



Uniform Policy

Approved by:	Pupil Outcomes and Wellbeing Committee	Date: October 2025
Last reviewed by:	Mr. M Ashdown, Headteacher October 2025	
Ratified by:	Pupil Outcomes Wellbeing October 2025	
Next review due by:	October 2026	
Policy has been:	Equality Impact Assessed	

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Downlands is a uniformed school. All our students wear uniform which we believe reduces economic and social barriers between young people and gives them a sense of unity and identity. We ask parents/carers to support us by ensuring their child attends each day in the correct attire with the necessary equipment to learn.

1. Aims

This policy aims to:

- Set out our rationale for 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 pupils the opportunity to wear the uniform they feel most comfortable in or that most reflects their self-identified gender
- Allow all pupils to style their hair in a way that is appropriate for school and makes them feel most comfortable
- 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 diagnosed specific needs
- Allow for reasonable adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents/carers to contact us. 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 aim to ensure our uniform is value for money.

We will do this by:

- Carefully considering the number of items with distinctive characteristics. At Downlands there are two compulsory items with logos – the school jumper and PE polo shirt. The summer uniform white polo shirt has a logo but is an optional item
- Understanding that cost needs to be balanced with quality and therefore value for money over time
- There is no uniform stipulation on coats
- Working with the Downlands School Association to hold regular second-hand uniform sales
- 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
- Supporting families in financial difficulty
- From September 2025, Y10 students will be able to wear the blue V neck jumper with a logo and blue skirt and the blue tie as appropriate but with the normal **white** shirt or blouse.

4. Expectations for school uniform

4.1 Our school's uniform

Trouser
Shirt: • Y7/8/9/10 – Plain white school shirt or blouse. • Y11 and Senior Y10 Prefect Team only – Pale blue school shirt. • T-shirts and sports shirts are not allowed. • White polo shirts with the school logo are allowed for the summer term only. • A white non-visible base layer may be worn under shirts in the winter. Tie: • Y7/8/9 – Black and red stripe school tie • Y10/11 – Navy school tie • A tie is not required to be worn with a blouse Trousers: • Dark grey or black in a standard uniform style and fabric. • Trousers should not be tapered below the knee or in the style of 'skinny' or 'tight fit'. • Corduroy, cotton, denim, drainpipes and jeans are not allowed. • Riveted and patch pockets are also not allowed.

Shorts:

- Unaltered formal **tailored shorts** in dark grey school trouser material will be allowed in the summer term.
- No cargo style shorts.

Jumper:

- **Y7/8/9 – Uniform red, V neck with school logo.**
- **Y10/11 – Uniform blue, V Neck with school logo.**

Socks:

- Plain grey, black or white, ideally plain but may have a logo.
- This means simple socks that are not fluffy and without any patterns.

Skirt**Blouse:**

- **Y7/8/9/10 – Plain white school blouse, or shirt, with collar and reverse.**
- **Y11 and Y10 Senior Prefect Team only – Pale blue school blouse, or shirt, with collar and reverse.**
- T-shirts and sports shirts are not allowed.
- White polo shirts with school logo are allowed for the summer term only.
- A white non-visible base layer may be worn under shirts and blouses in the winter.

Tie:

- **School tie may be worn with a school shirt.**
- **Y7/8/9 – Black and red stripe school tie**
- **Y10/11 – Navy school tie**

Skirt:

- **Davenport Knife Pleat**
- **Y7/8/9 – in grey**
- **Y10/11 - in blue**
- Sold by our uniform suppliers with the expectation that the skirt is knee length. As a general guideline, this will be 18" length for the smallest waist size and 20" length for most other waist sizes. Where there are exceptions, the uniform suppliers will help advise accordingly to ensure a good fit and correct length.

Jumper:

- **Y7/8/9 – Uniform red, V neck with school logo.**
- **Y10/11 – Uniform blue, V Neck with school logo.**

Socks/tights:

- White, black or grey socks or plain black or natural tights.
- This means simple socks that are not fluffy and without any patterns, or embellishments and

patterned tights and leggings are not allowed.

- If natural tights or socks are worn on their own, they cannot be patterned and are ideally plain but may have a logo.
- If socks are worn over black tights, they must be **plain black (no logo)** and ankle length without any embellishment, pattern or design.

All Years

- **Completely black polishable school shoes, leather or faux leather.** Boots, trainers, plimsoll-style/canvas shoes, sandals, clogs, stilettos, high heels and platforms are not allowed.
 - Belts should be plain black, no more than 5cm wide
 - Jewellery: only the following are permitted:
 - No more than two plain studs or small sleepers per ear
 - Only one plain unobtrusive ring
 - One plain unobtrusive chain
 - No bracelets
 - No flesh tunnels
 - No nose studs
- We do not permit any other facial or body piercings (including oral piercings)
- No badges unless associated with the school
 - Clear but no coloured nail varnish is allowed
 - Nail extensions are not permitted
 - Discreet make-up only is acceptable. False eyelashes or eyelash extensions are not permitted at any time
 - Extremes of hairstyle, e.g. shaved patterns, hair colour not within the student's natural colour range, are not suitable. Hair should not be cut shorter than a grade one. Please note, it is the school who decides what is deemed extreme.
 - Hairbands should be plain with no flowers, bows or other embellishments
 - All coats must be removed inside the building, unless the Headteacher makes a temporary amendment to the policy due to low temperature inside. Coats have a full-length zip
 - Headphones and Airpods are not allowed to be worn in school
 - White vest only underneath shirts and polo shirts
 - In high temperatures the Headteacher may take the decision to allow pupils to attend school in PE kit
 - Students do not need to ask permission to remove jumpers in classrooms

PE Kit

Must have

- **Downlands PE Polo-shirt or t-shirt***
- **White sports socks or long red or black football socks***
- **Plain black shorts (no skorts, cycle shorts or Nike Pro style)**
- **Non-marking trainers**

Optional extras

- Downlands Quarter Zip, Downlands Rugby shirt or Downlands red PE sweatshirt) *
- Black tracksuit bottoms/black leggings
- Football boots/Rugby boots are advised for lessons that take place on the astro-turf/field
- Gum shield (strongly advised for Rugby)
- Shin pads

***Note – we introduced a new logo PE kit in September 2025 (available only from GR Teamwear) to a more comfortable, light-weight and cost-effective kit.**

It has been compulsory for Year 7s entering Downlands from September 2025 and phased in over five years for students in Years 8 to 11 from September 2025. This means existing students are able to continue to wear the old-style PE kit and it can be ‘handed down’ or purchased from our second-hand sales. Students in Years 8 to 11 are welcome to choose to purchase the new PE kit during this time.

These are the new items that will replace the items marked with * above:

Must have

- Downlands PE t-shirt
- White sports socks or long **black** football socks

Optional extra

- Downlands Quarter Zip
- Downlands Rain jacket
- Downlands Shower jacket

PE Kit Policy

- Students must wear the Downlands PE polo-shirt or t-shirt* but may wear the optional items for rugby lessons or outdoor lessons.
- Alternatively, a warmer base layer is permitted in winter months (requested not to be brightly coloured). The main specification is that this is worn under the Downlands PE polo-shirt or t-shirt. *
- Students can choose to wear one of the following in their PE lesson: black shorts (**not cycle shorts, Nike pro style or skorts**), black sports leggings or black tracksuit bottoms. The item of clothing that they choose to wear must be plain black with the exception of small logos.
- Students must have a change of footwear from their school shoes and these should be non-

marking trainers.

- Football boots/Rugby boots are advised for lessons that take place on the field, such as Rugby.
- Gum shields are strongly advised for Rugby lessons.

4.2 Where to purchase uniform – please purchase the new style PE kit from GR Teamwear

Broadbridges

Lynnem House

1 Victoria Way

Burgess Hill RH15 9NF

Tel: 01444 242682 | Email: burgesshill@broadbridges.co.uk

www.broadbridges.co.uk

➤ Monkhouse Schoolwear (previously Sussex Uniforms Ltd) please purchase the new style PE kit from GR Teamwear

Unit 1&2 Bridge Road

Business Park

Haywards Heath, RH16 1TX

Tel: 01444 227066

www.sussexuniforms.co.uk

➤ GR Teamwear (PE kit only)

Unit 3, Regent Business Centre,

6 Jubilee Road,

Burgess Hill,

RH15 9TL

Tel: 01444 244401

enquiries@grteamwear.co.uk

5. Expectations for our school 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 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)

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 and in good condition
- Clearly labelled with the child's name

Parents/carers must provide a written note for the student to carry when not in full school uniform.

Parents/carers should contact Jamie Chandler jchandler@downlands.org if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their child's protected characteristics.

5.3 Staff

Staff will closely monitor pupils to make sure they are in correct uniform and if not, sanctions will be applied as per the Discipline and Student Behaviour Policy. <https://www.downlands.w-sussex.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Discipline-and-Student-Behaviour-Policy-Feb-25.pdf>

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 Pupils

It is the responsibility of students to comply with school uniform policy – please see the Discipline and Student Behaviour policy (link above) for details of sanctions.

Students will spend time in social isolation if they refuse to comply with the uniform policy.

5.5 Governors

The governing board will review this policy every two years 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

- Has been reviewed against an impact assessment

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 every two years at the Governors' Pupil Outcomes and Welfare sub-committee and ratified at Full Governing Board.

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

- Discipline and Student Behaviour policy
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy
- Anti-bullying policy
- Complaints procedure
- School trips policy