

February 2026

## Uniform update following consultation

Dear Families,

In July 2025 we asked for your feedback regarding our current uniform policy. We received a huge number of responses - almost 500 in total - giving your views. In this letter I would like to summarise the responses to that consultation, and the changes we will be making as a result.

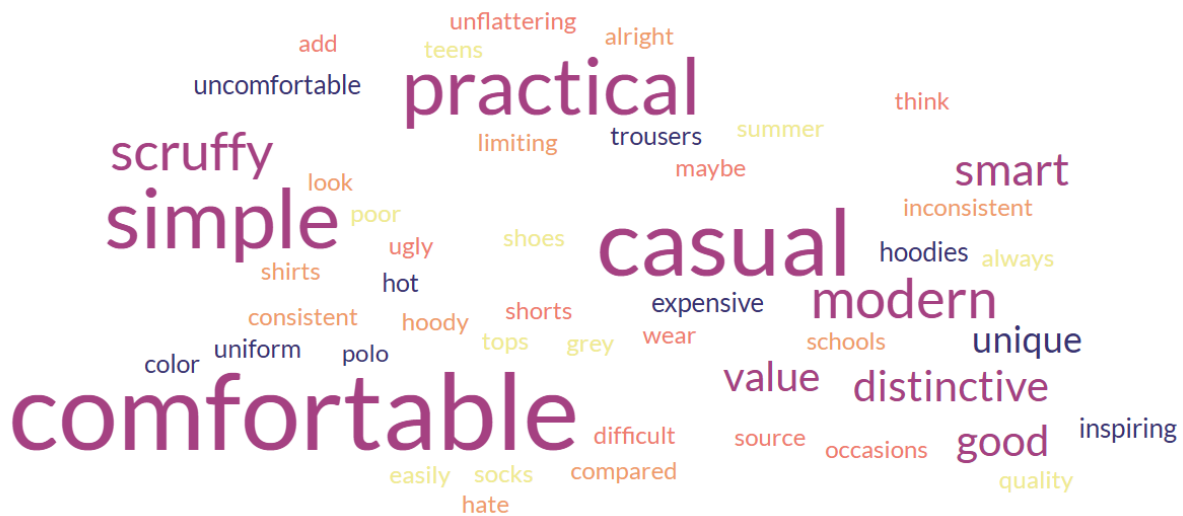
### Your feedback

We asked you “**what is important to you in a uniform?**”

Your responses are summarised in this word cloud:



We then asked you **“how would you describe our current uniform?”**  
Your responses are summarised below:



## Summary

We then asked whether you felt we should make changes to our uniform.

There was no widespread support for a move to blazers and ties. Many of you responded that these were outdated, and ties were not required in most workplaces - including in professional environments. Some families expressed that they had chosen Churchill precisely *because* we take a more practical and modern approach to uniform.

Similarly, there was almost no support for abandoning our uniform altogether. Most respondents felt that a uniform was important to give the Academy a clear identity, for simplicity, and to level the playing field for students.

The vast majority of respondents were happy with most of our uniform items, with some strong views expressed around specific elements. 73% of respondents were in favour of some small changes. Opinions varied dramatically about what those changes should be, with a wide spectrum of views expressed.

We have spent a long time considering the feedback and working with our uniform suppliers, in light of the forthcoming Children's, Wellbeing and Schools Bill. Our conclusions are laid out below.

## No change

There will be **no change** to the following items of uniform:

- **Polo shirts:** Maroon School Uniform Polo Shirt with House Colour Trim and School Logo (required branded item)
- **Socks:** black socks only
- **Shoes:** Plain black flat polishable shoes. Must be all black, with no coloured logos or flashes. Shoes should enclose and protect toes and heels for health and safety reasons. Boots, canvas or fabric shoes or trainers are not allowed. Air Force or similar plain black trainers with uppers that are “polishable” are acceptable as school shoes, as are any plain black polishable shoes. Trainers with fabric uppers, or trainers with white or coloured logos or flashes, are not acceptable.
- **Hair colour and style:** hair should be a natural colour. Extreme hair styles are not acceptable (for example very short hair or hair with designs cut in). Please check with the Academy beforehand if you are unsure. The decision of Academy staff on the definition of “extreme” and “natural” will be final.
- **Jewellery:** students are permitted a watch and a ring. Piercings in the ear and/or nose must be studs only for health and safety reasons. Hoops, rings, dangly, spiked, chain link or spacer style earrings or nose piercings are not permitted. No other piercings are allowed (e.g. tongue or other parts of the body). All piercings must be removed or covered with a plaster when taking part in PE or Dance. Bracelets and anklets should not be worn. Necklaces should be tucked inside the uniform. All watches of any kind must be removed during exams.
- **Make up:** make up is not permitted in Years 7 or 8. In Years 9-11 make up, if worn, should be discreet. Nail varnish, false nails and false eyelashes are not permitted.
- **Dance and PE kit:** no change to current arrangements - see <https://www.churchill-academy.org/uniform>.

## Uniform changes

The following changes will be phased in over the period 2026-2030. This means that current uniform items will still be acceptable as uniform until the 2029-2030 academic year. Families can still purchase stock of existing uniform items from our suppliers, get full wear out of them, and benefit from second-hand and hand-me-down uniform items over this period.

## Trousers

### You said:

- Charcoal grey is harder to find and purchase
- Black is preferred, especially by students
- We should allow tailored shorts in hot weather

### Our response:

- Black school trousers will be permitted as uniform **with immediate effect**
- Black tailored shorts will also be permitted
- Leggings and joggers are **not** permitted as part of uniform. Students in leggings or joggers will be held in Refocus until they are in the correct uniform.

## Hoodies

### You said:

- Hoodies look scruffy
- They are not waterproof and students wear them instead of coats
- Why do we have a uniform item with a hood when you can't wear the hood up?

### Our response:

- Hoodies will be phased out over the coming years
- The existing ¾ zip top will replace the hoodie as a branded item of uniform
- Students will need a plain coat to wear for school in cold weather.
- Non-school hoodies are not permitted
- Year 11 "class of" light grey hoodies will remain for Year 11 students only

For the avoidance of doubt, these changes will be phased in over time. Existing charcoal grey trousers and Academy hoodies will be acceptable to wear as uniform up to and including the 2029-30 academic year. Existing stock of these items can still be purchased from our suppliers and worn throughout this time, but these items will not be re-stocked.

## Branded items

The government's Children's, Wellbeing and Schools Bill places a legal limit on the number of compulsory items of branded uniform that schools can require. The aim of this legislation is to keep costs low for families.

Once this bill becomes law, schools will only be able to require three items of branded uniform.

We have always been mindful of the cost of uniform, and attempted to keep the number of branded items that are required to a minimum. With the changes outlined above, students will be required to have the following three branded items:

1. Maroon school uniform polo shirt with house colour trim and school logo
2. Academy ¾ zip top OR Academy hoodies (House PE hoodies, Maroon Academy hoodies, or Grey Year 11 hoodies)
3. PE kit black polo shirt with house colour panel and logo

Other branded items will remain available, but will not be required (e.g. PE shorts, PE leggings etc).

## Second hand uniform

We welcome donations of second-hand uniform items in good condition, especially trousers, polo shirts and hoodies. These items are useful to help students in need. We are also holding second-hand uniform sales at our main school parents' evenings, with items on sale for £2 (polo shirts and trousers) and £5 (hoodies). If you have any outgrown uniform in good condition, please drop it off at reception.

## Uniform compliance

- Students who do not conform to our expectations will be challenged and we hope to receive the support of families in sorting things out quickly.
- If a student has a piercing that is not allowed at the Academy, they will be asked to take it out (regardless of whether it is new). It is especially important that families support us with our stance on piercings; if parents have allowed a piercing to take place which is not permitted as part of the Academy's uniform expectations, this can cause unnecessary issues between the Academy and our students.
- If the problem is not rectified, students will be educated in isolation from their peers. Whilst the Academy will do our best to keep progress moving, isolation for any length of time is likely to undermine such progress.

We thank families for supporting us with proper uniform.

## In conclusion

We hope that the changes we are making will ensure our uniform remains modern and up to date, whilst retaining the practicality, comfort and simplicity that you told us you valued. The Academy's website has been updated to reflect these changes. Our uniform suppliers - Deane's of Cheddar, and NK Schoolwear of Worle - have been working with us throughout this process and will assist families with any enquiries.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Hildrew', with a long, sweeping horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chris Hildrew  
Headteacher