

## **Frequently Asked Questions - Uniform**

### ***Why do we have to wear a uniform at Woodlands?***

At Woodlands we understand that students grow at different rates over their time with us, especially as we serve students from ages 11 through to 18 years of age. We also understand that students want to feel as comfortable as possible during the school day. As a school, we take this into consideration when deciding on the best uniform and the options students have regarding what they can wear.

Our three main aims at Woodlands are:

1. Students have a collective identity and pride about being part of the Woodlands community.
2. Students are part of and represent a professional, working environment with high standards and this is transferred into the wider community beyond school.
3. Students of all economic backgrounds are able to thrive in the same environment without the worry of looking different to their peers.

### ***What do I do if I need support to buy uniform?***

At Woodlands, we have considered the cost of uniform and PE kit and have moved to non-logo'd items as much as possible, without removing our collective identity completely. However, we totally understand that uniform is expensive and will do what we can to support families in this situation. Please contact [finance.support@woodlands.derby.sch.uk](mailto:finance.support@woodlands.derby.sch.uk) if you require further support.

### ***What type of skirt can I wear for school?***

At Woodlands we have considered the different types of skirts students like to wear for school. When making these decisions, we have thought about cost, durability and personal preference as much as possible. With this in mind, we have moved away from a specific school skirt with a logo to a much more open choice of skirt. For guidance on what types of skirts are suitable, follow this [link](#)

As a school, we do not permit the Lycra/jersey style stretchy band skirts. The reason for this decision is that these types of skirts are often sold in varying degrees of quality and when this material is stretched, the material can become transparent. This becomes more of a problem in the summer months when students may choose not to wear tights. Lycra/jersey style band skirts are also much more likely to pull up during the day as they are stretchy.

### ***What type of trousers can I wear for school?***

At Woodlands we have considered the different types of trousers different students like to wear. As long as these are black and are not leggings, most types of trousers can be worn providing they present a smart standard of clothing.

For the same reason as the Lycra/jersey style skirt, we do not permit the wearing of leggings at Woodlands. Again, they come in a variety of different qualities that when stretched can become transparent. Leggings are also associated with dress down wear that does not have the high standards of smartness we would like to be presented.

### ***Where can I find guidance on what type of uniform I can purchase and where from?***

Our uniform policy is on our website and there are also recommended skirts and trousers that can be purchased from a variety of establishments. In terms of the blazer and ties, these can be purchased from our uniform shop at Morleys. Morleys also sell two options of school skirt that we recommended but you are also welcome to purchase items elsewhere as long as these follow our uniform policy.

### ***Why do I have to wear a blazer for school?***

In relation to our three main aims, the Blazer, along with our school ties, represent our school identity. We want students to wear their uniform with pride that they are part of our school community. Students are allowed to take their blazers off in the classroom if they wish but we want students to have these on

when walking about the site and to and from school. Equally, when students are outside during lunch and break times, they can remove their blazers.

In the summer months, we keep a track of the weather and make decisions about blazers when it may get too hot to wear one – this will be communicated with students and parents at the time where required. Likewise, in the colder months students may wish to wear a plain black jumper underneath their blazer to keep warm, this must be plain black with no logos and can be round or v-necked; hoodies are not permitted in school.

### ***What jewellery can I wear?***

All students can wear a pair of studs in the ear and we permit the wearing of a plastic retainer stud if a student has a nose piercing – students are not allowed to wear hooped earrings and metal nose studs or hoops for safety reasons.

When students take part in PE, all students must remove all piercings (including plastic retainers), this is for health and safety reasons. Students need to avoid having new piercings close to a return to school from the holidays with this in mind, so that they can be removed for these activities.

### ***What footwear can I wear for school?***

At Woodlands we have considered the different types of footwear different students like to wear and find most comfortable. Students can therefore wear black formal school shoes or lace-up/Velcro style shoes that may have an appearance of a trainer. We have made this decision because students complete a variety of activities at lunch time such as playing football or basketball, and we accept that certain styles of shoe are more durable and comfortable than others. We do not permit any trainers that are a sports style trainer or are a different colour to black as these are associated with dress down wear that do not have the high standards of smartness we would like to be presented.

### ***What do I do if my shoes break and I am waiting for new ones to arrive?***

At Woodlands we totally accept these things happen! If this does happen, students are permitted to wear suitable footwear that might not be exactly to our policy standards – we do encourage that these are black as much as possible. This must be accompanied by a note from a parent or guardian to explain the situation. Your child's form tutor will then sign their uniform card with a date it will be resolved by. We do, however, expect that this to be resolved as quickly as possible.

### ***What happens if I have a medical condition or temporary medical situation that means I can't wear my full uniform?***

At Woodlands we will always support students in this situation. Please contact the school if this applies to you.

### ***What happens if my uniform isn't correct?***

At Woodlands all our students carry a uniform card, this is so staff can pick up students who are not wearing their uniform in a way that presents a smart and professional standard. Unless there is an agreed reason for this, a student will have their card signed. In the large majority of cases these cards will never have to be presented to a member of staff. However, if a student gets three uniform marks on their card, this will result in an after-school detention. If a child refuses to follow our uniform policy longer term this will result in us following our behaviour policy with regard to further sanctions.

### ***What if I need to talk to someone about uniform adaptations due to protected characteristics or religious reasons?***

If you would like to talk to someone specifically to discuss anything further about uniform, please contact your child's form tutor, Head of Year or a member of the SEND team (where this applies).