DOROTHY STRINGER SCHOOL
EDUCATION FOR LIFE

Uniform Policy

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1. Introduction

School uniform has a long and honourable record of preventing arguments about what should or should not be worn for school; our policy continues that tradition. Its main aim is simply to ensure that students come to school dressed in safe, practical, smart clothes, ready to perform at their best. All students must follow the school's uniform code. This will be enforced by all staff, both teaching and non-teaching staff.

Dorothy Stringer recognises the value of having a school uniform for the following reasons:

- **Safety** – If all the students in our school wear a clearly recognisable uniform it is easy to identify strangers. On the way to and from school it also affords a degree of safety as the students are part of a large body of young people and will look out for each other.
- **Focus on learning –** if students are in uniform, they are ready learn.
- **Preparation for the future** – Many jobs require staff to wear a uniform or follow a dress code. School uniform helps young people get used to dressing to a prescribed standard. It also helps them know the difference between formal and informal dress.
- **Value for money** – Good quality school uniform is a relatively cheap way of dressing young people for school. It makes the mornings easier – they only have to think about their uniform and not alternatives. At Stringer we believe that a school uniform should be practical for everyday use, provide value for money, and not be determined by changes in fashion or peer pressure.
- **Ready for work** – Putting on school uniform is a signal you are going to work.
- **A sense of pride** – We all feel proud of our young people when they are well dressed in Stringer uniform.

2. Roles and Responsibilities

Parent/Carers are responsible for:

- Ensuring that their child/children have the correct school uniform.
- Ensuring that their child/children wear the correct uniform to school.
- Notifying the school if for an exceptional reason their child does not have the correct uniform by supplying a written note.
- Supporting the school with any sanctions applied to address uniform infringements.

Students are responsible for:

- Adhering to the school dress code.
- Ensuring that they have a note from home if, due to exceptional circumstances, they cannot be in uniform.
- Reporting to their Form Tutor/Head of Year/Pastoral Manager if they are not in the correct uniform at the start of the school day. Where possible uniform will be loaned to them for the day.

All Staff* are responsible for:

- Monitoring students' adherence to the uniform code throughout the school day.
- Following the procedures for infringements of uniform regulations.

- Liaising with Heads of Year/Pastoral Managers to follow up uniform infringements with students and parents/carers where there are ongoing problems.

**note that facilities/admin staff are not expected to deal directly with students regarding uniform issues, but should report clear infringements to a member of the teaching staff.*

The Governing Body is responsible for ratifying this policy and supporting the Headteacher of the school in moderating and upholding the policy.

3. Sanctions

Students who are not in the correct uniform will be asked to address the issue. Where a student's uniform cannot be easily addressed in school, parents may be called so that we can open a dialogue to support the removal of any barriers to the child being in correct uniform. A clear set of sanctions are in place for students who continually fail to follow uniform expectations. Non-uniform items may be confiscated.

4. Equalities Statement

Over the past few years, we have been working towards an improved understanding of the diverse nature of our community.

The uniform policy was designed in 2022 to allow for reasonable adjustments for students with additional needs. These adjustments are agreed on a case-by-case basis.

In our school we work to ensure that there is equality of opportunity for all members of our community across a range of strands, which include: Race, Disability, Gender, Sexual Orientation, Religion and Age as well as any other factors which have the potential to cause discrimination, for example socio-economic factors.

5. Religious Observance

Items of clothing that are worn as part of a student's religious observance are permitted, but we ask that parents and carers try to accommodate the style and ethos of the school.

The uniform has been adapted to allow long sleeved polo shirts.

Students may choose to wear a black ankle-length skirt in place of the school skirt or trousers.

6. Uniform

The following is a list of the school uniform items. Any items with our school logo, and the Stringer tartan skirt, can only be purchased at LOGO Sports. All uniform should be clearly labelled with the student's name so they can be returned if found.

Compulsory Clothing

- **White polo shirt with school logo**. Black sports tops are for PE only and should not be worn as school uniform.

- **Black school sweatshirt with school logo**. Hoodies are not permitted on the school site, with the exception of leavers' hoodies worn by Year 11 students after permission has been given by the Headteacher.
- **Either:**
    - **Stringer tartan skirt** – Underlayers (underwear or shorts) should not be visible.
    - **Grey pleated school skirt** – Underlayers (underwear or shorts) should not be visible.
    - **Black school trousers** – unisex (no tracksuit bottoms, leggings, cargo pants or jeans. Trousers should not have studs or rivets). Underlayers (underwear or shorts) should not be visible.
    - **Plain black knee-length tailored shorts** (PE shorts are not permitted except for PE lessons).
- **Plain black/nude-coloured tights** and/or **plain black or white socks** and/or **plain black leggings** worn under the school skirt.
- **Plain black shoes or trainers**. No logos/motifs or other colours should be visible including the bumpers. (Knee length boots, crocs, slippers/sliders, sandals, platforms, high heels or ballet shoes are not permitted.)

Optional items

- **Underlayers:**
  White long sleeve base layers can be worn under the school polo shirt.
  A thermal base layer may be worn under trousers.
  Any underlayer worn under skirts or trousers or shorts must not have pockets.
- **Belts:**
  Plain black belts may be worn on the condition that they are thin, subtle and essential to the fit of the clothing - not used as a fashion accessory.

Sports Kit for PE lessons only (not to be worn to and from school)

- Black sports top with school logo
- Black shorts (for PE/Drama use only and not for general wear)
- Fleece lined midlayer top
- Plain black long PE/sports socks
- Suitable footwear i.e., trainers

Optional Items for PE lessons only

- Tapered tracksuit pant – plain black or with Stringer printed
- Running legging – plain black or with Stringer printed
- Rain jacket with school logo
- Black skort

Hair style

We adopt the Halo code and in this school we recognise and celebrate our students' identities.

Jewellery and make-up

The only permitted items of jewellery are:

- Small studs in pierced ears; no hoops or large decorative earrings are permitted.
- One small discreet nose stud (not ring). No tragus or cartilage piercings or stretchers. Students will be expected to remove any non-permitted piercings, this applies at all times, including the "healing" period.
- A wristwatch.
- No visible necklace.
- No other jewellery is permitted.

Minimal discreet make-up is permitted. False eyelashes and false nails (acrylic/gel/false nails) are not permitted.

Outdoor Wear

Students are expected to have a suitable coat to protect against cold and/or wet weather. These are to be worn in addition to the polo shirt and school jumper or sweatshirt. Hoodies and other non-uniform tops are not to be brought into school.

Coats and other outdoor wear are not to be worn in classrooms and hats/caps must not be worn in the school buildings.

In extremely cold weather, students may be given exceptional permission by a teacher to wear a coat in a classroom, but only if it is worn in addition to the school jumper or sweatshirt.

7. Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The school Leadership team will review this policy at least every two years and assess its implementation and effectiveness. This policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

Uniform can be purchased directly from LOGO Sports, Industrial House, Conway Street, Hove, BN3 3LW or online at https://www.logo-schoolwear.co.uk.

In cases of financial hardship, the school will review on a case-by-case basis to determine if support can be offered. Please contact our Financial Support Officer at: fso@dorothy-stringer.co.uk.