



July 2021

Dear Parents/Carers, Students, Staff and Governors,

Proposals to Change the School Uniform

I am writing to advise you that the school is consulting on potential changes to the school uniform from September 2022.

Why do we have a school uniform?

Our school uniform plays an important part in communicating our school ethos and expectations. Wearing a uniform is a badge of pride; it helps to build a sense of community within our school and gives students a sense of belonging and creates an identity for our school in the community. Wearing the school uniform correctly demonstrates a student's respect for our school, our values and ethos and for others, and supports a positive climate for learning. It teaches students to take pride in their appearance and creates an inclusive atmosphere because it doesn't differentiate students by background.

Why are we consulting about our uniform?

In many ways, our uniform is fit for purpose. The uniform is practical for an open site, it is easy to get right, it is easy to clean and it is comfortable and affordable.

However, currently there are some inconsistencies in the trousers and shoes that are worn and that, in part, is due to a wide range of commercially available black trousers and shoes. Many of these are considered 'fashionable' and are not appropriate for school because the fit is too tight, or a designer label shows a disparity between those that can afford those shoes, and those that cannot. The continuum of styles means that conversations about uniform are becoming too frequent and can detract from a student's focus on learning.

Furthermore, it is important to engage with our community periodically to seek views. Some students in school may like to explore the idea of a blazer for example, because they see it as practical, or smart. Others may consider that the current uniform is fine and suits our purposes. A consultation allows us to gather together those thoughts and make the best decision for the school moving forwards, referencing them clearly in our decisions.



A founding member of the Two Counties Trust. Company Registration Number 07972029

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SwanwickHall

How might proposed uniform changes promote positive relationships?

Introducing a change to the uniform with consistency to the trousers and shoes removes any grey areas and therefore any potential for conflict. This allows teachers and students to concentrate on what is important - teaching and learning. Furthermore, students knowing that they have been part of the change process ensures that they feel that their voice has been heard.

Alongside consideration on any proposed uniform change, there must be consideration made as to how any change is introduced. To this end we will ensure that, following the closure of the consultation, the final uniform for September 2022 will be announced to students and parents and carers before Christmas so that any buying decisions over the remainder of the year are informed.

It is also essential that we look at the affordability of any change for parents and carers. We have provided indicative prices for the proposals outlined, though these prices do not necessarily reflect the actual price parents and carers may be charged. We will work closely with suppliers and The Two Counties Trust to ensure that best value is obtained.

We value constructive feedback on our proposals and the consultation is open until the end of the first autumn half term in October. This extended time frame ensures that all parents and carers of existing and potential new students have a chance to reflect on our proposals throughout the summer-autumn period when the majority of uniform is being purchased. You will also see attached a document which details our uniform policy for the intervening period. We have added some clarification in light of much recent media coverage around the protection of children as children and the maintenance of childhood experience.

The consultation and link to the Google Feedback Form can be found on the school website under Latest News and regular reminders, with a link to the page, will be sent out on the school app and the school's Facebook page between now and the closure of the consultation on **Friday 22nd October 2021**. We will reflect on all consultation feedback received and, following consultation with governors, will share the outcome before Christmas.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Worrall', written in a cursive style.

Mr S Worrall
Deputy Headteacher (Inclusion)

Swanwick Hall School Student Uniform 2021-22

It is a condition of attending the school that students conform to the school dress requirements. Students who attend school incorrectly dressed will not be allowed to attend lessons unless they arrange to have the correct uniform brought from home or agree to wear uniform provided by the school.

- Swanwick Hall School polo shirt or any plain white school type shirt with a collar. PE polo shirts should only be worn for PE lessons.
- Swanwick Hall School sweatshirt or Swanwick Hall School cardigan
- Plain Black traditional formal school type trousers or skirt of a suitable length for school (from knee to mid-calf length). Trousers must be loose fitting and must not be chinos, jeans; leggings; no fashion zips, buckles or studs. The school provides examples of where appropriate trousers can be purchased on our website.
- Alternatively, students are permitted to wear black culottes or black school shorts. Shorts should be tailored (not P.E or cargo-style shorts) and knee-length. Formal shorts usually have a zip, two front pockets and loop holes for a belt.
- A plain black belt if required. Wide 'fashion belts' and belts with studs are not allowed.
- Plain black school type polishable shoes or plain black polishable ankle boots which must be worn to and from school as well as in school. Trousers are not to be tucked into ankle boots. **(From September 2022, formal school shoes only will be permitted – this obvious change given the expensive nature of our current most popular shoe, is announced early to ensure that families do not waste their money on expensive labelled footwear. We must commit to a uniform that is accessible to our whole community.)**
- For safety and security reasons no jewellery (including rings, wrist and neck bands etc.) is allowed other than one watch (not Smart watch) and one small stud per ear. No further piercings are allowed.
- Caps, hats and any other type of head covering should only be worn in either cold or sunny weather for relevant protection, not as fashion items and never inside any buildings

NOTES

- Non-uniform items, including jewellery, will be confiscated and returned at the end of the day. For any subsequent issue, parents and carers will be required to collect the item(s) from Progress and Achievement Managers.
- Non-uniform items are not to be worn under sweatshirts even if they are not visible.
- We insist on 'sensible' shoes as many 'fashion' shoes are uncomfortable when worn for long periods and are liable to damage young feet and ankles. Given the nature of the site, shoes with a rubber sole are usually more sensible.
- Non-uniform tops covering the school uniform are not allowed. Hoodies, sweat tops and jumpers are not classed as coats in our school policy. Coats should be waterproof.
- Any makeup must be discreet and students are not permitted to wear false eyelashes.
- Non-natural hair colours are not permitted. Home hair dying is discouraged so that any errors do not affect learning time.
- False nails or excessively long nails are not acceptable. Nail Varnish is not permitted.

If a parent or student is unsure about any purchase and how it will fit in with our uniform expectations, please do speak to a Progress and Achievement Manager in school who will be able to clarify. The Deputy Headteacher for Inclusion will remain the final arbiter should there be any issue with uniform.