

School uniform policy



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1. Aims

This policy aims to:

- Set out our approach to requiring a uniform that is of reasonable cost and offers the best value for money for parents and carers
- Explain how we will avoid discrimination in line with our legal duties under the Equality Act 2010
- Clarify our expectations for school uniform

2. Our school's legal duties under the Equality Act 2010

The [Equality Act 2010](#) prohibits discrimination against an individual based on the protected characteristics, which include age, sex, disability, race, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity, and gender reassignment.

To avoid discrimination, our school will:

- Avoid listing uniform items based on sex, to give all pupils the opportunity to wear the uniform they feel most comfortable in or that most reflects their self-identified gender
- Make sure that our uniform costs the same for all pupils
- Allow all pupils to have long hair (though we reserve the right to ask for this to be tied back)
- Allow all pupils to style their hair in a way that is appropriate for school and makes them feel most comfortable
- Allow pupils to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons or if they are experiencing discomfort related to their sex, gender or gender reassignment
- Allow pupils to wear headscarves and/or other religious garments
- Allow pupils with sensory or physical needs to make reasonable adaptations to their uniform depending on their specific needs
- Allow for reasonable adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents/carers to get in touch with the school office, who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis

3. Limiting the cost of school uniform

Our school has a duty to make sure that the uniform we require is affordable, in line with statutory [guidance](#) from the Department for Education (DfE) on the cost of school uniform.

We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that need to have a school logo or a unique fabric/colour/design) cannot be purchased from a wide range of retailers and that requiring many such items limits parents/carers' ability to 'shop around' for a low price.

We will make sure our uniform:

- Is available at a reasonable cost
- Provides the best value for money for parents/carers

We will do this by:

- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary
- Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics where possible : for example, by only asking that the blazer, worn over the jumper, features the school logo
- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost and/or long-lasting items, such as ties
- Considering cheaper alternatives to school-branded items, such as logos that can be ironed on, as long as this doesn't compromise quality and durability
- Avoiding specific requirements for items pupils could wear on non-school days, such as coats, bags and shoes
- Keeping the number of optional branded items to a minimum, so that the school's uniform can act as a social leveller
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents/carers to acquire second-hand uniform items
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents/carers of any changes
- Consulting with parents/carers and pupils on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy

4. Expectations for school uniform

4.1 Our school's uniform

We continue to try to keep the costs of our uniform as affordable as possible. With this in mind, we have made some of our branded uniform for optional; please see the uniform list below:

All unbranded uniform can be purchased through high street and online retailers.

Nursery to Year 4 School Uniform Guidance

Blue jumper or cardigan (plain or with the school logo on)

White or blue polo shirt

Grey or black trousers, dress or skirt

Tights should be black

Socks should be black, grey or white

Shoes should be black

Nursery to Year 4 PE Kit Guidance

White T-shirt and black or navy blue shorts

Plimsoles/trainers



Tracksuits for colder weather (Blue/Black/dark Colour)

PE Kit should be plain in colour and not patterned.

Whilst all religious jewellery will be respected, we ask for rings, watches and necklaces to be left at home. Studs are now permissible for PE but long hoop earrings can catch on climbing apparatus and cause a nasty injuries.

Year 5 and 6 Uniform Guidance

We continue to try to keep the costs of our uniform as affordable as possible.

With this in mind, we have made some of our branded uniform for Year 5 and 6 optional; please see the uniform list below:

Trousers or skirt (navy or black)

White shirt

Navy blazer or navy V-neck jumper – either the blazer or the jumper can have the school badge.

School shoes, no open toes (black). Whilst trainer type shoes are acceptable they do have to be fully black.

Balliol school tie

PE kit

Balliol PE kit is optional in Year 5 and 6:

Balliol navy shorts with side panel

Balliol navy unisex PE t-shirt/polo shirt

or

Shorts (black or navy)

T-shirt (white)

Plimsolls/trainers

Winter PE Kit

Jogging bottoms (black or navy)

Sweatshirt/hoodie (black or navy)

4.2 Where to purchase it

Unbranded, generic uniform can be purchased from any high street/online retailer. Balliol blazers, jumpers, ties and PE kit can be purchased from www.my.clothing.com or www.prestigedesignww.co.uk. School ties and sew on school badges can be bought from the school office.

We have a uniform bank available in school throughout the year where families have donated uniform that their children have grown out of. Please come to the school office where you will find this available.

5. Expectations for our school community

5.1 Pupils

Pupils are expected to wear the correct uniform at all times (other than specified non-school uniform days) while:

- On the school premises
- Travelling to and from school
- At out-of-school events or on trips that are organised by the school, or where they are representing the school (if required)

Pupils are also expected to contact the school office if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics.

5.2 Parents and carers

Parents and carers are expected to make sure their child has the correct uniform and PE kit, and that every item is:

- Clean
- Clearly labelled with the child's name
- In good condition

Parents/carers are also expected to contact the school office if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to:

- Their child's protected characteristics
- The cost of the uniform

Parents/carers are expected to lodge any complaints or objections relating to the school uniform in a timely and reasonable manner.

Disputes about the cost of the school uniform will be:

- Resolved locally
- Dealt with in accordance with our school's complaints policy

The school will work closely with parents/carers to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

5.3 Staff

Staff will closely monitor pupils to make sure they are in correct uniform. They will give any pupils and families breaching the uniform policy the opportunity to comply, but will follow up with the headteacher if the situation doesn't improve.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with by the headteacher.

In cases where it is suspected that financial hardship has resulted in a pupil not complying with this uniform policy, staff will take a mindful and considerate approach to resolving the situation.

5.4 Governors

The governing board will review this policy and make sure that it:

- Is appropriate for our school's context
- Is implemented fairly across the school
- Takes into account the views of parents/carers and pupils
- Offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all pupils

The board will also make sure that the school's uniform supplier arrangements give the highest priority to cost and value for money, for example by avoiding single supplier contracts and by re-tendering contracts at least every 5 years.

6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed by the FGB every three years or earlier if there are significant in school changes/expectations.

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

- Behaviour policy
- Equality information and objectives statement
- Anti-bullying policy
- Complaints policy