



DAWLISH
COLLEGE



Dawlish College Uniform Policy
September 2025

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.

Itemised list of 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 *Katy skort*
 - **or** Dawlish College *Olimpia leggings / ¾ 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/GREY/NAVY-BLUE (or a combination of those) **sports trainers**
 - N.B. these must be 'sports trainers' and suitable for **all** potential school activities including games and sports in PE; other 'leisure footwear' such as 'Converse', 'Crocs', 'Vans' etc. or their equivalents are not suitable and must not be worn.
- ✓ One of (**compulsory**):
 - Plain or sports-branded BLACK/WHITE/GREY/NAVY-BLUE (or a combination of those) **sports socks**
- ✓ One of (**compulsory**):
 - a plain or sports-branded BLACK/WHITE/GREY/NAVY-BLUE (or a combination of those) **rucksack/backpack-style bag**
 - N.B. the branded Joma backpack available from Stitch2Print is **optional**.
- ✓ One of (**optional**):
 - Plain or sports-branded BLACK/WHITE/GREY/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/GREY/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

- ✓ 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 (**N.B. any other non-uniform jumpers, cardigans, hoodies etc. must not be worn to school and will be confiscated**).
- ✓ Hair, make-up, nails and jewellery must be **sensible and safe** for active participation in all aspects of school life. There are no *specific* rules about individual items or styles, but:
 - 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 and complied with by the student for that activity.

✓ Please enquire about suitability *before* making any expensive or irreversible investments (e.g. trainers, bags, coats etc.).

The final decision about whether something is safe or acceptable to wear to school is always the Headteacher's.

The Uniform Policy and approved list is agreed by the Leadership Team and Local Governing Body of Dawlish College and published on the website. This is reviewed annually.

POLICY AMENDMENT RECORD

Date	Reviewed by	Nature of change	Next Review Date
08 July 2025	Sam Banks	Annual review – updated policy	As required