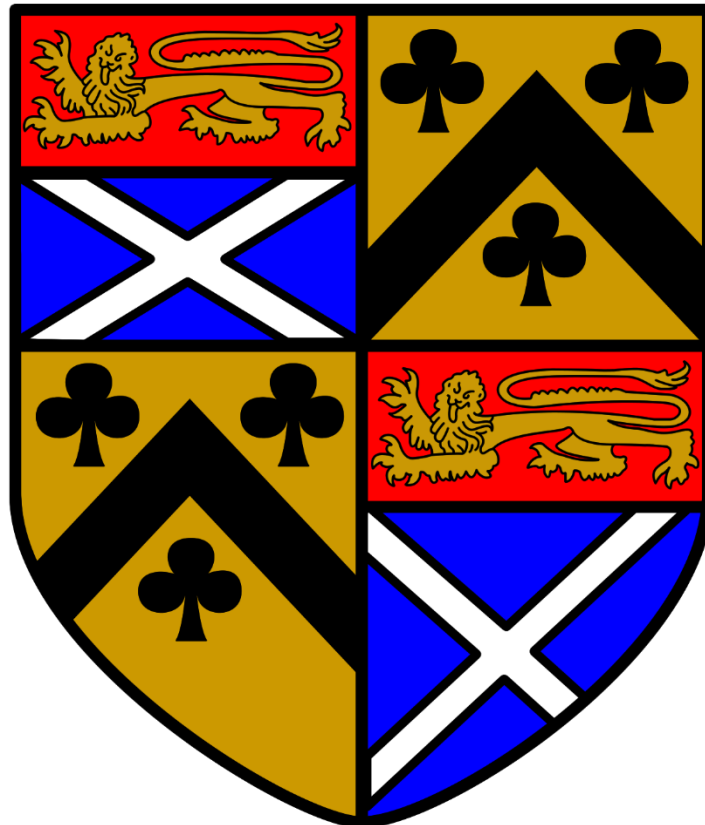


Rochester Grammar School

Uniform Policy



This policy was adopted on	September 2023
The policy is to be reviewed on	June 2025

Contents:

Aims	1
Limiting the cost of school uniform	2
Expectations for school uniform	3.1
Where to purchase uniform	3.2
Expectations for our school community	4.1
Parents and carers	4.2
Staff	4.3
School governors	4.4
Monitoring arrangements	5
Our legal duty under the Equality Act 2010	6
Links with other policies	7

Introduction

At Rochester Grammar School student pride themselves on being respectable, smart, and well-presented learners who show pride in being members of the RGS school community. It is our school policy that all students wear their school uniform when attending school, or when participating in school organised events such as educational visits or sporting competitions unless parents/carers are informed otherwise. We ask that students wear a school blazer with the RGS logo, a school jumper, blouse and RGS tartan kilt/or navy full length tailored trousers.

Our uniform standards are high and our uniform is both inclusive and smart. We expect parents/carers to ensure that students arrive to school in correct uniform. We uphold strict standards to ensure every student attends an equal and fair school environment, this supports us to ensure that appearance does not advantage or disadvantage any child based on fashion choices, socio-economic background, weather or body shape/size.

Some items of uniform can be bought from our uniform supplier, whilst others are easily available, at very competitive prices, at local retailers including supermarkets. A complete list of the items needed for school uniform including those for Physical Education, is contained within this policy.

1. Aims

Our uniform identifies us as a community and reinforces our culture of high expectations and academic achievement. All students are expected to dress in full school uniform at all times.

This policy aims to:

- Set out our approach to requiring a uniform that is of reasonable cost and offers the best value for money for parents and carers
- Explain how we will avoid discrimination in line with our legal duties under the Equality Act 2010
- Clarify our expectations for school uniform

2. Limiting the cost of school uniform

Our school has a duty to make sure that the uniform we require is affordable, in line with statutory guidance from the Department for Education on the cost of school uniform.

We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that have to have a school logo or a unique fabric/colour/design) cannot be purchased from a wide range of retailers and that requiring many such items limits parents' ability to 'shop around' for a low price.

Therefore, we have carefully considered the expectations for uniform and have considered the following:

We will make sure our uniform:

- Is available at a reasonable cost
- Provides the best value for money for parents/carers

We will do this by:

- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary
- Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics where possible

- Considering cheaper alternatives to school-branded items as long as this doesn't compromise quality and durability
- Avoiding specific requirements for items so pupils could also wear at the weekends and in the school holidays such as coats, bags and shoes
- Keeping the number of optional branded items to a minimum, so that the school's uniform can act as a social leveller
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents to acquire second-hand uniform items
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents of any changes
- Consulting with parents and pupils on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy such as change of colour or a significant increase in cost
- Regularly reviewing our agreements with our uniform suppliers to ensure best value for money

Where a student is in receipt of Pupil Premium funding, additional support for providing new uniform on joining in Year 7, or as an In-Year Admission, can be requested to the Pupil Premium lead – Mr Dan Lloyd – d.lloyd1@tsatrust.org.uk . Please note that support for uniform is provided at the discretion of the school on a case by case basis, and is not always guaranteed.

3.1 Expectations for school uniform

Our school's uniform

All clothing should be clearly labelled with the child's name.








★ Items that are starred are **compulsory** to have, and must be purchased from our uniform supplier.


☀ These items are **compulsory** for students to have, and can be purchased from either our uniform supplier or from high street retailers such as supermarkets.

★ These items are optional extras that parents can choose to purchase, but they must follow the expectations set, such as colour and size, set out below.







To support parents and carers with choosing suitable items, we have provided links to our supplier's website for examples of what is acceptable attire as a guide.



Item	Description	★ / ☀ / ★
Blazer	Navy RGS Blazer with badge. (The House Flash is optional.)	★
Kilt	Tartan knee length kilt.	★
Blouses	Blue school blouse with reverse collar. (The RGS logo on collar is optional)	★

Trousers	Optional as an alternative to wearing the kilt - Navy blue straight leg full length tailored trousers – no casual style, tight fitting or lycra material.	
For Year 10 only from Term 6 onwards – Navy Skirt	Navy blue knee length pencil skirt with RGS embroidered on waist band Students may continue to wear the tartan kilt or navy blue straight leg and full length tailored trousers into Year 11 should they wish	
Jumper	Navy blue jumper with the RGS logo	
School Lanyard	These will be issued for each student when joining in Year 7. If lost, additional lanyard/passes can be purchased through student services. All students are expected to wear these when in school, at all times.	School supplied
Socks/tights	Plain white ankle socks (no branding or frill), or black/nude tights	
Shoes	Plain flat black formal shoes (no visible logos, no boots, no sandals, no trainers or canvas shoes allowed)	
Head coverings	These may be worn as appropriate for religious reasons – and should be plain in colour – black, dark grey or navy. Caps, durags and bandanas are not permitted.	n/a
Bags	A suitable back pack that allows students to carry all necessary books and equipment with them throughout the school day. Handbags are not therefore suitable.	
Hats, scarves, gloves	These should be dark in colour and stored in either bags or a locker during the school day and should not be worn in the school buildings	
Watches/Jewellery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One pair of small plain studs in the ear lobe. No other piercings are permitted. If a student wears any non-permitted piercing to school, they will be asked to remove it. • All jewellery must be taken out before any practical activity. Covering the piercing with tape etc. is not permitted the item must be removed. • A small religious symbol may be worn on a necklace and should be no bigger than a 20p piece. This should be worn under clothing. If there is a specific religious item that is required to be worn elsewhere on your person, this 	n/a











	<p>should be discussed with the student's Head of Year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A watch. If a smart watch is worn, then it cannot be used for any other purpose than to tell the time. If used in any other way, then there will be a sanction given and it will be confiscated. 	
Hair	<p>The colour of a student's hair must be a natural tone (black, brown, auburn, blonde or grey). Unnatural colours are not permitted – this includes but is not limited to blue, pink, purple, bright red and green. Hair beads can be worn but should all be of the same colour.</p> <p>Students must have hair tied back for PE lessons.</p>	n/a
Other	<p>Lunchboxes should be named and stored in school bag/locker. Water bottles should be named.</p>	n/a
Miscellaneous Equipment	<p>Please note the expectation for students to bring the following equipment daily to support their learning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black writing pens • Blue writing pens • Green writing pens • Coloured pencils • Maths set to include set square, protractor and compass • Calculator • Eraser and pencil sharpener • Ruler (30 cm) • Pencil case (large enough for all of the above) – please note separate requirements for examinations where this must be transparent 	

PE Kit (September 2022 cohort onwards)

Item	Description	 /  / 
PE Top	Navy & royal blue track top with RGS badge Navy & royal blue PE shirt with RGS badge	
Shorts	Navy & royal blue skort / PE shorts	
Tracksuit	Navy tracksuit bottoms with white trim with RGS badge	

Footwear	Predominantly white training shoes with non-marking soles. Trainers must be suitable for physical activity, in all weathers. Fashion trainers (such as Converse or Vans) are not permitted. White ankle socks / knee length navy blue socks.	
PE bags	A suitable waterproof drawstring bag	

PE Kit for students admitted to RGS prior to September 2022

Item	Description	 /  / 
PE Top	House polo shirt – house name embroidered in black (Hildegard embroidery will be white) Plain white T-shirt with collar	 
Shorts	Navy Blue Shorts Navy blue PE skort	 
Tracksuit	RGS blue sweatshirt and plain navy-blue jogging trousers for PE	
Footwear	Predominantly white training shoes with non-marking soles. Trainers must be suitable for physical activity, in all weathers. Fashion trainers (such as Converse or Vans) are not permitted. White ankle socks / knee length navy blue socks.	
PE bags	A waterproof drawstring bag	


3.2. Where to purchase uniform

- Uniform can be purchased from our uniform supplier via their website [Rochester Grammar School \(simmonds-ltd.com\)](https://www.rockesthergrammarschool.com)

Or parents and carers can visit their shop at the following locations:

MAIDSTONE SHOP
Newnham Court
Bearsted Road
Maidstone
Kent ME14 5LH

CHATHAM DOCKSIDE SHOP
Maritime Way
Chatham Maritime
Chatham
Kent ME4 3ED

- Parents and carers can obtain all items marked with a  from our uniform supplier or from high street retailers such as supermarkets
- A number of second-hand items are available through the school, please email the school office for more information.
- Where parents are experiencing financial difficulties and require support with purchasing the school uniform, please contact the school office and ask to speak with the DSL – Mrs Eades.
- As students grow out of their uniform we welcome donations of uniform to continue to support all of our students to wear the correct school uniform – please hand any washed unwanted items to the school office. Thank you in advance for your support.

4.1 Expectations for our school community

4.1 Students

Students are expected to wear the correct uniform at all times (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)
- Pupils are also expected to contact the Principal if they wish to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics.

4.2 Parents and carers

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

- Clean
- Clearly labelled with your child's name
- Kept in good condition

Parents are also expected to contact the Principal, in writing, 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 and in accordance with our published complaints policy.

4.3 Staff

- Staff will closely monitor pupils to make sure pupils are in correct uniform. They will give any pupils and families breaching the uniform policy the opportunity to comply, however any persistent disregard for the policy will result in a formal meeting with parents and possible sanctions in line with the school behaviour policy.

- Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will result in the behaviour policy being applied and on occasions the child will be given the correct uniform (from the second-hand reserves) and expected to change into what it provided
- In cases where it is suspected that financial hardship has resulted in a pupil not complying with this uniform policy, staff will take a mindful and considerate approach to resolving the situation and ensure an opportunity is made available to discuss this in person to consider where support can be applied.

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
- Offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all pupils

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 wherever possible avoiding single supplier contracts and by re-tendering contracts at least every 5 years.

5. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed every five years by the Principal in consultation with other stakeholders including staff, pupils, parents and carers. At every review, it will be approved by the Governing body and published on the school website.

We consider the views of parents and pupils when reviewing our uniform and encourage parents to share any feedback with the office office@rochestergrammar.org.uk which will be collated for the next review.

6. Our 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 sex, race, religion or belief, and gender reassignment.

To avoid discrimination, our school will:

- Avoid listing uniform items based on sex, to give all pupils the opportunity to wear the uniform they feel most comfortable in or that most reflects their self-identified gender
- Make sure that our uniform costs the same for all pupils
- Allow all pupils to have long hair (though we reserve the right to ask for this to be tied back)
- Allow all pupils to style their hair in the way that is appropriate for school yet makes them feel most comfortable
- Allow pupils to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons
- Allow pupils to wear headscarves and other religious or cultural symbols/ jewellery – please speak with the school to ensure that we are full informed of your expectations

- Allow for adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents to get in touch with the Headteacher (in writing for parents), who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests

In all matters concerning uniform, the Principal's decision is final.

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

- Behaviour policy
- Equality policy
- Complaints policy