

# NEW SCHOOL UNIFORM

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SEPTEMBER 2023



# Introducing a new school uniform for Highlands School

In September 2023 Highlands will launch a new school uniform.

Our new uniform not only looks great, it is cheaper than the old one, more environmentally friendly (it is made of recycled materials) and is gender neutral.

The uniform will be worn by the students who join us in year 7 in September 2023 and by the students currently in years 7, 8 and 9. The current year 10 students will keep the old uniform when they join year 11.

The school has set aside money to buy items of the new uniform for families who request it. We will not allow any families to be financially disadvantaged by having to buy new uniform items for September 2023.

We started the process of reviewing our uniform when, as Highlands School approached its 20th anniversary in 2020, the governors felt it would be a good time, with school leaders, to take a look at all aspects of our school and ask what we should change, what we should keep and what we should improve.

We posed these questions to students, parents and carers, staff, governors and even members of the public who live near our school. We learned a lot about perceptions of Highlands.

Overall, there was a feeling that the school's identity was closely linked to the school setting, surrounded by trees and parkland. The colour green was popular, as was the acorn, the school logo. However, there was a view that the uniform was a bit dated and items, particularly the blazer, was expensive when compared with other schools.

This September we launched our new school logo, new logos for each of our houses and a new green colour scheme. We have fantastic new artwork and banners around the school building reflecting the modern, dynamic and successful school we are. The next phase of this work is updating our uniform.

We are delighted and excited to share our new uniform with families and the school community and we look forward to seeing students wearing it in September 2023.

**Mr McInerney, Headteacher**

## Why have we decided to update our uniform?

### **Affordability**

We want to ensure that our school uniform is affordable long term. The increase in oil prices has had a serious impact on the cost of manufactured items such as clothing. Our current uniform was due to see significant price increases next summer.

Our current blazer is made from a bespoke green fabric that is unique to Highlands School. The blazer is manufactured in South Africa. These two factors mean that the Highlands School blazer is one of the most expensive across Enfield schools.

Our new school blazer will be from a more standard green fabric making it between £15 - £23 cheaper than our existing blazer (depending on size). The new school skirt and jumper will also be cheaper than our current school skirt and jumper.

### **Equality and inclusion**

Students asked school leaders to make the school uniform more inclusive so that students of any gender feel comfortable wearing any of our school uniform items. We have listened to this feedback and our new school uniform will mean that any student can wear an open neck blouse and no tie and any student can wear a buttoned up shirt with a tie. Students can choose whether they wear a skirt or trousers and we will be having one style of blazer for all students.

Students also asked school leaders to consider a summer variation to the main school uniform to help students be more comfortable at school during warm weather. We have listened to this feedback and we have introduced a summer polo shirt, which students can wear without a blazer in the summer term. The new polo shirts will be available to purchase from March 2023.





# Why have we decided to update our uniform?

## Sustainability

Highlands School is committed to helping to reduce carbon emissions, reducing waste and promoting recycling.

Our new school blazer is made from recycled bottles and will help to save thousands of plastic bottles from ending up in landfill each year.

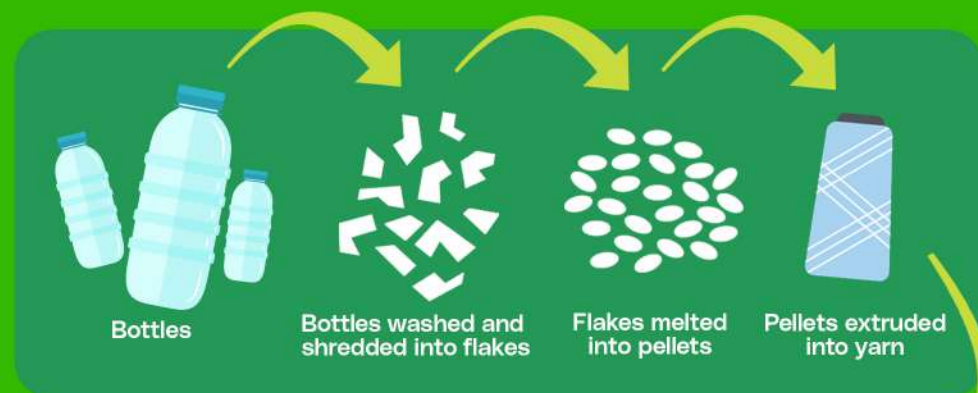


### DID YOU KNOW?

Recycled polyester has just the same look and feel as the polyester used in all our current blazers - the only difference is that it is made from recycled plastic. This prevents plastic reaching landfill and our oceans.

## How does it work?

Recycled polyester is made by melting down existing plastic and re-spinning it into new polyester fibre.



Yarn knitted, cut and sewn into garment



# What changes are we making to the Highlands School uniform?

School uniform items	Is this changing?	What will change
School blazer	Yes	This is changing to a new darker green blazer, with green trim and the new school logo.
School jumper	Yes	This is changing to a new darker green colour with the new school logo to match the blazer.
School skirt	Yes	The green school kilt skirt is being replaced with a black kilt skirt that can only be bought from Uniform4Kids/Smiths Schoolwear.
School trousers	No	No change to the black trousers.
White open neck blouse	No	No change to the white open neck blouse. This can be worn by any student who wishes to do so. A tie is not worn with an open neck blouse.
White button down shirt	No	No change to the white button down shirt. This can be worn by any student who wishes to do so. A tie must be worn with a button down shirt.
School tie	Yes	This is changing to a new dark green and white stripe tie.

School uniform items	Is this changing?	What will change
PE kit	No	The PE kit is staying the same, and only the logos are being updated. Students are not required to buy a new PE kit with the new logo until their current PE kit needs replacing.
Summer polo shirt	/	The new summer polo shirt can be worn in the summer term and until the end of the academic year. Blazers do not need to be worn with a polo shirt.

A close-up photograph of a white polo shirt. The shirt features a green apple logo with a stem and leaf, positioned above the word "Highlands" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The collar has a green and white striped trim. A yellow rectangular box highlights the upper portion of the shirt, including the collar and the top of the logo.

  
**Highlands**

A close-up photograph of a dark green polo shirt. The shirt features a green apple logo with a stem and leaf, positioned above the word "Highlands" in a white, sans-serif font. The shirt has a pocket on the left side and a green and white striped trim along the collar and shoulder. A yellow rectangular box highlights the upper portion of the shirt, including the collar and the top of the logo.

  
**Highlands**



## How much will the new school uniform cost and how does this compare with the current school uniform?

These prices have been provided by Smiths Schoolwear and Uniform4Kids uniform suppliers, who are the only suppliers of the Highlands School uniform. Highlands School plays no part in the pricing of school uniform.

School uniform items	Current uniform prices for 2023/24	New uniform price for 2023/24	Approximate saving with the new uniform
School blazer	£54.95 - £74.95*	£39.95 - £51.95*	£15 - £23*
Jumper (optional)	£23.95 - £35.95	£21.95 - £33.95	£2
Tie	£6.95	£6.50	£0.45
Kilt	£30.95 - £39.95*	£28.95 - £36.95*	£2 - £3*
Summer polo	/	£12.95 - £14.95	/
PE hoodie	£22.95 - £27.95	£22.95 - £27.95	Price is remaining the same (only the logo has changed)
PE polo	£14.95 - £17.95	£14.95 - £17.95	Price is remaining the same (only the logo has changed)
PE skort	£15.95 - £19.95	£15.95 - £19.95	Price is remaining the same (no logo)

School uniform items	Current uniform prices for 2023/24	New uniform price for 2023/24	Approximate saving with the new uniform
Shorts	£8.95 - £9.95	£8.95 - £9.95	Price is remaining the same (no logo)
Rugby shirt	£22.95 - £25.95	£22.95 - £25.95	Price is remaining the same (no logo)
Leggings	£20.95 - £25.95	£20.95 - £25.95	Price is remaining the same (only the logo has changed)
Joggers	£19.95 - £26.95	£19.95 - £26.95	Price is remaining the same (only the logo has changed)
PE socks	£7.50	£7.50	None

\* Prices vary depending on size.

## When do students have to start wearing the new school uniform?

- All year 7-10 students must be wearing the full new school uniform on the first day of school in September 2023.
- Next year's year 11 students (current year 10 students) do not need to purchase or wear the new uniform.
- We have been informed that the new uniform is likely to be available to purchase via the uniform shops from around March 2023. There is no requirement for any student to wear the new uniform before September 2023.
- However, the uniform shops have stopped producing our existing uniform and will only be able to sell remaining stock.
- Parents of students in year 11 from September 2023 should contact the school if they need replacement uniform items from the old uniform.



## What happens if my child needs replacement uniform items before the new uniform is available?

Current uniform shops will no longer be manufacturing our existing uniform, they will only be able to sell remaining stock, however, from March 2023, our new uniform will be available to purchase for parents who wish to do so before the official launch in September 2023.

For parents who require replacement items, there are three options:

- Visit one of the uniform shops to see if the required item is still available for purchase.
- Purchase the new version of the item from the uniform shops, if it is available.
- Contact the school via email: [uniform@highlearn.uk](mailto:uniform@highlearn.uk) as the school currently has a supply of brand new and nearly new existing uniform items. The school will happily sell or give - where appropriate, to families upon request.

## What happens if my current year 10/11 child needs new uniform items?

The current year 10 and year 11 students will not be required to purchase the new school uniform, however, if they require new uniform items, they should contact the school via email:

[uniform@highlearn.uk](mailto:uniform@highlearn.uk) to see if the school has the required item available. If the school does not have the required item, parents/carers will be able to buy the newly branded item from the uniform shops.

## How can families request financial support in purchasing the new school uniform?

Families can request financial support in purchasing the new school uniform via a form which will be available in the new year.

Please email [uniform@highlearn.uk](mailto:uniform@highlearn.uk) requesting support or for any urgent queries regarding the new school uniform.



## Uniform suppliers

Our new school uniform can be purchased from the following uniform suppliers:

**Smiths Schoolwear (Enfield)**

155 - 157 Lancaster Road, Enfield  
EN2 0JN

**Smiths Schoolwear (Cockfosters)**

Station Parade, 25 Cockfosters Road, Barnet,  
EN4 0DW

[smithsschoolwear.co.uk](http://smithsschoolwear.co.uk)

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**Uniform4Kids (Lyons School Shop)**

242 Hertford Road, Enfield,  
EN3 5BL

[uniform4kids.com](http://uniform4kids.com)