



Collingwood College
Kingston Road
Camberley
Surrey GU15 4AE

08 May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to share important information about our College uniform, following the release of updated statutory guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) and extensive feedback gathered from our recent uniform surveys from all stakeholders.

1. Background: New DfE Requirements for September 2026

The DfE has published updated statutory guidance on school uniform costs, which includes a new legal limit on the number of **compulsory branded items** that schools may require from September 2026. Under the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill, **secondary schools will be permitted a maximum of four branded items**, provided one of those items is a tie. Schools are strongly advised to prepare and update their uniform policies now in readiness for this change.

This guidance aims to ensure uniform remains **affordable, accessible from multiple retailers**, and offers the **best value for families** while still supporting a sense of identity and belonging.

2. What You Told Us: Key Survey Themes

Thank you to the many parents and carers who responded to our uniform consultation where your feedback has been very helpful. The most common messages we heard were:

- Uniform costs should be kept as low as possible.
- There are too many branded items, particularly in the PE kit.
- White polo shirts are expensive, poor quality, stain easily, and require frequent replacement.
- Strong concerns around skirt length and a desire for better consistency and smarter appearance.
- Requests for one uniform sweatshirt across year groups, rather than separate colours.
- Many parents asked for a smarter look, including shirt, tie, blazer and/or a more structured sweatshirt/jumper.
- Some parents said the current uniform is comfortable but would welcome better quality and more durable items.

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3. Our Updated Uniform for September 2026

Following DfE guidance and stakeholder feedback, the following uniform changes for **September 2026** are:

✓ A single, consistent sweatshirt for all year groups

- **One branded navy-blue V-neck sweatshirt** for Years 7–11
 - This removes the previous light blue/black sweatshirts split.
 - Counts as **one branded item**.
 - Responds to requests for a smarter, better-quality V-neck sweatshirt and a unified look across the College.

✓ Introduction of a white shirt and College tie for all students

- This replaces the current white polo shirt.
- Shirts are **widely available** and affordable from other retailers such as supermarkets.
- The **tie becomes the second branded item**, permissible under DfE rules (secondary schools may require four branded items if one is a tie)

✓ Reduction in branded items overall

- No requirement for branded skirts or trousers
- PE kit will be simplified and limited to **two branded items PE top and PE shorts**, where students can wear plain black tracksuit /jogging bottoms or black sports leggings. (Not cotton)
- This aligns with the mandatory reduction in branded items expected from September 2026 to ensure affordability.

✓ Clearer expectations around skirt length and trouser options

- We will update guidance to ensure a **consistent and appropriate skirt length**.
- Girls may continue to wear trousers but in line with College policy (straight legged)
- Tailored shorts may continue to be worn.

4. Why These Changes Are Necessary

These updates allow us to:

- Fully comply with **DfE statutory requirements** on uniform costs
- Reduce the overall spend for families by minimising branded items to almost half the cost.
- To align to our vision of the 'Collingwood Way' as an inclusive College
- Respond meaningfully to your feedback about cost, quality, skirt length, and smartness.
- Ensure our uniform is **affordable** whilst maintaining high standards.

Revised Uniform Expectations (See uniform appendix)

College Uniform branded items

- One branded **navy-blue V-neck sweatshirt** to be worn in Years 7-11.
- A branded tie (KS3 and KS4 tie)

PE Kit

- Branded PE polo shirt
- Branded PE shorts

All other items, including shirts, tailored shorts, trousers and skirts may be purchased from **any retailer**, provided they meet the College's colour and style requirements.

All branded items will be available from Trutex Direct and Brenda's; however, **from June 2026** both suppliers will no longer supply blue or black sweatshirts. Brenda's can place special orders for blue or black sweatshirts, please note these sweatshirts will be non-returnable.

Furthermore, I appreciate that some students have sensory sensitivities that make standard school uniforms uncomfortable, especially due to seams, stiff collars, scratchy fabrics, or tight fastenings. To support these students, the College recommend **sensory-friendly uniform options**, such as soft-fabric shirts, tag-free designs, flat seams, and Velcro-fastening shirts. Marks & Spencer offers "easy dressing" shirts designed with the National Autistic Society to meet these needs, and ASDA's "Easy On Easy Wear" range also provides soft-seamed, easy-close uniform items.

Summer Term Option

During the summer term, students may choose to wear the branded polo shirt with the College logo instead of a shirt and tie. This is **entirely optional** and is intended to support comfort during warmer weather otherwise students **must** wear the shirt and Collingwood tie.

5. Timeline & Support for Families

To support families and allow time to plan, the new uniform policy will be introduced in phases:

From September 2026

- All students joining the College in Year 7
- Students in Year 10 **must wear** new navy v neck sweatshirt with the shirt and tie.

Transition Period is September 2026 – July 2027

- Year 11 to continue to wear the current uniform (black sweatshirt and polo shirt)
- Students in all other year groups that is Year 8 & 9 may continue to wear the current uniform but **can transition** to the new uniform during this period.
- For one year only there will be a mixed economy with the College uniform to allow for this transition where students can wear the new v neck sweatshirt with a shirt and tie. Students **are not allowed** to wear just a shirt without the Collingwood tie.

From September 2027

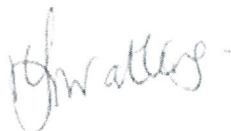
- All students must fully adhere to the new uniform policy by September 2027.
- Second-hand sales will be expanded to support families and reduce costs, as encouraged in the DfE guidance by the CCFA.

The summary of the timeline for the introduction of the new uniform is below:

June 26	New Sweatshirts can be purchased and worn with polo shirt for summer term only.
Sept 26	Year 7 & 10 in new uniform
	Years 8 & 9 can make transition to new uniform
	Year 11 in current uniform black sweatshirt and polo shirt
Sept 27	All year groups in new uniform with shirt and tie

























Thank you once again for your honest, constructive, and thoughtful feedback. We believe these exciting changes balance affordability with a smarter, more unified appearance that reflects the pride we have in our Collingwood College community.

Yours sincerely,













Miss K Watling
Principal.

Collingwood College Uniform Guidelines (2026-27)

Acceptable Uniform Items	Details	Unacceptable Uniform Items
 	<p>Trousers/Shorts</p> <p>Black, smart tailored style: plain. No cord, jean or legging style material.</p> <p>No extreme tightness.</p>	 
 	<p>Skirt</p> <p>College type from advised sources. Box pleated. No higher than fingertips as it hangs from the waist.</p> <p>No extremes of length/tightness</p>	 
 	<p>Formal Shirt (with College Tie)</p> <p>(Year 7 and 10 compulsory) Optional for 8/9</p> <p>Any formal plain white shirt No logos or branded shirts</p>	 
 	<p>Polo Shirt</p> <p>(Year 8/9/11 or Year 7/10 as Summer Uniform)</p> <p>College polo shirt available from Brenda's or Trutex Direct with logo.</p> <p>No plain polos</p>	 
 	<p>College V Neck Sweatshirt</p> <p>(Year 7/10 Compulsory – Year 8/9 optional) Must be worn with the appropriate tie.</p> <p>V Neck College Sweatshirt available from Brenda's or Trutex Direct</p> <p>No plain sweatshirts or hoodies</p>	 
 	<p>College Sweatshirt</p> <p>College sweatshirts are no longer available from Brenda's or Trutex Direct. Brenda's can place special orders for blue or black sweatshirts, please note these sweatshirts will be non-returnable. Alternatively, you can acquire one from the CCFA's Preloved Uniform shop Blue – Year 8/9. Black – Year 11.</p> <p>No plain hoodies or sweatshirts.</p>	 

 	<p align="center">Shoes, socks and tights.</p> <p>Plain black leather style (no tags, air bubbles) Must be able to be polished. Black socks, black/natural tights</p> <p align="center">No boots, fabric footwear or sandals</p>	 
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Acceptable Uniform Items	Details	Unacceptable Uniform Items
 	<p align="center">Jewellery</p> <p>Only 1 stud/sleeper per ear</p> <p>No nose studs/rings, belly-button</p> <p>One ring per hand</p>	  
 	<p align="center">Make-Up & Hair</p> <p>Discreet make-up is allowed in Years 9-11</p> <p>No nail polishes.</p> <p>No artificial aspects – nails or lashes.</p> <p>No extreme hairstyles or colours</p>	  
 	<p align="center">Bags</p> <p>All bags should be two-handed rucksacks.</p> <p>No over the shoulder (man-bags), tote/handbags</p>	   

- Please also note the following points:
- All outdoor clothing should be removed when inside classrooms.
 - Any uniform issues require a note from the parent/carer – the relevant YM will issue a note informing staff.
 - Uniform issues may result in students spending time out of circulation until the issue can be resolved or remedied.
 - All students must bring their Super 7 on a daily basis. ID Badge, Pen, Pencil, Ruler, Eraser, Calculator and a different coloured pen.