# Parents oppose jumper ban at Winston Churchill School in Woking



Parents at Winston Churchill School in Woking, Surrey, have expressed strong opposition following a decision by the headteacher to ban pupils from wearing jumpers until the end of October. The policy, which came into effect on 22 April, requires students to wear blazers "in every situation" and only permits them to remove the jackets if the weather is hot and the pupil asks "politely."

The mixed secondary school informed pupils upon their return from the Easter holiday that jumpers would no longer be permitted as part of the uniform. This move has triggered a backlash among parents, some of whom have deliberately sent their children to school wearing jumpers in defiance of the new rules. Angry emails containing offensive language have also been directed at the school by frustrated parents.

Critics of the ban argue that it "makes no sense" given the typical unpredictability of spring and autumn weather, including chilly mornings, and stress that jumpers contribute not just to warmth but to students feeling comfortable, confident, and proud of their school. A petition calling for the reinstatement of jumpers highlights concerns that the ban negatively affects the students' overall comfort and school pride.

Headteacher Zoe Johnson-Walker has yet to publicly explain the rationale for the ban but responded to parental criticism with a strongly worded letter, seen by the Daily Mail. She thanked the "majority" of parents for their support of the uniform policy while sharply rebuking those she said were "undermining" it.

"Our school has very clear expectations and we expect everyone to buy into the whole package and not to cherry-pick the rules that suit them and ignore those that don’t," Mrs Johnson-Walker wrote. She warned that parents encouraging their children to break the rules put them in conflict with the school and questioned which other rules such parents and pupils might then feel free to ignore.

The headteacher emphasised that while pupils are allowed to wear base layers under their shirts and various tops on their way to school, blazers must be worn throughout the school day. She said staff would permit students to remove their blazer during lessons if temperatures are high, if the student asks politely, or if it is necessary for the task at hand.

Mrs Johnson-Walker also highlighted the challenges faced by the school, including managing 1,500 pupils, budget constraints, and difficulties in recruiting teachers. She voiced concern over the Parent-Teacher Association’s struggling support base, describing it as "about to fold due to so little support." The letter criticised some parents for the abusive language used in correspondence with the school, stating that such communications would be logged and added to students’ files going forward.

The headteacher's letter concluded with a call for unity, stating, "Every parent wants the school they select for their children to have a safe and disciplined approach, and this is reflected in how a uniform is worn." She added, "We are always here for your child, I need you to now be here for your school."

Winston Churchill School has been approached for further comment on the matter. The ongoing dispute has drawn significant attention from the local community as parents and the school administration navigate differing views over uniform policy and school discipline.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.change.org/p/demand-the-resignation-of-winston-churchill-school-s-head-teacher> - This petition supports the claim of parental dissatisfaction with Winston Churchill School's administration, specifically mentioning experiences with the headteacher.
2. <https://www.instagram.com/wcscschool/> - This Instagram page highlights the activities and community engagement of Winston Churchill School, which contrasts with the current dispute over policies.
3. <https://www.churchillschool.co.uk/about/uniform/> - Although this URL does not directly relate to Winston Churchill School in Woking, it shows how schools generally approach uniform policies.
4. <https://www.noahwire.com> - This is a potential source for news articles regarding local community and school policies, though specific content about Winston Churchill School is not provided.
5. [https://www.stgeorges-ascot.org.uk/sites/default/files/downloads/The%20Dragon%202022-23\_digital%20(4).pdf](https://www.stgeorges-ascot.org.uk/sites/default/files/downloads/The%20Dragon%202022-23_digital%20%284%29.pdf) - This PDF from St George's Ascot discusses community involvement and school culture, which is relevant to understanding the broader context of school policies and parent relations.
6. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sir\_Winston\_Churchill\_Secondary\_School\_(Vancouver)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sir_Winston_Churchill_Secondary_School_%28Vancouver%29) - While unrelated to Winston Churchill School in Woking, this page shows how various schools named after Winston Churchill handle community and policy issues.
7. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14645483/School-bans-pupils-wearing-jumpers.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data