reduce costs, limit branded items, and ensure families can purchase most items from a range of retailers. The policy also incorporates feedback from students, parents, and the Governing Board.

#### **Where can I find the full uniform requirements?**

Full details, including item descriptions, pricing, transition arrangements, and supplier information, are available via the Warlingham School & Sixth Form College website or by accessing the links below.

Link to full [Uniform Policy](#)

Link to detailed [Uniform Grid](#)

#### **Do I have to buy everything from the school supplier?**

No. Only a small number of branded items must be purchased from approved suppliers. Most items can be bought from a retailer of your choice.

#### **What are the rules for skirts and trousers?**

A summary is provided below, with full details in the policy:

- Skirts must be knee-length, not rolled, and in an approved style (either the current Hewitts skirt for Years 8–11 or a navy box-pleated skirt for all year groups)
- Trousers must be charcoal grey or black and worn correctly at the waist

**Are there transition arrangements for older students?**

Yes. Students in Years 8–11 have transition options for certain items, including skirts and PE kit, to avoid unnecessary cost. Full details are provided in the uniform grid.

**What footwear is allowed?**

Students must wear plain black, sensible leather shoes.

Some styles (e.g. Kickers or Air Force-style shoes) may be permitted under specific conditions—please refer to the full policy for clarification.

**Are hoodies allowed for PE?**

No. Hoodies are not permitted. Students may wear a plain navy sweatshirt instead.

**What are the expectations for PE kit?**

The PE kit has been simplified to reduce cost. Requirements vary slightly by year group, and some students may continue wearing existing kit during the transition period.

**What support is available if I'm struggling with uniform costs?**

We offer:

- Pre-loved uniform is available throughout the year from Student Services
- Discreet financial support for families who need it
- Transition arrangements to reduce unnecessary expense

**When do the new uniform expectations start?**

- September 2026 – New uniform expectations take effect

**Who helped shape the new policy?**

The policy was developed in partnership with students, parents, and the Governing Board, ensuring it reflects the needs and views of the whole school community.