



## 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:

- Signpost families to local authority, charitable and community support schemes.
- Provide information about available support with uniform.

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