

DRESSED AND READY TO LEARN – 2026

At Highcliffe School we believe that appropriate school dress is conducive to creating a good working environment and promotes a sense of belonging to our school community. When dressed appropriately our students make a very positive impression upon the wider community who frequently comment upon their good behaviour and standard of dress.

Highcliffe School has a school uniform policy and a clear dress code of how this uniform should be worn. Uniform applies to all students in Years 7 through to 11 at all times without exception. The Sixth Form Dress Code applies to all students in Years 12 to 14 without exception.

Every student attending the school has chosen to join Highcliffe and has done so in the knowledge that we have a uniform and dress code; therefore, they should be proud to represent our school as best they can, wearing the uniform with pride. It is an important part of the identity of the school.

This policy has been developed with due regard for the Human Rights Act 1998 and anti-discrimination legislation.

We believe that our uniform helps towards us becoming a better school by setting a smart, business-like ethos amongst our students. In addition, the uniform helps students to be focused on learning. Importantly, it also gives due consideration to the health and safety of our students.

Our uniform policy and dress code are reviewed regularly in consultation with students, parents, staff, School Council Members and Governors. It is designed to be smart, practical and cost effective. The overriding principle to this code is that

“Uniform should be worn smartly and neatly at all times”

Students who fail to adhere to the Uniform Policy and Dress Code will be sanctioned accordingly. If you require any clarification on any points of the Uniform and Dress Code, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

PURCHASING UNIFORM

Highcliffe School uniform can be purchased from two providers. Stevensons of Southbourne (www.stevensons.co.uk/school-finder/highcliffe-school-christchurch) and PMG in New Milton (www.pmg-schoolwear.co.uk).

Uniform grants are available for students entitled to free school meals. Application forms can be obtained from the Finance Office. A grant for up to £100 per student is available every two years. We try to keep spare uniform for emergency use for all year groups and we are always very grateful for any uniform donations.

LABELS

All uniform must be labelled/named; a significant amount of clothing is misplaced, and we cannot trace the owner because items are not labelled/named. Misplaced items which are labelled/named are returned to students.

Our uniform suppliers offer personalised labels which can be ironed on. They also offer a service where they will do this as part of an internet order, therefore all items ordered will arrive with labels already in the clothes.

Uniform can cause stress between parents and their children as it is not always clear on what is acceptable. This booklet has been produced to make uniform buying and wearing a lot clearer to both parents and students and the areas of uncertainty clarified.

The school recognises that students do not always want to comply with school uniform requirements and that this can cause problems at home. However, we cannot alter our school uniform or dress code to suit individual tastes or opinions. We would always seek to work with any parents encountering difficulty ensuring their child complies with our school uniform or dress code.

The school will contact parents of those students who attend school without proper uniform, or those who refuse to accept the school's dress code, so that the issue can be successfully resolved.

Trouser Uniform

Trousers

Mid-Grey, all trousers must fall free from the leg from thigh to shoe.

Trousers must sit on the waist and not show any clothing that is worn underneath the trouser. A black belt with small buckle may be worn to ensure trousers do not fall beneath natural waistline.

Shirt

White shirt, long or short sleeved, buttoned to the collar at all times. Year 11 students may wear a non-fitted, short sleeved shirt, with revere collar, this is an optional item. Year 7 – 10 students may wear a non-fitted, short sleeved shirt with revere collar during the Summer Term, this is an optional item.

Tie

Approved school tie. Years 7 through to 11.

Ties are expected to be worn smartly with the knot at the collar and the collar button done up. Knots should not be either too small or too large. Guidance on the size of knot will be given to each student if needed.

Jumper

Approved school purple jumper. The jumper should meet the waistband of trousers, no midriff should be visible, and it should not be tucked into trousers. The jumper should not be frayed, have holes or rips. Year 11 – Black approved school jumper or purple approved school jumper.

Socks

Plain grey or black socks. Sports and trainer socks are not acceptable, socks should not have a logo.

Skirt Uniform

Skirt

Approved school skirt must cover the knee at all times. Skirt must not be rolled.

Skirts to be fitted in store.

The skirt must not be altered in any way, taken in at the sides or length altered.

Should students fail to wear the skirt correctly, parents will be asked to purchase a new skirt.

Shirt

White shirt, long or short sleeved, buttoned to the collar at all times. Year 11 students may wear a non-fitted, short sleeved shirt, with reverse collar, this is an optional item. Year 7 – 10 students may wear a non-fitted, short sleeved shirt with reverse collar during the Summer Term, this is an optional item.

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Socks / Tights

Plain grey, white or black ankle length socks. Sports and trainer socks are not acceptable, socks should not have a logo. 'Pop socks' are not acceptable with a skirt. Knee length socks should not be worn with skirts. Plain natural or black tights.

Shorts Uniform – Summer Term

Shorts

Approved school shorts to be worn to the knee, this is an optional item.

Shirt

White shirt, long or short sleeved, buttoned to the collar at all times. Year 11 students may wear a non-fitted, short sleeved shirt, with reverse collar, this is an optional item. Year 7 – 10 students may wear a non-fitted, short sleeved shirt with reverse collar during the Summer Term, this is an optional item.

Tie

Approved school tie. Years 7 through to 11.

Ties are expected to be worn smartly with the knot at the collar and the collar button done up. Knots should not be either too small or too large. Guidance on the size of knot will be given to each student if needed.

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Socks

Plain grey or black ankle length socks. Sports and trainer socks are not acceptable, socks should not have a logo. 'Pop socks' are not acceptable with shorts. Knee length socks should not be worn with shorts.

SHOES – to be worn with Trouser, Skirt and Shorts uniform

For guidance, the following styles of shoe are acceptable:



Please note there should be no sports logo or marking of any kind on shoes worn to school. These pictures are intended as a guide rather than being exclusive.

Plain black leather style shoes with heel are to be worn at all times. Black training shoes, trainer-style shoes and boots are not acceptable. Shoes such as Vans, Nike Air Force 1 or any other sport make are not considered to be school shoes. Heels should not exceed 5cm. Students who fail to wear plain black leather style shoes will be issued with black plimsolls from the pastoral office. The only exception to this rule is where the student has a medical reason not to wear leather shoes, supported by a note from their doctor. High heels, sandals, open toed or backless shoes or flip flops are not allowed for health and safety reasons

JEWELLERY

Highcliffe School allows students to wear a limited and discreet amount of jewellery. We do not allow excess jewellery as it increases the likelihood of loss or theft. In addition, some items of jewellery can present a health and safety hazard. Students are allowed to wear a wristwatch, one charity wristband plus an ear piercing (see below) in Year 7-10.

Year 11 students may wear an additional discreet bracelet or necklace. Highcliffe School achievement badges may be worn on the jumper. Key and wallet chains should not be visible.

In PE, for Health and Safety reasons, it is essential that students remove all jewellery. In other subjects, students may be asked to remove items of jewellery for Health and Safety reasons.

EAR PIERCING

One small discreet stud may be worn in the earlobe. Earrings in any other part of the ear are not acceptable. Hoop earrings are not acceptable. Earrings will need to be removed for PE as no taping is permitted.

PIERCINGS

Nose studs, tongue studs, eyebrow studs, tummy piercings or any other body piercings/jewellery are not allowed. Clear plastic bars worn in any such piercings are not acceptable. Students who wear such items will be asked to remove them. Covering these piercings is not acceptable.

HAIR

Hair should be clean and tidy at all times. Short hair should be a minimum of a grade 1. The following styles are not acceptable: -

- Holiday style braided, beaded or thread wrapped
- Tramlines
- Any other forms of 'shaving'
- Only natural hair colours will be accepted. A European Directive states that hair dyes are not intended for use on persons under the age of 16.
- Hair bands/slides/Alice bands should be plain black or brown and be undecorated and discreet.
- It is expected that students should be clean shaven.

Hair should be tied back in Science, PE and Technology or wherever directed by a member of staff.

The school has adopted the Halo code ensuring that no member of the school community faces barriers or judgments because of their Afro-textured hair. * (See Appendix 1)

EYEBROWS

Eyebrows should not have shaved lines through them. Eyebrow makeup is not accepted, including dyes and tints.

MAKEUP

Students in Years 7 and 8 are not allowed to wear makeup except mascara. Students in Years 9, 10 and 11 can wear makeup which is not obvious i.e. is not easily noticed by a casual observer. This includes mascara, foundation and concealer which should only be applied sparingly and match the natural skin colour as closely as possible, non-coloured lip products, natural eyebrow styling, and natural-looking false eyelashes. Makeup which is obvious is not permitted, this includes but is not limited to, powder, bronzer, contouring and highlighting, fake tan; eyeliner, extreme eyebrow makeup, long or stylised false eyelashes; coloured lip products; nail varnish, acrylic nails, gels, and shellac. If any member of staff considers a student's makeup to break this policy, students will be asked to remove it.

APRONS

Separate aprons are required for Design Technology and Food Technology lessons. A white craft apron is required for Design Technology and a green apron for Food Technology.



COATS

Coats should be suitable for school and offer protection from the weather, therefore denim, corduroy, leather or suede are not appropriate. Coats should not be worn in the building and students should place them in lockers. Scarves and hats and baseball caps must be removed inside the building. **“Hoodies” are not appropriate to wear to and from school and therefore students are not to bring them to school.**

CYCLE HELMETS

Cycle helmets must be worn by all students who cycle to and from school. If a student arrives at school by bicycle without a helmet, parents may be contacted to bring in a helmet to be worn on the journey home.

SCHOOL BAG

A suitable sized rucksack or shoulder bag is required to carry A4 sized folders and the minimum equipment of a calculator, 3 pencils, 3 pens (black ink), a ruler, a sharpener, an eraser, a purple pen, a small pack of colouring pencils, a glue stick, a small whiteboard pen and an optional notebook, a secure fresh water bottle and lunchbox and student ID/Catering card (issued by school). All students have the opportunity to hire a locker during their time at Highcliffe School where larger items can be stored securely. Mobile telephones should be switched off and placed in a locker or bag during the school day. Bags should be kept in a locker during examination times.

Small fashion handbags or carrier bags are not a suitable item in which to carry school equipment and should not be used.

PE KIT

Year 7 - 11

Chadwick short sleeved black multi-sport top with crest

Plain black shadow stripe shorts (lycra shorts are not permitted)

Purple socks (outside) White socks (inside)

Football boots – should have studs suitable for football and rugby

Trainers – should be a cross trainer or running trainer

Shin pads

Gum shield

Optional items:

Year 7 – 11

Chadwick black zip top with crest

Banner black track pants with crest

Thick plain black sports leggings without mesh or logo

For Health and Safety considerations skate shoes and canvas plimsolls are not permitted.

SCHOOL TRIPS

It is usual for full school uniform to be worn on all school trips unless directed by the trip leader after consultation with the Headteacher, when students should wear suitable clothing appropriate to the activity. School rules regarding makeup, jewellery and hair continue to apply during school trips.

NON-UNIFORM MUFTI DAYS

Occasionally during the school year, a non-uniform mufti day will occur to raise money for charity. School rules regarding makeup, jewellery and hair continue to apply during these days. Students should not wear: -

- hats or hoods inside the school building
- clothing which displays motifs which may be deemed 'offensive'
- backless shoes/flip flops
- cropped tops
- shorts which are considered to be too short and do not cover a good proportion of the leg
- no dyed or inappropriate hairstyles

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

It is important for all members of our school community to be aware that we seek to ensure that safety and well-being are of the utmost importance. As a result, please note that in the interests of:

- Security: the school needs to be able to identify individual students in order to maintain good order and identify intruders easily
- Teaching and learning: a student's face should not be obscured for any reason. This is because a member of staff may not be able to judge their engagement with learning or be able to secure their participation in discussions and practical activities
- Protecting the individual: the school dress code seeks to prevent students from wearing clothing which may be associated with anti-social elements in the wider community
- Promoting identity: a strong, cohesive school identity supports the high standards we strive to achieve. If students appear to be very different from their peers, this can inhibit integration, equality and cohesion

We are justly proud of the fact that we are an Inclusive School and our 'Dress Code' reflects our commitment to providing all students with the opportunity to learn within a safe and secure community.

LOST PROPERTY

Every effort will be made by the Student Support Office to return named items. However, it is only possible to store lost property for half a term before disposal.

If students forget an item of uniform they should report to the Pastoral Office before **morning registration**.

Exceptions to this dress code are at the discretion of the Headteacher only

The school uniform meets the Government requirements for a maximum of 4 branded items including tie. The school's branded items are school purple jumper with crest, tie Chadwick short sleeved multi sports top with crest.

Optional items include grey shorts with crest, school skirt, PE zip top and track pants with crest, thick plain black sports leggings without mesh or logo, white short sleeved shirt with reverse collar, school black jumper with crest.

Appendix 1: for members of the Black community

The Halo Code

Our school champions the right of staff and students in the Black community to embrace all Afro-hairstyles. We acknowledge that Afro-textured hair is an important part of our Black staff and students' racial, ethnic, cultural, and religious identities, and requires specific styling for hair health and maintenance.

We welcome Afro-textured hair worn in all styles including, but not limited to, afros, locs, twists, braids, cornrows, fades, hair straightened through the application of heat or chemicals, weaves, wigs, headscarves, and wraps.

At this school, we recognise and celebrate our staff and students' identities. We are a community built on an ethos of equality and respect where hair texture and style have no bearing on anyone's ability to succeed.

Notes:

1. Schools have the right to enforce a dress code as long as it is fair and does not unduly discriminate against any students and staff. Under the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), "schools must eliminate racial discrimination and promote good race relations". Policies and practices that prohibit hairstyles which are primarily used to maintain Afro-textured hair can lead to indirect discrimination.
2. The Halo Code focuses on hair textures and styles most commonly associated with the Black community. The term Black has historically been used as a racial and political label. Here, we use it to refer to people of the African Diaspora, including those with mixed heritage, who as a result of their ancestry have Afro-textured hair.
3. The Halo Code is a gender-neutral policy.
4. In order to embody the spirit of The Halo Code, staff are encouraged to familiarise themselves with different Afro-textured hairstyles and their cultural significance, and to avoid labelling Afro-textured hair with terms such as messy, unprofessional, or inappropriate.
5. Halo Code does not prevent schools from issuing additional guidance around Afro-texture hair and protective styles, including:
 - That head wraps and scarves should reflect other elements of the dress code such as the organisation's colours.
 - That hair be tied up for health and safety reasons.
 - That hair colour is reflective of the wider dress code policy

Further information can be found at: <https://halocollective.co.uk/halo-school/>