



Uniform Policy

Updated 14th May 2026

Policy reference:

This policy is to be reviewed:

Annually

The next review date is:

May 2027

Review is the responsibility of:

Anna Wahlandt

Review History

Review ratified:

10th March 2025

Review ratified:

Review ratified:

Authorised by: Local Governing Body

Sir Harry Smith Community College expects students' appearance to be smart and presentable. The uniform policy has been developed with the purpose of ensuring that students are prepared, respectful and safe, and have clear guidelines of College expectations. A high standard of personal appearance is expected of all students. We believe that a smart uniform, worn properly, is very important because it demonstrates the pride that students take in the College and signals their readiness to be part of our learning community.

We expect all students to wear full uniform at all times. The College therefore reserves the right to ask students to remove items of clothing, adornments (i.e. badges, sweatbands, hats, scarves, ornate belts) or jewellery, which are deemed contrary to the spirit of the policy in the opinion of the leaders of the College. We also reserve the right to ask students to remove excess makeup and/or nail varnish.

1. 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.

2. 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 age, sex, disability, race, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity, 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 a way that is appropriate for school and makes them feel most comfortable.
- Allow students to wear headscarves and/or other religious garments.
- Allow students with sensory or physical needs to make reasonable adaptations to their uniform depending on their specific needs.
- Allow for reasonable adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking students or their parents/carers to get in touch with their child's Head of House, who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

3. Limiting the cost of school uniform

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

We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that need 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/carers' ability to 'shop around' for a low price.

We will make sure our uniform:

1. Is available at a reasonable cost.
2. Provides the best value for money for parents/carers.

We will do this by:

1. Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary.
2. Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics where possible.
3. Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost and/or long-lasting items.
4. Avoiding specific requirements for items students could wear on non-school days, such as coats and bags.
5. Keeping the number of optional branded items to a minimum, so that the school's uniform can act as a social leveller.
6. Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups.
7. Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities.
8. Considering alternative methods for signalling differences in groups for interschool competitions, such as creating posters or labels.
9. Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents/carers to acquire second-hand uniform items.
10. Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents/carers of any changes.
11. Consulting with parents/carers and students on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy.

4. Expectations for our school community

4.1 Students

Students are expected to wear the correct uniform at all times (other than specified non-school uniform days) while:

1. On the school premises.
2. Travelling to and from school.
3. At out-of-school events or on trips that are organised by the school, or where they are representing the school (if required).

Students are also expected to contact Ms Wahlandt (Deputy Principal) if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics.

4.2 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:

1. Clean.

2. Clearly labelled with their child's name.
3. In good condition.

Parents/carers are also expected to contact Ms Wahlandt (Deputy Principal and Designated Safeguarding Lead) if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to:

1. Their child's protected characteristics.
2. The cost of the uniform.

Parents/carers 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:

1. Resolved locally.
2. Dealt with in accordance with our school's complaints policy.

The school will work closely with parents/carers to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

4.3 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.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with through the College's behaviour policy. This may include isolation until the breach in uniform is rectified.

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.

5 Uniform Requirements

The College uniform for students in Years 7 - 10 from September 2026 is as follows:

- Black blazer with embroidered Sir Harry Smith Community College badge (*to be always worn unless directed by the Principal or Deputy Principal*).
- School tie based on House colours.
- Black V-neck jumper **optional for Autumn and Spring terms only** (does not need the school logo on it – plain and no sports brands).
- White shirt or blouse (short or long sleeved)
- Plain black tailored trousers (loose fitting)
or
- Plain black pleated skirt (one inch above the knee)
or
- Plain black tailored shorts.

The College uniform for students in Year 11 from September 2026 is as follows:

- Plain white polo shirt with college logo
- Plain black tailored trousers (loose fitting)
or

- Plain black pleated skirt (one inch above the knee)
or
- Plain black tailored shorts.
- Black sweatshirt or cardigan with college logo

Students in Year 11 who wish to wear the blazer, tie and shirt may do so.

Footwear

- Black, low-heeled footwear (**i.e., less than 2" in height**) - **or plain black plimsolls. No sports or fashion logos or decoration should be visible on footwear.** Open-toed shoes are not suitable, for health and safety reasons. See footwear guidance section for further information.
- Tights and socks should be plain black, no patterns.
- Coats should be kept in lockers/bags and should not be worn around the building.

The new college uniform will be phased in, By September 2027, all students will be expected to be in the new uniform.

If you have any concerns or queries before purchasing uniform items, please contact your child's Head of House for clarification.

Jewellery and Body Piercing

Students may wear a watch and one pair of studs in the lower lobes. Hooped earrings, including sleepers, are not allowed. Students who choose to wear studs must remove them for PE. No body jewellery is allowed (tongue, lip, eyebrow, belly button, etc.). Any jewellery brought into College is at students' own risk. Facial piercings are not allowed, and students will not be allowed to mask such a piercing with a plaster from first aid/or a retainer.

If a student wishes to have body pierced jewellery, we stipulate that they have the piercing done at the beginning of the long summer holiday. This gives several weeks for the piercing to establish itself. The student is then able to take out the stud/ring safely to attend College, but to replace it at home. Any student wearing a ring or stud other than those allowed in the uniform code, who will not remove it on request, will be thought of as being unco-operative with the rules of the College. Lack of co-operation may result in isolation or suspension.

Make-up

Students may only wear a very small amount of **discreet** make-up and **clear nail varnish**. Any student unsure about how much make-up counts as discreet should seek advice from their Head of House or the Behaviour Support Unit.

Hair

Hairstyles and hair colours which stand out in an unacceptable way and which may have a detrimental effect on the reputation of the College are not encouraged. The College reserves the right to request, and expect students to make changes to their hair, if this is deemed the case. In extreme circumstances, a student can be refused admission to the College until the hairstyle and/or colour is considered acceptable. Hair should be of a natural colour. Hairstyles should not be patterned, stepped or shaved, and cut no shorter than a number 1. Symbols shaved into the hair are not acceptable.

Equipment

- Pens (blue/black), pencils, ruler, rubber, pencil sharpener, protractor, compasses, calculator and glue stick.
- All the above items can be purchased from reception or via Parent Pay. In addition, students may purchase other items such as art sketch books and revision booklets.
- Many students find it useful to have the following items: coloured pens/pencils.
- Students will need a sturdy bag in which to carry equipment and books.

Please note: *This is general information. As you know "fashion trends" come and go so our list cannot be exhaustive. It is at the discretion of the Principal of the College to take action regarding any fashion trend or hairstyle which we feel is unacceptable.*

Examples of how your uniform should look can be found on the College website

SHSCC Footwear Guidance

Acceptable Shoe styles for school

Plain black leather shoes [or unbranded inexpensive plain black plimsolls] with flat heels should be worn. N.B. Shoes must be exclusively black i.e. no patches of other colours and, as shoes, they must be below the ankle.



Unacceptable Shoe styles for school

Nothing made by a sports manufacturer or in a sporty style e.g. leather trainers, Vans, Converse, Nike etc. (regardless of colour) or **trainer style shoes** displaying their logo [even in black], boots of any description, and backless shoes.



The College Physical Education uniform is as follows:

PE KIT	
ESSENTIAL	OPTIONAL
Maroon polo shirt (with school badge)	Black ¼ zip sports top (with school badge)
Plain black shorts/skort	Plain black sports leggings/tracksuit trousers (if outside during the winter)
Maroon, long sports socks	Football or rugby boots
Sports trainers	

Personal Protective Equipment

Some activities will require personal protective equipment. Your son/daughter's PE teacher will discuss this with the students prior to commencing activities that require this equipment.

- Gum shield
- Shin pads
- Football or rugby boots

All Students

- Where a student is excused from taking part in a PE lesson a note from parents must be provided. Students are still required to bring PE kit as they will be given an alternative role within the lesson.
- Students that do not have correct or any kit with them will receive a detention and a 'yellow' negative slip.

Security of the changing rooms and students in PE

- For safety reasons, all jewellery must be removed for PE lessons.
- For safety reasons a member of staff will remain in, or around the changing rooms to supervise changing time.
- We advise that no jewellery or valuables are brought into school on PE days.
- No aerosols are to be used anywhere in the College, including use in the changing rooms.

- The College accepts no responsibility for items lost or stolen.

6. Where to purchase our uniform

Branded college uniform is to be purchased from Chroma Sports chromasport.co.uk/search/sir-harry, or Total Clothing [Home page | TotalClothingShop.co.uk](https://TotalClothingShop.co.uk). Tailored trousers, skirts etc, can be purchased from any retailer, but must be in keeping with the above policy guidelines.

Parents/carers can also access our hardship fund – if you require support with uniform, please do contact the college. May we also direct you to our second-hand uniform shop, available via our college reception, and Whittlesey Community Library, both venues have a free uniform donation service.