



Wadham School

A Church of England Community School

"Life in all its fullness" John 10:10



Tuesday 18th November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Uniform Consultation Update Letter and Final Proposal

I am writing to update our community following the recent consultation on proposed changes to our uniform policy.

To begin, I would like to thank the 202 families, 24 staff and members of our Student Council (on behalf of many more students!) that engaged with the consultation, and I am grateful for the detailed responses made - they have been invaluable in helping school leaders understand your depth of feeling and thoughts about what our uniform should be.

This letter is to give feedback on responses made and to set out a final proposal, where once again your views are encouraged and welcome. Details of how to do this are at the end of this letter.

Staff Responses

- 24 responses
- Responses gathered over 27 days

1. From the two option choices proposed, which one do you prefer?

Answer	Responses	%
Option 1 – A more traditional uniform	7	29%
Option 2 – A more modern uniform	11	46%
I would be happy with either option	6	25%

2. Regarding the Year 11 consideration for next year - what are your views?

Answer	Responses	%
I think Year 11 should continue to wear their existing uniform next year	3	13%
I think Year 11 should change their uniform next year, in line with everyone else	0	
I think Year 11 should have the choice to wear either the old or the new uniform next year	20	83%
I do not have an opinion on this matter	1	4%



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Headteacher: Mr R Burgas
Chair of Governors: Mrs R Hawkes



3. Individual Comments (13 Responses – 54%)

- Comments were broadly positive about either option, although nearly half the responses favoured the more modern approach with no blazer.
- Many colleagues recognised the cost benefit of keeping much of the uniform the same, enabling clothing to be passed down in families.
- Some colleagues felt soft(er) fabrics were more sensory friendly than collars and ties, with a similar number favouring polo shirts for practical subjects.
- The majority of responses commented that it was good that the issue of skirts would be addressed, regardless of whichever option was chosen.
- No-one felt Year 11 should be made to change into a new uniform next year.

Parental Responses

- 202 responses
- Responses gathered over 30 days

1. Please tell us which Year Group(s) your child(ren) are in.

Year Group	Responses	%
Year 7	71	26%
Year 8	59	22%
Year 9	57	21%
Year 10	37	14%
Year 11	46	17%

2. From the two option choices proposed, which one do you prefer?

Answer	Responses	%
Option 1 – A more traditional uniform	30	15%
Option 2 – A more modern uniform	150	74%
I would be happy with either option	22	11%

3. Regarding the Year 11 consideration for next year - what are your views?

Answer	Responses	%
I think Year 11 should continue to wear their existing uniform next year	84	42%
I think Year 11 should change their uniform next year, in line with everyone else	10	5%
I think Year 11 should have the choice to wear either the old or the new uniform next year	50	28%
I do not have an opinion on this matter	58	25%

4. Individual Comments (158 Responses – 78%)

- The majority of comments asked why the consultation did not have an option to keep the existing uniform? (See my response below)
- Feedback was split regarding recognising an opportunity to smarten up particular aspects of uniform to questioning the need to do this it all.

- Questions were asked regarding the timeline for implementation, and whether this could be phased to enable families to use up existing uniform.
- Questions were asked whether Year 10 would be expected to change uniform for their final year.
- Some parents felt the existing uniform is smart enough, when worn correctly.
- Some parents felt the existing uniform already provides positive identity and a sense of pride in the community.
- Some comments focussed on the existing uniform being supportive of those with sensory needs.
- Within the above 3 comments, parents often went on to add this was a deciding factor when choosing Wadham School.
- Many parents expressed concern at being asked to purchase new uniform when they had already (over) invested in clothing that can be passed down between siblings.
- Many parents felt that the existing polo shirt is easier to keep clean and is more hard wearing than a white shirt would be.
- Many parents felt it unfair to introduce a branded skirt for girls, however...
- Many responses commented that it was good that the issue of skirts would be addressed, regardless of whichever option was chosen.

To bring the 'results' section to a close, I should explain that the decision **not** to include an option to keep the uniform the same was a deliberate one, for two very important reasons:

1. This option was offered in the last consultation completed by the previous headteacher, which resulted in a largely tick-box exercise with very little real engagement from the community.
2. Your views really do matter, and it is important that we understand our families if we are to make the right decisions for the community we serve.

It was important to structure the response so that it captured your views and attitudes towards uniform so that when a decision is made, it is evidence informed, done so for the right reasons, and with our collective best interests in mind.

I am sorry for any upset or frustration caused, it was not my intention, and I am truly grateful for the time taken to give detailed feedback regarding our uniform.

What can we conclude?

- Everyone accepts uniform creates a sense of pride and identity in our community.
- When worn correctly, a large majority feel our current uniform is fit for purpose.
- The cost of introducing a new uniform, next year, would be a further burden on families.
- Introducing any new uniform as a phased approach is a more favourable option.
- Introducing a branded skirt would be unfair on girls and be an increase in cost, compared to boys.
- General consensus that the issue of skirts needs to be addressed.

What is our final proposal?

Our final proposal is one that would align the school with the anticipated 2026 Schools Bill, whilst recognising the positive aspects of our existing uniform that you feel we should keep.

Essentially, this proposal seeks to **reduce** the number of compulsory branded items to 3, **retain** the school's existing identity and **reinforce** the need to wear uniform correctly by **consistently** applying our school policy.

Please take time to read the following proposal and submit your views using the link and QR code provided at the end of this letter. Written responses should be addressed to the Headteacher and can be posted or handed in at Reception.

The deadline for parental feedback is 3.00pm, Wednesday 26th November.

Uniform Proposal for September 2026

Branded Items

- Red Polo Shirt
- Black V-Neck Jumper
- PE Shirt

Non-branded Items

- Black school trousers /shorts
- Black Skirt
- Black socks
- Black shoes
- Black PE shorts

The following optional items also apply:

Optional Items

- Rugby Shirt (branded)
- Outdoor PE Top (branded)
- Football socks (branded)
- Overcoat (non-branded)
- Plain black base layers (non-branded)
- Plain black jogging bottoms (non-branded)
- Plain black skort (non-branded)

All other aspects of our current uniform policy, regarding types of shoe, hairstyles, jewellery, make-up and expectations in PE lessons remain unchanged, and can be found in our current policy here: [Wadham School - School Uniform](#)

From September 2026:

- All new Year 7 students will wear the new uniform.
- There will be a phased transition for existing pupils at Wadham to move to the new jumper.
- It is expected that all existing pupils will be wearing the new school jumper by September 2027.
- All skirts will need to be in line with school policy by September 2026 or earlier.

This means that for existing students, we have reduced the number of compulsory branded items and expect a transition to a V-neck jumper when it is next necessary to replace the existing jumper/sweatshirt, with all changes to be made by September 2027.

At the same time, we are giving a clear lead-in time for girls to ensure they are wearing the correct skirt, in line with school policy, from September 2026.

I would like to thank all students, parents, and carers who took the time to share their views. Your feedback has been invaluable in helping us create a proposal that reflects the wishes of our school community.

Yours sincerely,



Richard Burgas
Headteacher



[Wadham School Uniform Consultation - Final Proposal – Fill in form](#)