

College Uniform Policy
January 2025

Policy Owner	Paul Sutton
Approved By	Full Board
Date of Last Approval	9 th June 2025
Review Cycle	Annually
Next Review Date	January 2026

Contents

1. Aims	2
2. Our legal duties under the Equality Act 2010.....	2
3. Limiting the cost of school uniform.....	3
4. Expectations for school uniform	4
5. Expectations for our College community	5
6. Monitoring arrangements	6
8. Links to other policies.....	6

1. 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

2. Our 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 pupils 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 pupils
- Allow all pupils to have long hair (though we reserve the right to ask for this to be tied back)
- Allow all pupils to style their hair in a way that is appropriate for school and makes them feel most comfortable
- Allow pupils to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons or if they are experiencing discomfort related to their sex, gender or gender reassignment
- Allow pupils to wear headscarves and/or other religious garments
- Allow pupils 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 pupils or their parents/carers to get in touch with Paul Sutton, Deputy Principal, 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

Clyst Vale strives to maintain a straightforward dress code to foster a strong sense of identity and ensure students are appropriately dressed for various learning activities at a reasonable cost. Our school is committed to ensuring that the required uniform is affordable, in accordance with statutory guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) on the cost of school uniforms.

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:

- 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
- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost and/or long-lasting items, such as ties
- Avoiding specific requirements for items pupils 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 groups
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents/carers to acquire second-hand uniform items
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents/carers of any changes
- Consulting with parents/carers and pupils on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy

4. Expectations for school uniform

4.1 Our College Uniform

Uniform for all students in Years 7 to 11:

- White collared shirt
- College Tie
- Clyst Vale V-neck jumper with College logo.
- Plain black tailored trousers, knee length black tailored shorts or a blue tartan College skirt (worn at an appropriate length, i.e a point between the top of the knee and middle of thigh).
- Black sturdy shoes or all black trainers.
- White socks or black tights with skirts.
- Eyebrow jewellery, facial, tongue, nose and lip studs are not permitted. All jewellery must be removed for PE lessons.
- Ear piercings are allowed but should be small studs.
- Leather jackets, all denim garments and all hoodies are not permitted.
- Hats should not be worn indoors.
- Outer coats should be predominantly plain in colour and without large logos.
- A plain white t-shirt, vest or base layer may be worn under the shirt.
- On health and safety grounds, shoes should be appropriate for a work place. Flipflops, open toes, Uggs, Dr Marten boots (or equivalent) are not permitted.

All jewellery must be removed before PE lessons for the safety of other students and the individual concerned.

Students with false or long nails will also pose a risk to other students and therefore nails should be kept to shorter lengths.

PE Uniform

- Vapour Polo Shirt with embroidered school logo. Colour: Navy and sky
- Unisex Cuatro Sports Shorts with embroidered logo. Colour: Navy and white
- Unisex S-Tec Coolmax Football Sock. Colour: Navy, sky and white
- Unisex Pro Tec Reversible Rugby Shirt. Colour: Navy and sky
- Girls' Panelled Sports Skort Colour: Navy and sky
- Girls' Navy PE leggings with embroidered school logo. Colour: Navy
- Aptus Training Pants Colour: Navy/silver

4.2 Where to purchase it

- To reduce cost, non-branded items can be purchased from a wide range of retailers.

- Branded uniform and PE kit can be purchased from Thomas Moore, Exeter or online at www.thomasmooretoymaster.co.uk
- Parents and carers can access good quality second-hand uniforms from our two local charity shops: Clyst Caring Friends in Broadclyst Village and Barnardo's Cranbrook who keep regular items in stock.

5. Expectations for our College community

5.1 Pupils

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

- On the College premises
- Travelling to and from college
- At out-of-college events or on trips that are organised by the College, or where they are representing the College (if required)
- Pupils are also expected to contact Paul Sutton, Deputy Principal, suttonp@clystvale.org if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics.

5.2 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:

- Clean
- Clearly labelled with the child's name
- In good condition
- Parents/carers are also expected to contact Paul Sutton, Deputy Principal, suttonp@clystvale.org 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/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:
 - Resolved locally
 - 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.

5.3 Staff

Staff will closely monitor pupils to make sure they are in correct uniform. They will give any pupils and families breaching the uniform policy the opportunity to comply, but will follow up with the Deputy Principal if the situation doesn't improve.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with by Paul Sutton, Deputy Principal
suttonp@clystvale.org

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

5.4 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/carers and pupils
- 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.

6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed by Paul Sutton, Deputy Principal. At every review, it will be approved by the Finance and Resources Committee.

8. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

- Behaviour for learning policy
- Equality information and objectives statement
- Complaints policy