School Uniform Policy

Version	1.0
Approving Body	Trust Board
Date ratified	September 2026
Date issued	October 2026
Review date	September 2027
Owner	Director of Education/CEO
Applies to	All Trust Schools, all Trust staff

Version	Date	Reason
1.0	September 2026	To establish a Trust wide school uniform policy in line with DfE guidance.

2. Policy statement and purpose

At Corfe Hills School as part of Initio Learning Trust, we believe that a school uniform plays a fundamental role in setting an appropriate tone for learning and fostering a strong sense of community, equality, and pride. Wearing a uniform acts as a social equaliser by removing visible distinctions of wealth or fashion, allowing students to be valued and judged on their character and effort rather than their attire.

Our uniform policy is designed to uphold the core values and beliefs of Initio Learning Trust:

- **Promoting equality:** Uniforms create a level playing field across diverse socioeconomic backgrounds, reducing fashion-driven peer pressure and bullying.
- **Focus on learning:** Removing choices around daily outfit selection eliminates unnecessary distractions, reducing cognitive load and simplifying morning routines.
- **Sense of belonging:** A shared uniform enhances site security by making intruders quickly identifiable, while building community identity and a shared sense of collective responsibility.
- **Preparing for the workplace:** Adhering to a uniform code instils self-discipline and a professional mindset essential for future careers.

In alignment with DfE statutory guidance, our school is committed to ensuring that uniform items remain affordable, practical, durable, and accessible to every family in our community.

3. Legal Framework & Statutory Compliance

This policy complies with all relevant national legislation and statutory guidance, including:

- Department for Education (DfE) guidance on the cost of school uniforms.
- Education Act 1996 (as amended by the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026).
- Human Rights Act 1998.
- Equality Act 2010.

Mandatory Limits on Compulsory Branded Items (Effective 1 September 2026):

- **Primary schools:** Must limit total compulsory branded uniform and PE items to **3 or fewer**.
- **Secondary and Middle Schools:** Must limit total compulsory branded uniform and PE items to **4 or fewer**, provided one item is a tie.

4. Uniform Requirements & Cost Considerations

No uniform policy at Corfe Hills School will be so costly as to restrict any pupil from attending or fully participating in school life. To achieve maximum affordability and high value for money, the school adheres to the following core principles:

- **Prioritising generic items:** Most uniform items can be purchased widely from high street stores and supermarkets, allowing parents to shop competitively.
- **Quality, durability, and sustainability:** Procurement decisions prioritise garments that resist wear and tear, wash well, and maintain appearance over long periods.
- **Avoiding single-supplier:** Single-supplier contracts are avoided where possible, and supplier arrangements are subjected to regular retendering to secure competitive pricing.
- **Transition:** In alignment with Initio Learning Trust standards, basic items are consistent across trust schools to minimise additional expense during school transitions.

5. School Specifics

5.1 Corfe Hills School Main Uniform

School Main Colours: **Navy Blue**

A. Generic Items (Available from any high street retailer or supermarket):

- The school blazer is a compulsory piece of uniform which must be worn at all times and is purchased from our uniform suppliers.
- Trousers and skirts must be plain black. Trousers must be full length and tailored at the waist, no cargo pockets, and not excessively long, flared, low waisted, baggy or skin tight. Skirts are to be the approved style and box pleated.
- Blouses and shirts must be white. All shirts must be tucked in and worn smartly. If a T- shirt skin is to be worn under a school shirt in cold weather then it must be white, with no visible logos and not visible at the neck.
- Alternatively an optional fitted blue jumper with school logo and purchased from our suppliers will be available to wear under the compulsory blazer should individuals prefer this for warmth (winter months only). There is no obligation to purchase this item. Jumpers can only be worn until the school moves to summer uniform. The school blazer is a compulsory piece of uniform which must be worn at all times and is purchased from our uniform suppliers.
- Shoes should be black. Fashion boots, trainers, skate/leisure shoes, mules or flip flops are not allowed. Any uncertainties should be clarified by contacting the

school before the end of term. Socks should be black or white. Tights should be black; footless tights of any length are not allowed.

B. Compulsory Branded Items (Strictly adhering to statutory limits):

- **Branded Item 1:** School Blazer with logo
- **Branded Item 2:** School tie (boys only) - blue with the school logo, worn in a "business" style and not as part of an open neck shirt. Ties should be properly done up with the visible part of the tie approximately 30cms in length.

5.2 Physical Education (PE) Kit Specifications

To maintain affordability and inclusion, the PE kit is kept simple and practical.

- **PE Top:** Corfe Hills embroidered short sleeved T- shirt
- **PE Bottoms (Generic):** Corfe Hills embroidered shorts , Corfe Hills embroidered shorts/leggings
- **Cold Weather Outerwear (Generic):** Students are permitted to wear non Corfe Hills Branded clothing underneath their PE kit. For example, leggings under the Corfe Hills shorts or base layers under the Corfe Hills T-shirt.
- **Footwear:** All students should have a pair of training shoes suitable for use in the sports hall and a pair of studded shoes for the playing field. With the school in the process of building a 3G all weather pitch, Firm Ground or Artificial Pitch boots are mandatory, as the facility will not be able to be used with trainers.

5.3 Outerwear, footwear and accessories

- **Footwear:** Shoes should be black. Fashion boots, trainers, skate/leisure shoes, mules or flip flops are not allowed.
- **Outerwear:** Outer wear should be smart. This aspect of the school uniform is especially important, since it is the outsider's view of Corfe Hills School. Students are expected to wear full uniform to and from school.
- **Jewellery and accessories:** The only jewellery that should be worn is a watch and a pair of studs (plastic nose retainers and smart watches are not allowed).
- Nail polish of any colour is not to be worn and we do not allow any false nails, gel nails or nail polish.
- **PE:** All long hair is expected to be tied back in lessons. All jewellery is to be removed for safety reasons. Failure to do so will result in a sanction.

6. Inclusion, equality, and reasonable adjustments

Corfe Hills School is dedicated to inclusivity and ensuring no pupil is disadvantaged due to protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 or specific individual circumstances.

- **Religious and cultural beliefs:** Requests to adjust the uniform policy to accommodate religious dress requirements (such as headscarves, turbans, hijabs, or religious artefacts) are welcomed and supported. Headwear worn for religious reasons should align with school uniform colours (e.g., plain black, navy, or white) where practical.

- **Special educational needs & disabilities (SEND):** Reasonable adjustments will be made for pupils with SEND, medical conditions, or sensory sensitivities (e.g., removing tags, allowing softer fabrics, or adapting footwear). Parents should contact the SENCO, Claire Ratcliffe, cratcliffe@corfehills.net to arrange adjustments.
- **Hair and hairstyles:** The school champions equality and complies fully with EHRC guidance on hair discrimination. Natural Afro-textured hair, protective styles (such as braids, locks, and twists), and religious hair practices are respected and protected.
- **Sex and gender neutrality:** Uniform options are non-gendered. All pupils may choose from the approved range of uniform items (trousers, skirts, shorts) regardless of sex or gender identity.
- **Adverse weather adaptations:** During extreme heatwaves or severe cold, temporary adaptations will be announced (e.g., permitting PE kit/shorts in hot weather or allowing additional warm layers/trousers in extreme cold).

7. Financial support, hardship, and second-hand provision

We are committed to supporting all families in accessing high-quality uniform without financial strain.

- **Second-hand uniform:** High-quality, second-hand uniform items are freely accessible to all parents throughout the year via the PTA, Friends of Corfe Hills School. Information on how to access second-hand uniform is published prominently on the school website.
- **Financial hardship:** Families experiencing financial hardship can access discrete support, including local hardship grants or uniform assistance. To request confidential assistance, please contact the relevant Student Support Manger:

- Year 9 Mrs A Dean, adean@corfehills.net
- Year 10 Miss L Vincent, lvincent@corfehills.net
- Year 11 Mrs V O'Brien, vobrien@corfehills.net

8. Non-compliance and behaviour policy

When a pupil does not adhere to the uniform policy, staff will take a supportive, considerate, and fair approach to understand the underlying reasons.

- Non-compliance due to financial hardship or family emergency will never result in immediate disciplinary sanctions. The school will offer immediate practical support, such as loaning clean items or providing access to second-hand stock.
- Where non-compliance is persistent and unrelated to financial hardship, the school will engage with parents directly to resolve the issue in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy.

9. Complaints

Disputes or concerns regarding the school uniform policy should be raised in the first instance with the relevant Head of Year: Formal complaints regarding school uniform will be handled in accordance with the school's official Complaints Policy, available on the school website.

This policy is published on the school website and reviewed annually by the Local School Committee and Initio Learning Trust Board to ensure ongoing compliance with statutory guidance, affordability standards, and community needs.