

Castle Douglas High School uniform policy 2026



School Uniform Policy Rationale

At our school, our values of honesty, ambition, community and kindness shape the expectations we set for ourselves and for one another. Our uniform policy is not simply about clothing; it is about creating a shared culture where every young person feels they belong, is treated equally and is ready to learn. We believe that a consistent and inclusive school uniform supports our school community in several important ways. It's clear from the stakeholders that all including pupils, families and teachers want to have a school uniform from our uniform survey in March 2026. We have sought to provide adaptations that will provide the maximum choice.

Community and Belonging

A school uniform creates a visible sense of belonging and shared identity. It reminds pupils that they are part of something bigger than themselves and reinforces pride in the school community. By reducing visible differences in fashion, labels and social status, uniform can help promote inclusion and reduce unnecessary social pressures among young people. This reflects our value of community. We want every pupil to feel accepted, valued and connected regardless of background or circumstance. School uniform can contribute positively when it forms part of a broader approach to developing school ethos, behaviour and discipline. Uniform alone does not directly improve learning outcomes; it recognises its role in supporting the conditions in which effective learning can take place.

High Expectations and Ambition

Uniform communicates that school is a purposeful environment where high standards matter. Wearing uniform consistently helps establish routines, readiness and professionalism, reinforcing the message that learning is important. Our value of ambition means encouraging pupils to take pride in themselves, their work and their future. A consistent uniform policy helps support this by creating a culture where effort, respect and aspiration are normalised. School uniform policies are associated with improved attendance in secondary schools. I have previously highlighted the link to attendance and attainment.

90% or above – to increase success in 4th year exams

95% or above – to increase success in 5th and 6th year exams.

Attendance is strongly linked to attainment, wellbeing and future outcomes.

Equity and Inclusion

An effective uniform policy can reduce some of the pressures associated with fashion trends and socioeconomic differences. A shared dress code helps create a more level playing field and allows pupils to focus more fully on learning and relationships rather than appearance or competition. This reflects our value of kindness. We aim to create an environment where pupils are respected for who they are rather than judged by what they wear. At the same time, we recognise that uniform policies must be fair, affordable and sensitive to individual needs. Research highlights that poorly designed or expensive uniform policies can place unnecessary pressure on families.

For this reason, our school is committed to ensuring that:

- uniform expectations remain reasonable and affordable;
- support is available for families experiencing financial hardship;
- flexibility is shown where appropriate;
- pupils are treated with dignity and respect when addressing uniform concerns.

Consistency, Behaviour and Readiness to Learn

Clear and consistent expectations help create calm, orderly and focused learning environments. Uniform is one visible aspect of this consistency. When expectations are applied fairly and respectfully, they contribute to a culture where pupils understand boundaries, routines and shared standards. Our approach is therefore not about compliance for its own sake. It is about creating a respectful environment where everyone can learn successfully and where no pupil is disadvantaged by inconsistent expectations.

Our Commitment

We recognise that relationships matter more than clothing. Therefore, our uniform policy will always be implemented with professionalism, empathy and proportionality. We will work with pupils and families to support high standards while maintaining positive relationships.

Ultimately, our uniform policy exists to support a culture where:

- pupils feel part of a strong community;
- high expectations are visible and consistent;
- equity and inclusion are promoted;
- learning remains the central focus of school life.

By reflecting our shared values of honesty, kindness, community and ambition, our uniform helps reinforce the culture and ethos we want every young person to experience each day.

Adaptations

Where a pupil requires an adaptation to our uniform policy because of sensory issues or otherwise then they should contact their pupil support PT / DHT in the first instance to discuss further.

Our expected uniform

For all pupils in school, they can select from the following options

- White shirt with the appropriate house tie should be worn (Each house tie has the traditional set of gold stripes on a black background, but with a counter stripe in red for Threave, blue for Kelton and green for Solway)
- Plain white polo shirt / White polo shirt with a Castle Douglas logo
- Plain black fleece / Black fleece with logo
- Plain black jumper / cardigan
- Black trousers, plain black jeans, plain black leggings, black skirt
- Black shoes / trainers.
- 6th year have the option of a blazer. Their assigned DHT will discuss with them at the start of the new term.
- Plain black shorts – of reasonable length.

For all pupils in PE

- Shorts, leggings and t-shirt
- No football colours are allowed to be worn in the school.

Non-uniform days

- At times we will have non uniform days. Any clothing worn should be of good taste with no offensive slogans
- No football colours
- No mid-riffs on view

No branding on any item of clothing other than the Castle Douglas logo

- Our supplier of branded Castle Douglas High school is BE uniforms. The link will take you directly to their site and orders can be placed directly with them.
- <https://www.border-embroideries.co.uk/collections/castle-douglas-high-school>
- School ties can be purchased at the school office £ 6 per tie.

Pupils not in uniform

- There will be random uniform checks in the year.
- Parents will be contacted directly to discuss to ensure consistency of approach for all learners.
- Pupils not in uniform will not be able to represent the school at events / trips and other associated activities of the wider school life owing to safety concerns around the easy identification of who attends Castle Douglas high school and members of the public.

June 2026