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| Policy Title: Uniform Policy | Effective Date: | April 2024 |
| SLT Member Responsible: Sian Mundy | Review Date: | April 2027 |
| Governors' Committee Responsible: Culture and Community | | |

1. Rationale

- 1.1. It is the policy of Sheldon School that all pupils in Years 7-11 wear school uniform and follow the school's dress code when attending school or when participating in school events or visits (unless specifically told that uniform is not required).
- 1.2. There are clear reasons for this policy. Governors believe that the wearing of school uniform:
 - promotes a sense of pride in the school
 - encourages a sense of community and belonging towards the school
 - identifies the children with the school
 - is practical and smart
 - makes pupils feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance
 - prevents pupils from coming to school in fashion clothes, hairstyles etc that could be distracting in class
 - is strongly supported by the great majority of parents
 - reinforces the high standards the school expects in teaching, learning, attitudes and behaviour.
- 1.3 Sixth Form students are not required to wear uniform, but must adhere to the Sixth Form Dress Code.

2. Aims

- 2.1 In formulating a policy on school uniform and pupils' appearance, governors have the following aims:
 - to select items of clothing that are practical and smart and, where appropriate, are designed with health and safety in mind
 - to consult pupils, parents and staff about any proposed changes to school uniform
 - to ensure as far as possible that uniform items are readily available and provide good value for money (ie: they are smart, hard-wearing and of reasonable price)
 - to ensure that suppliers of uniform in the school colours or carrying the school logo provide items of appropriate quality
 - where quality considerations have been satisfied, to give parents a choice of suppliers where possible and to hold second-hand uniform sales regularly throughout the school year.
 - to ensure that all pupils in Years 7-11 wear full school uniform and follow the dress code
 - to ensure that Sixth Form students, while not required to wear uniform, dress appropriately in the context of an 11-19 school
 - to ensure that school uniform requirements support equal opportunities

3. Guidelines

- 3.1 A full list of uniform requirements is published on the school website. Reminders about uniform may also be sent periodically by school comms throughout the year.
- 3.2 Clothing for Physical Education is regarded as part of the school uniform and essential items are published along with other uniform requirements on the school website.
- 3.3 On health and safety grounds, pupils are not allowed to wear jewellery to school, with the exception of one plain stud in each ear and one plain ring. Dangling earrings or rings with stones that protrude are not allowed. If a student has a traditional nose piercing, they are permitted to wear a clear spacer to stop the hole from closing.
- 3.4 Extreme hairstyles that could serve as a distraction to other pupils or detract from the smart appearance of the uniform are not allowed. The definition of what is extreme will change with fashion, but might include multi-coloured hair, hair that is dyed a non-natural colour, hair styled in an extreme way – e.g: gelled into big spikes. In this, as in other uniform and dress matters, the judgement of the headteacher is final.
- 3.5 Our school champions the right of students and staff to embrace all Afro-hairstyles. We acknowledge that Afro-textured hair is an important part of our Black students' racial, ethnic, cultural, and religious identities, and requires specific styling for hair health and maintenance. We celebrate 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. 'Sheldon coloured' headscarves and wraps are part of the uniform. We recognise and celebrate our students' identities. We are a community built on an ethos of equality and respect where hair texture and style have no bearing on a student's ability to succeed.
- 3.6 Footwear must be as stated in the uniform list. Trainers are not allowed. They detract from the smart appearance of uniform. Pupils who wear inappropriate footwear to school will be required to change into footwear provided by the school.
- 3.7 No pupils should be disadvantaged in being able to wear full uniform through hardship. The Chippenham Borough Lands Charity provides an annual Social Fund to the school to support families in cases of genuine hardship. The school will normally meet half the costs in approved cases, but more can be allocated at the discretion of the Headteacher or senior staff.
- 3.8 If a pupil is failing to meet uniform requirements or the dress code, sensitive enquiries will be made to establish the reason. Through advice or financial support in approved cases, the school will help the pupil to achieve compliance, but if problems persist the headteacher will apply sanctions, including exclusion from school.
- 3.9 If changes to the uniform are proposed, governors will consult parents, pupils and staff before decisions are made.

4. Responsibilities

- 4.1 Governors are responsible for reviewing the policy, for receiving reports from the headteacher and senior staff on the implementation of the policy and for considering representations from parents, pupils or staff on issues related to uniform. Representations from faith groups on uniform issues will receive particular attention.
- 4.2 Parents are responsible for ensuring that their children have the appropriate uniform and come to school correctly dressed.
- 4.3 The headteacher and all staff are responsible for ensuring that pupils follow the uniform and dress code – the tutor plays a particularly important role.