

WHY A UNIFORM?

There are convincing arguments both for and against school uniforms. Schools in England are not required to have a uniform and in some countries it is the exception, rather than the rule. It is really important to emphasise, therefore, that having a uniform at Dawlish College is not an inevitability, but rather a positive choice that we have decided to make – taking into account all of the pros and cons – in order to promote some of the core values that we think are really important in a child's education.

So why have we chosen to have a uniform policy?

1. To promote a sense of **pride** in being a student of Dawlish College and a sense of **belonging** to our community – dressing **uniformly** symbolises our **equality** and our **respect** for others.
2. To enable families to provide children with **affordable** clothes to wear to school without worrying that they will look or feel **'different'**.
3. To make the school day as **simple** and **purposeful** as possible, minimising time lost in arguments over what is or is not appropriate (because the policy is **clear**) and maximising **learning** time.
4. To remove from children as much as we possibly can the **pressure** of having an inexhaustive **choice** about what to wear and whether their choice will be judged **'right'** or **'wrong'** by their peers.

Closely-controlled choice = No pressure

WHY THIS UNIFORM?

There is overwhelming consensus among nearly all of our school stakeholders that school uniform is a 'good thing' for a broad number of reasons. However, we also seem to nearly all find agreement in questioning some of the specifics of *what* we ask our young people to wear for their day of learning.

Our uniform is therefore based around a very smart, branded, 'PE-style' set of clothing items, with a high degree of individual choice for students around individual items, so that everyone can find a combination that is comfortable and practical for them.

So why have we chosen to have this uniform policy?

1. **Practicality:** approximately 40% of our students' timetables are practical-based subjects for which a blazer/tie combination could be seen as a questionable or even unsuitable choice.
2. **Comfort:** many students report sensory issues relating to their uniform and perceive it more as a barrier than as an aid to their participation and learning.
3. **Changing times:** the traditional style of school uniform has been around for a long time, and its relevance to the modern world is questionable (a YouGov survey from September 2023 found that 7% of workers wear a suit to work in modern Britain).
4. **Evidence:** while there is lots of evidence of the benefits of a uniform *per se*, there is no evidence of any positive impact associated with a blazer and tie ensemble specifically. In fact, the evidence points towards the health benefits of a more practical and inclusive uniform.

IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

September 2024

- Compulsory adoption of this uniform policy for incoming Y7.
- 1-year optional transition period for Y8-11.

N.B. If you and your child choose to continue to wear the old uniform during the optional transition period, it must be 100% in line with the old policy. Likewise, if you choose to change to this policy during the year, we expect 100% compliance with this policy.

September 2025

- Compulsory adoption of this uniform policy for all.

P.T.O. for the itemised list of uniform requirements.

Itemised list of new uniform requirements

N.B. Where **compulsory** is stated it means that **ONE** of the items in the following list is compulsory at any given time, not all of the items in the list, i.e. you have a **choice** of items but you must have **at least one**.

Items available from Stitch2Print (visit the online shop [here](#))

- ✓ One of (**compulsory**):
 - Dawlish College navy-blue *Hobby polo shirt*
 - **or** Dawlish College royal-blue *Hobby polo shirt*
 - **or** Dawlish College navy-blue 'Ladies Fit' *Hobby polo shirt*
 - **or** Dawlish College royal-blue 'Ladies Fit' *Hobby polo shirt*
- ✓ One of (**compulsory**):
 - Dawlish College *Elba tracksuit bottoms*
 - **or** Dawlish College *Championship IV tracksuit bottoms*
 - **or** Dawlish College *Nobel shorts*
 - **or** Dawlish College 'Ladies Fit' *Paris II shorts*
 - **or** Dawlish College *Olimpia leggings*
- ✓ One of (**optional***):
 - Dawlish College *Faraon ¼ zip (optional: with initials)*
 - **or** Dawlish College *Gala full zip (optional: with initials)*

*Optional here means it does not have to be worn at all times but no alternative tops/jumpers etc. to these two garments are allowed to be worn – see 'Additional notes' below.

Generic items available from any supplier

- ✓ One of (**compulsory**):
 - Plain or sports-branded BLACK/WHITE/NAVY-BLUE (or a combination of those) **sports trainers**
- ✓ One of (**compulsory**):
 - Plain or sports-branded BLACK/WHITE/NAVY-BLUE (or a combination of those) **sports socks**
- ✓ One of (**optional**):
 - Plain or sports-branded BLACK/WHITE/NAVY-BLUE (or a combination of those) **base layer** (must be worn underneath the polo shirt)
- ✓ One of (**optional**):
 - Plain or sports-branded BLACK/WHITE/NAVY-BLUE (or a combination of those) **cycling shorts** (must be worn underneath the shorts)

Additional compulsory items required for participation in some PE lessons

- ✓ Plain or sports-branded NAVY-BLUE **football/rugby socks**
- ✓ **Shin pads**
- ✓ **Gum shield**

Additional notes

- The branded Joma backpack available from Stitch2Print is **optional** and there is no compulsory school bag from September 2024.
- From September 2025 it will be compulsory to have a plain or sports-branded BLACK/WHITE/NAVY-BLUE (or a combination of those) rucksack/backpack-style bag.
- A proper, outdoor coat (**not** a jumper, hoodie, zip-up hoodie etc.) is the **only** item to be worn over the uniform and may only be worn outside the school buildings (any other non-uniform jumpers, cardigans, hoodies etc. will be confiscated).
- Hair, make-up, nails and jewellery should be **sensible and safe** for active participation in all aspects of school life. There are no specific rules about individual items or styles.
 - When deciding whether or not something is appropriate for school, the primary consideration must always be the safety of self and others.
 - Any adult supervising a school activity has the authority to decide whether or not an item or style is sensible and safe. Their decision must be respected by the student for that activity.
 - Please enquire about suitability before making any expensive or irreversible investments.
 - The final decision about whether something is acceptable for school is always at the Headteacher's discretion.