



School Uniform Policy

1. Purpose and Legal Framework

This policy sets out the school's approach to uniform in line with the Department for Education (DfE) statutory guidance *Cost of School Uniforms* (November 2021) and relevant education legislation.

The policy aims to:

- Promote equality, inclusion, and a sense of belonging
- Take full account of the current cost of living and financial pressures on families
- Ensure uniform requirements are affordable, reasonable, and practical
- Ensure that no pupil is disadvantaged or excluded from education due to the cost of uniform

The school has a duty to ensure that its uniform policy does not place an unnecessary financial burden on parents and carers.

2. Principles of Affordability (DfE Alignment)

In accordance with DfE guidance, the school ensures that its uniform policy:

- Uses the **minimum number of branded items possible**
- Allows parents to purchase most uniform items from **low-cost retailers of their choice**
- Avoids specifying expensive or specialist items where cheaper alternatives are available
- Is reviewed regularly with affordability as a central consideration
- Avoids frequent changes that would result in additional cost to families

3. Compulsory Uniform Items

The school's compulsory uniform is deliberately limited.

Branded items (kept to a minimum):

- School jumper or cardigan (branded)

Non-branded items (available from any retailer):

- Plain white or neutral-coloured shirt or polo shirt

- Plain black or grey trousers, skirt, or shorts
- Plain black, sensible footwear suitable for school wear

No other branded or specialist items are required as part of the compulsory uniform.

4. Branded Items and Suppliers

In line with DfE guidance:

- Branded items are limited to those that are essential
- The school ensures that branded items are available at competitive prices
- Where a single supplier is used, the school ensures regular tendering and value for money
- Pupils will not be disadvantaged or sanctioned for wearing non-branded alternatives in cases of financial hardship

5. Second-Hand Uniform Provision

The DfE strongly encourages schools to make second-hand uniform available. To support families, particularly during the cost of living crisis, the school:

- Operates a second-hand uniform scheme
- Makes second-hand items available at low or no cost
- Actively encourages the donation and reuse of good-quality uniform items

Details of how to access second-hand uniform are available from the school office and on the school website.

6. Support for Families Experiencing Financial Hardship

The school recognises that some families may experience financial difficulty and will:

- Offer discreet and confidential support where uniform costs are a concern
- Consider flexibility in uniform expectations where appropriate
- Signpost families to local authority, charitable, or community support schemes

Parents and carers are encouraged to contact the school at an early stage if they are experiencing difficulty in meeting uniform costs.

7. Equality, Inclusion, and Reasonable Adjustments

This policy is applied in line with the Equality Act 2010. The school will make reasonable adjustments to uniform requirements to avoid discrimination on the basis of:

- Socio-economic background

- Disability or medical need
- Religion or belief
- Gender reassignment or gender identity

Requests for adjustments will be considered sensitively and on an individual basis.

8. Expectations, Compliance, and Sanctions

The school adopts a supportive approach to uniform compliance.

- Pupils will not be removed from education or learning activities due to uniform-related issues
- Non-compliance will be addressed through discussion, support, and practical solutions rather than punishment
- Any sanctions will be proportionate and in line with DfE guidance

9. Sustainability and Value for Money

In line with DfE recommendations, the school encourages:

- Durable uniform items that represent good value for money
- Reuse and recycling of uniform through second-hand provision
- Environmentally responsible purchasing choices

10. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed regularly by the governing body, with specific consideration given to:

- Changes in the cost of living
- Feedback from parents, carers, pupils, and staff
- Updates to DfE statutory guidance

The school remains committed to maintaining a uniform policy that is fair, affordable, inclusive, and fully compliant with national guidance.