



POLICY FOR SCHOOL UNIFORM AND APPEARANCE

Our school uniform is important to us. It is one way in which we identify ourselves as a school family and it promotes a strong, cohesive school identity which supports high standards and expectations in all areas of school life.

Our policy is based on the notion that a school uniform:

- Promotes a sense of pride in the school;
- Engenders a feeling of community and belonging;
- Is practical and smart;
- Identifies the children within the school;
- Is not distracting in class (as fashion clothes might be);
- Makes children feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance;
- Is regarded as suitable, and good value for money, by most parents;
- Has been designed with health and safety in mind.

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

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 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 Head Teacher who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis

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

Considering cheaper alternatives to school-branded items

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 leveler

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

Where to purchase our uniform

Our school uniform can be purchased from Top Class Uniforms.

You can place orders via their website – www.tcuniforms.co.uk or visit the shop directly - 4 Moulton Place, Blakelaw, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE5 3RL

You can also contact them via telephone 0191 271 0000 and email sales@tcuniforms.co.uk

The children **must wear the school uniform**, which consists of:

-Tie (Years 1-6)

-Grey V Neck School Jumper

-Grey Trousers

-Purple Tartan School Kilt

-Grey Tights/Socks

-White Shirt

-Black Shoes

-Lilac Gingham Summer Dresses

Alternate Tartan Style Skirt Link - <https://lollipops-middlesbrough.co.uk/product/grey-purple-tartan-skirt-3/>

Children can also wear a Plain Grey Kilt Style Skirt.

With children wearing uniform, it is **ESSENTIAL** that names are written in labels or that name labels are attached inside clothing.

Affordability

Non-branded items can be purchased from supermarkets (for example school shirts, grey trousers, grey pleated skirt, black PE shorts).

A more affordable alternative to the tartan kilt can also be purchased following the link above.

(Walbottle Village)

We hold a good supply of pre-worn uniform in school and parents can contact the school office if they would like to request items of uniform. Our parent group also hold regular pre-worn uniform stalls across the year, where parents can take second hand uniform items free of charge, exchange them for their own child's outgrown uniform or for a donation if they choose.

(Beech Hill)

We have a small supply of pre worn uniform in school which parents can access by contacting the school office or Mrs Macdonald. In the summer holidays, a selection of uniform, including jumpers and kilts is sold at the St Oswald's shop in West Denton at a cost of 50p per item which goes towards St Oswald's charity.

Jewellery & Fashion items

In addition to uniform, we place great emphasis on children's overall appearance. For this reason, jewellery, (rings, bracelets and necklaces), make-up, (including nail varnish), and extreme haircuts are not allowed in school. We do allow the wearing of small single ear studs in pierced ears but we ask that any ear piercing takes place at the start of the six week summer break to allow time to heal. We ask the children to remove ear-rings during PE lessons/sporting activities. Earrings cannot be covered.

PE Uniform

Children are permitted to come into school wearing their PE kit on PE days. Children should wear a purple t-shirt and black shorts, leggings or jogging bottoms. These can be purchased from any shop and T-shirts/ PE hoodies featuring the school badge can also be purchased from our uniform supplier.

The role of parents

We ask all parents who send their children to our school for their support of the school uniform policy. We believe that parents have a duty to send their children to school correctly dressed and ready for their daily schoolwork. Parents should ensure that their child has the correct uniform and that it is clean and in good repair. If any parent would like the school to modify the uniform policy on the grounds of their child's protected characteristics or the cost of the uniform, they should make representation, in the first instance, to the head teacher.

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.

The role of 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 Head Teacher if the situation doesn't improve.

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

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.

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.

The role of the Local Advisory Board (LAB)

The LAB supports the head teacher in implementing the school uniform policy. It considers all representations from parents regarding this policy and liaises with the head teacher to ensure that the policy is implemented fairly and with sensitivity. It is the LAB's responsibility to ensure that the school uniform meets all national regulations concerning equal opportunities and that our school uniform policy is consistent with our policy on equal opportunities. The LAB ensures that the school uniform policy helps children to dress sensibly, in clothing that is hardwearing, safe and practical.

Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Head Teacher and Local Advisory Board.

Policy Created by – Alison Oliver/Jess Eatock

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