



South Dartmoor Community College

Executive Head teacher | Mrs J Veal

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Dear Parent / Carer

SDCC UNIFORM FROM SEPTEMBER 2023

Uniform plays a valuable role in contributing to the ethos of an educational institution and setting the appropriate tone. We have clear school uniform and behaviour for learning policies that help set the standards for successful learning in the classroom for all students. School uniform also creates a level playing field of expectations and promotes equality. As you may be aware, we spent significant time last year considering our school uniform. We considered cost, equality, practicality, modernity, comfort, image and quality. The Student Council worked hard to capture the feelings of students and, to ensure views were captured fairly, we invited staff, parents and all students to complete surveys. While not everyone agreed on every issue, as was to be expected, there were some key points that came out of the feedback; notably that ties were not popular and are expensive, that the white shirts were not practical and that a jumper was needed for warmth in the winter months.

As a result, we have already added an optional jumper (that the students helped design) to our uniform offer and we are now in a position to make a few more tweaks in time for September. Please note, the majority of the uniform will be staying the same; these are just minor changes to address the points raised from feedback. They apply to **current students in Years 7 to 9 ONLY and new Year 7s from September**.

Ties:

These will no longer be part of our college uniform, therefore, from September 2023, these will not need to be worn. We have bought all stock from the supplier so, if in the meantime, your child loses a tie, we will be happy to lend them a new one for the remainder of the academic year. This decision has not been taken lightly, but we feel now is the right time to move away from the traditional shirt and school tie combination. This will make our uniform more cost effective, practical, comfortable and modern.

Shirts:

We have listened carefully to students regarding the shirt colour. They have been very vocal about how the white shirts can be very see-through and not always practical in terms of keeping them clean and looking smart. The new uniform will address this issue. From September 2023, the school shirt will be a standard light blue (please see attachment). These are available in outlets that also sell white shirts, as well as our uniform supplier, for the same price. These shirts should not be logoed. Given that summer is approaching, and hot weather forecast, blazers are likely to be removed towards the latter half of this term. Therefore, if students wish to move to the blue shirts sooner than September 2023, they may. In this case, ties will not need to be worn with a blue shirt, as will be the case from September.

Blazers:

There was mixed opinion regarding blazers and therefore there will be no change to blazers. These remain a compulsory part of the uniform.

Optional jumper:

The new college jumper can be purchased from our supplier. There is a choice of a round neck and a V-neck jumper. For the time being, these are not compulsory items of uniform. However, non-school uniform jumpers are not permitted and so if your child is likely to get cold, we would recommend a college issue jumper.

Trousers, Skirts, Shoes:

There will be no change to college policy on these items.

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Current Year 10 students:

Understandably, as students reach Year 11, they are often reluctant to purchase new items of school uniform, given the short time they have left with us in the 'uniformed' part of the school. Therefore, there is no expectation, nor obligation, for students in Year 10 (next year's Year 11) to move to the slightly tweaked uniform arrangements. As we have done this year, we will be introducing the 'Class of 2024' hoodies for students in the year group. They were extremely popular this year and we hope to introduce these much earlier for our current Year 10 students. We will ask students in September to place orders and they will be able to be worn as soon as they arrive in October. This will replace the shirt and blazer. Current Year 10 students will need to attend college in their current uniform when they return in September, until the hoodies arrive.

We always continue to review our policies to make sure our uniform is affordable, comfortable and smart, and we always welcome feedback on any element of our provision. I have attached a copy of the new uniform and equipment agreement for your information, which provides more detail. Students have been advised of the changes in assembly today. Regardless of the changes listed above, key points to remember are:

Hoodies: No hoodies should be worn at any point during the school day. We hope the weather will warm up shortly and so blazers should be enough. Blazers are compulsory.

Skirts: These must be the standard school skirt available from SWI. Students must not roll the skirt up. The school logo must be visible at all times.

Socks: From September 2023, socks will **not** be able to be worn over tights. If these are worn without tights, they must be logo and pattern free (white, grey or black).

Shirts: These must currently be worn tucked in. Shirts will move to blue for all students from September 2023. These will not need to be worn tucked in.

Piercings: If additional piercings (other than those permitted) are worn to school, your child will be asked to remove them and they will be confiscated for the remainder of the day.

Shoes: Plain, black shoes/trainers should be worn. Leather ankle boots (flat soled) are acceptable. *Dr Marten* boots can only be worn with trousers. Trousers must **cover** the boots completely. Trainers must be completely black with no bright logos.

Tights: If worn, these must be in good condition with no holes or ladders.

If you require support with any aspect of uniform, please do not hesitate to contact us (the earlier the better) in order that we can offer assistance.

To purchase uniform, please use the link here ([SWI Schoolwear](#)). You will find answers to all enquiries regarding sizing on the SWI website and any issues regarding placing an order, ranging from technical help with the website to tracking orders, should go direct to SWI. In conjunction with SWI, we are able to offer a free delivery service to SDCC for items you order. As items arrive, they will be available for students to collect from Main Reception after school each day. Students will be informed by their tutor if items are ready for collection.

Thank you in advance for your continued support in ensuring our standards remain high to give our students the very best opportunities to be successful.

Kind regards



Mrs Jen Veal
Executive Head teacher

Truth Respect Equality Excellence