

Castle Donington College



Uniform Policy

Date Adopted	September 2026
Review Date	Autumn Term 2028

The College follows Guidance and Advice given by the Government when writing policies; in light of this, changes may need to be made after the adoption of this policy and prior to the review date.

1. Aims

This policy aims to:

- Set out the College's 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. 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, the College 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 wear headscarves and other religious or cultural symbols
- Allow for adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents to get in touch with our Head of Year Team who will answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests

3. Limiting the Cost of School Uniform

Castle Donington College 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 the College logo 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.

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, such as logos that can be ironed on
- Avoiding specific requirements that could be worn on non-school days, such as coats, bags, and shoes
- Keeping the number of optional branded items to a minimum
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year groups
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- Ensure parents can acquire second-hand uniform items should they wish
- Avoiding frequent changes to our uniform to reduce the financial impact on parents of any changes
- Consulting with parents and pupils on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy

4. Minimum standards for school uniform

Castle Donington College expects all students in all years to conform to the following dress code. This is essential towards creating a clear sense of identity and inclusive belonging, whilst also being practical and smart.

We strongly recommend that all items of uniform are named so they can be returned to a student if lost. We also accept no responsibility for any lost belongings.

Uniform Item	What we MUST wear	What we DO NOT wear
College jumper	Navy-blue college jumper with logo	Any form of non-uniform jumpers or hoodies
Polo shirt	Navy-blue or white college polo shirt with logo	Any form of non-uniform shirts
School trousers	Tailored black or grey school trousers	Any form of non-uniform trouser made of fabric other than standard school trouser fabric i.e. denim trousers, combat trousers, chinos, leggings etc.
School skirt	Black or grey tailored or pleated school skirt worn to the knee	Lycra, jersey or skater style skirts
School shorts	Tailored black or grey school shorts worn just above the knee	Any form of non-uniform shorts i.e. sports shorts
School tights	Plain black or grey tights	Patterned tights or tights of an alternative colour
Shoes	All black leather-type, polishable footwear. Flat with a closed toe and heel	Any form of alternative footwear
Hair	Hair must be of a natural colour The College recognises cultural, religious and ethnic hairstyles, including braids, locs, twists, afros and protective hairstyles, and will not discriminate against students on these grounds	Brightly coloured hair of an unnatural colour i.e. pink, blue, purple, green etc.
Jewellery	One pair of stud earrings are permissible	Jewellery such as rings, bracelets, necklaces, dangly or hooped earrings, facial* or tongue piercings <i>*Clear plastic retainers may be worn</i>
Make up	Light, natural make up is permissible	Excessive make up, including false eyelashes and false acrylic nails
PE top	Navy-blue college PE top with logo	Any form of non-uniform jumpers or hoodie
PE bottoms	Dark coloured sports shorts, tracksuit bottoms or jogging bottoms (minimal branding)	Brightly coloured sports shorts, tracksuit bottoms or jogging bottoms with excessive branding
PE trainers	Safe, sensible sports shoes	

Maintaining high expectations

- All students upon entry to the college, will pass through our standards line
- All staff will actively check and challenge uniform throughout the college day
- All non-compliance will receive sanction in line with the college behaviour policy

Please be advised, Castle Donington College will be the final arbiter on what is deemed acceptable as school uniform and can add additional guidance at any point.

5. Uniform Suppliers

Items of uniform with the College Logo can be purchased from

<u>Castle Printwear Online Store</u> https://www.castleprintwear.co.uk/products/school-shops/castle-donington-college Unit 5, Brunel Quay, Station Road Neyland Pembrokeshire, SA73 1PY Tel: 01646 450880 Email: hello@castleprintwear.co.uk	<u>Pennline</u> https://pennline.co.uk/school-uniform-supplier-in-east-midlands/ East Acre, The Walnut Yard, Diseworth, Derbyshire, DE74 2QQ Tel: 01530 224 333
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Where families are concerned about the cost of school uniform, they are encouraged to speak directly to the college to see what support is available.

6. Responsibilities

Pupils

Pupils 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 can inform their Head of Year if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics

Parents and Carers

Wearing the uniform will be enforced and we ask parents for their complete support.

A condition of entry to classes at the College is the correct wearing of full school uniform.

Parents and carers are expected to make sure their child has the correct uniform and PE kit, and that every item is clearly labelled with the child's name.

Parents can also contact the College if they wish to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their child's protected characteristics.

Please contact the college if your child is in receipt of pupil premium funding as we may be able to support you.

Staff

Staff will closely monitor pupils to make sure they are in correct uniform. They will give any pupils and families breaching the uniform policy the opportunity to comply, but will follow up with the Principal if uniform breach is not rectified

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with using appropriate sanctions. At all stages the College will work with the parent/carer to ensure correct uniform is available to the pupil.

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.

Governors

The Governing Body will review this policy and make sure that it:

Is appropriate for the College's context

Is implemented fairly across the College

Consider the views of parents and pupils

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

The Governing Body will also make sure that the school's uniform supplier arrangements give the highest priority to cost and value for money, for example by avoiding single supplier contracts.

6. Monitoring Arrangements

This policy will be reviewed every three years by the Senior Leadership Team. At every review, it will be approved by the Governing Body