



RIDGEWOOD
SCHOOL

Uniform Policy 2026-2027

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1. Aims

The aim of this policy is to set out our approach to requiring a uniform that is of reasonable cost and offers the best value for money for all parents.

We will explain how we will avoid discrimination in line with our legal duties under the Equality Act 2010 and clarify our expectations for school uniform.

2. DFE Guidance

The Department for Education has stated that *"school uniform should help to build a sense of identity and community among pupils and with their school. To do this, it must be affordable. Affordability should never be a barrier to the schools for which parents apply or the activities in which children can participate... All branded items should be kept to a minimum."*

From September 2026 the Department for Education has advised that secondary schools *should limit the number of compulsory branded items of uniform and PE kit to 4 or fewer, if one is a tie.*

At Ridgewood School we have reduced this to support the cost of purchasing uniform and limited compulsory uniform items to the three identified below:

- Ridgewood School blazer.
- Ridgewood School tie – clip on tie, appropriate for correct year group.
- Ridgewood School PE polo shirt.

These items are compulsory for all students attending Ridgewood School and must be purchased from [SWI Schoolwear](#).

If parents require support in providing uniform for their child, they should contact the school directly and a member of staff will be in touch to discuss.

3. Ridgewood 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, sexual orientation, disability, race, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity, and gender reassignment.

To avoid discrimination, Ridgewood School will:

- Allow freedom to choose from the uniform items that are most suited, whilst still upholding uniform expectations.
- Make sure that our uniform costs the same for all students.
- Allow all students to have long hair, although we reserve the right to ask that long hair be tied back.
- Allow all students to style their hair in a way that is appropriate for school and makes them feel most comfortable.
- Allow students to wear headscarves and/or other religious garments.
- Allow students with sensory or physical needs to make reasonable adaptations to their uniform, depending on their specific needs.
- Allow for reasonable adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking students or their parents to contact the school directly. We will answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

4. Responsibilities Regarding School Uniform

4.1 Students

Students are expected to always wear the correct uniform (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).

4.2 Parents

Parents are expected to make sure their child has the correct uniform and PE kit, and that every item is:

- Clean.
- Clearly labelled with the child's name.
- In good condition.

Parents are also expected to contact the school if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to:

- Their child's protected characteristics.
- The cost of the uniform.

Parents are expected to lodge any complaints or objections relating to the school uniform in a timely and reasonable manner in accordance with the school's complaints policy.

4.3 Staff

Staff will closely monitor students to make sure they are in the correct uniform. They will give any students and families breaching the uniform policy the opportunity to comply but will apply sanctions when the policy is not adhered to.

In cases where it is suspected that financial hardship has resulted in a student not complying with the uniform policy, staff will take a mindful and considerate approach to resolving the situation.

4.4 Governors

The governing board will review this policy and make sure that it:

- Is appropriate for our school's context.
- Is implemented fairly across the school.
- Considers the views of parents, and students.
- Offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all students.

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.

5. School Uniform Expectations

The very high standards that we expect of our students are supported by our uniform. Most of our students rise to the challenges we set for them; to support our uniform looking professional and smart, the school consequence system will be applied accordingly and proportionately to ensure that all students always uphold the uniform expectations.

If a student arrives at school in the incorrect uniform, they will be asked to change into loan uniform, held at Students Services. If they refuse to borrow the uniform provided by Student Services, they may be asked to go home and change or spend time in the Reflection Room.

Medical evidence may be requested where appropriate. The school will consider information from parents and healthcare professionals.

5.1 School Uniform

The school uniform consists of the items listed below, which are expected to be worn by all students in accordance with this policy:

- Ridgewood School blazer.
- Ridgewood School tie – clip on tie, appropriate for correct year group.
- White shirt with traditional collar and top button (long-sleeved or short-sleeved).
- Mid grey formal trousers. Regular, fitted or tapered fit. Of sufficient length to touch the shoes, not skinny fit or cropped length.
- Grey V-neck knitted jumper (optional).
- Traditional black leather (or similar synthetic) shoes. Either patent leather or polishable. Flat soles. No trainers or trainer style shoes are permitted.
- Dark coloured coat. Must be able to be worn over the school blazer. Hooded tops/sweatshirts should not be worn as outdoor coats and therefore are not allowed in school. Coats are not permitted to be worn inside the school building.
- Socks must be black, navy or dark grey.

5.2 PE Kit

To ensure students can participate safely and comfortably in physical education, the following PE kit is required:

- Ridgewood School PE polo shirt.
- Navy blue loose-fitting shorts or skort.
- Navy blue tracksuit bottoms or navy blue leggings.
- Navy blue football socks.
- Trainers (pumps, Converse, Vans or similar are not permitted).
- Navy blue ¼ zip top or navy/sky blue reversible multisport top (optional).
- Navy blue skins/underlayers (optional).
- Moulded football boots (compulsory for football and rugby – metal studs are not permitted).
- Shin pads (compulsory for football and hockey).
- Scrum caps/mouth guards (optional).

If a student is excused from PE, they will require a note from their parent. Students are expected to bring their PE kit so that they are appropriately dressed to take on a non-active role in the lesson.

5.3 Jewellery

The following items of jewellery are permitted:

- Simple, inexpensive wristwatch (no smart watches).
- A small pair of stud earrings that are worn in the lobe of the ear. Other regions of the ear are not permitted. All piercings should take place during the school holidays when there is appropriate time for them to heal.
- Medical bracelet/necklace (medical evidence must be provided).
- No other items of jewellery are permitted in school.

5.4 Make Up

Make-up must be natural and discrete. False eyelashes in any form are not permitted.

5.5 Nails

Nails should be natural and free from polish. False nails including, clear gels, acrylics, extensions and shellac, are not permitted.

5.6 Hair

Hair must be of a natural colour and be free from lines and patterns. Hairstyles must not interfere with learning, health and safety requirement, or contain shaved words, offensive symbols, or patterns.

Hair accessories should be black, grey, white, navy, or the same as hair colour. Hair accessories that are accepted include clips, bobbles, bands, bows and beads.

Hijabs, turbans, and other religious head coverings may be worn in any style suitable for a school environment. Colours are restricted to black, grey, white and navy.

No other hair accessories are permitted.

5.7 Additional Information

Any disputes regarding interpretation of the policy may be reviewed by a member of the Leadership Team. We do hold a small stock of loan items that are available to support students in the incorrect uniform.

6. Links to Other Policies

This policy links with the policies below:

- Behaviour Policy
- Complaints Policy



Uniform Guide for Parents



RIDGEWOOD
SCHOOL

Ridgewood School Branded Items (Compulsory)

(Purchased from SWI Schoolwear)

Ridgewood School blazer



Ridgewood School tie – clip on tie, appropriate for correct year group.

- Year 7 – Purple/Grey
- Year 8 – Green/White
- Year 9 – Royal/Light Blue
- Year 10 – Navy/Petrol Blue
- Year 11 – Royal/Violet



To ensure students can participate safely and comfortably in physical education, the following PE kit is required:

- Ridgewood School PE polo shirt (from SWI)
- Navy blue loose-fitting shorts or skort
- Navy blue tracksuit bottoms or navy blue leggings
- Navy blue football socks
- Trainers (pumps, Converse, Vans or similar are not permitted)
- Navy blue ¼ zip top or navy/sky blue reversible multisport top (optional)
- Navy blue skins/underlayers (optional)



Non-Ridgewood School Branded Items
(Purchased from other uniform suppliers)

White shirt with traditional collar and top button (long-sleeved or short-sleeved)



Mid grey formal trousers.
 Regular, fitted or tapered fit. Of sufficient length to touch the shoes, not skinny fit or cropped length. Trousers must have a zip and button at the front.

[*SWI Schoolwear*](#)

Boys:

[Asda](#)

[John Lewis](#)

[Matalan](#)

[M&S](#)

[Next](#)

[Tesco](#)

Girls:

[Matalan](#)

[M&S](#)

[Next](#)

[Price &](#)

[Buckland](#)

[Trutex](#)

[Very](#)



Grey V-neck knitted jumper.

[SWI Schoolwear](#)

(this is optional)



Traditional black leather (or similar synthetic) shoes. Either patent leather or polishable. Flat soles. No trainers or trainer style shoes are permitted.



Dark coloured coat. Must be able to be worn over the school blazer. Coats must not be worn in the school buildings. Hooded tops/sweatshirts should not be worn as outdoor coats and therefore are not allowed in school.



This should be a dark coloured rucksack style bag with minimal logos. It should have capacity for a PE kit, student planner, A4 workbooks and equipment.

