



June 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

Uniform is essential to a school's collective sense of identity. It is important that uniform is worn, worn well, and worn proudly.

As you will have read in the Newsletters over the last couple of terms, we have been working through a review of our uniform policy at SMRT with stakeholders and our uniform provider, Monkhouse.

Our review of our current uniform policy and procedures has been focused on two key priorities:

1. Achieving greater affordability for families
2. Reducing complications for students wearing their uniform during the day

We have taken stakeholder voice through surveys throughout this period and have been able to introduce one aspect of this early through the addition of tailored shorts in Term 6.

It is important to emphasise that we are not changing our uniform or expecting families to purchase additional items. **We are simplifying the uniform code to provide a range of more affordable items and retailer choice wherever possible.**

Our website has now been updated for 2025-26. When you visit the [website](#), you can find an updated list of all the compulsory and non-compulsory items, links to the items supplied by Monkhouse, and some examples of alternative retailers. Some items are still only available from Monkhouse, but you will notice that the number is significantly reduced and that an increased range of uniform is available from other high street suppliers.

We would like to emphasise that there is a significant reduction in the overall cost of uniform, and a reduction in the amount of compulsory uniform items. However, as stated at the start of this letter, this must be coupled with high expectations of wearing the uniform proudly and correctly. For example, it is essential that the correct colour of skirts, trousers, and socks are worn. Please ensure that you check the information carefully.

The most notable changes are:

Blazers

Student voice rated this as the least comfortable uniform item and wearing it with a jumper as the hardest rule to follow. Staff and parent/carer voice indicated that this was the least important part of our uniform to be worn by all students. Following discussion, **Blazers will be an optional uniform item from September.** In contrast, the Redcliffe Red jumper is a compulsory item and is rooted in our school's identity and will continue to be so.

Grey pleated skirts

95% of parents/carers voiced that there was not enough choice when purchasing grey pleated skirts. We have worked with Monkhouse and agreed that **grey pleated skirts are no longer items that can only be bought from Monkhouse**, and Monkhouse skirts are now less expensive than they have been in the past. There are several other items where we have been able to negotiate a reduced cost from Monkhouse. Please see the full list on the website for more details.

PE kit

PE kit items are now simplified with **fewer compulsory items** to ensure that what is bought is well used, in response to parent/carers feedback. Plain black shorts and socks are the updated 'compulsory items', which can be bought from any retailer, rather than Monkhouse shorts or hooped socks. The reversible rugby shirt is now an optional item. Families are not expected to replace the old kit with new kit, as this would be an increased cost. There will be a new optional training top added to the list in Term 1 for any students who would like an extra layer when the weather turns colder. Please see the full list on the website for more details.

Tailored Shorts

You will be aware we have already added **tailored grey shorts** to the uniform code since the start of Term 6, following student and parent/carers voice. In the recent survey 84% of parents/carers supported this choice.

Footwear

Last year, we changed the rules on footwear to enable students to come to school in footwear suitable for playing at lunchtime or other purposes outside school, thereby reducing costs for families and simplifying uniform. This meant that students are allowed to wear '**black, plain, polishable footwear**'. Please note this excludes material that are not designed to be polishable! Please see our website for examples.

Ties

There is no change to the SMRT tie for September 2025, and they remain a compulsory item. In September 2026, we will introduce **House ties** to strengthen students' connection with their House through their uniform. These will cost less than existing ties, at less than £10. We wanted to alert you to this now, even though there will be a year before they become part of the uniform. All students will need to have the correct new tie for 2026-27.

Reminders about other items

Other items remain as they are currently, and the full list can be seen on the website. As a reminder:

- **Trousers** must be **grey** (not black) and not tight fitting
- **Socks** must be **black and plain**
- One stud earring is permitted per ear; **no hoops or dangly earrings are allowed. Facial piercings are not permitted.**
- **Hoodies must not be worn anywhere on the school site**; they must be put into bags on arrival. Any hoodies that are seen will be confiscated.

Please see the full uniform list on our [website](#) for all the details.

We hope that the review of uniform is welcomed by both parents/carers and students as we try to balance the school identity, pride in belonging, and good relationships, whilst ensuring that the uniform is affordable, fit for purpose, and comfortable to wear.

Yours sincerely



Mr Morgan
Deputy Headteacher