Shipbourne School

School Uniform Policy

April 2025

Written by: Terri Daters (Headteacher)	Date of original: September 2024
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Version Control	Adaptation for Reception Class
Template	The Key

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 sex, race, religion or belief, 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 the way that is appropriate for school yet makes them feel most comfortable
- Allow pupils to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons
- Allow pupils to wear headscarves and other religious or cultural symbols
- Allow for adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents to get in touch with Terri Daters, Headteacher via office@shipbourne.kent.sch.uk who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests

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 on the cost of school uniform.

We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that have 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' 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:

- Checking prices from a range of suppliers at least every 5 years
- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary
- Ensuring there is a good balance between items with and without distinctive characteristics
- 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
- Considering alternative methods for signalling differences in groups for interschool competitions, such as creating posters or labels
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents to acquire second-hand uniform items
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents of any changes
- Consulting with parents 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

Our uniform was introduced in 2020 after comprehensive consultation with stakeholders. We believe it provides the school community with a durable, hardwearing and smart uniform that is unique to our school without putting financial pressure on parents. On school visits, the public and staff from other schools regularly comment on our uniform and the children are proud to wear it.

- Prestwick grey tartan pinafore/ Kelso grey tartan kilt grey trousers or shorts
- Long or short sleeved white shirts
- Striped maroon and silver tie (policy will be relaxed by notification during very hot weather)
- Maroon v neck knitted cardigan or jumper (ideally Rowlinson Courtelle; logo where possible)
- Grey or white tights or socks
- Black shoes (black ankle high boots are acceptable during the winter)
- PE Kit (NB. Worn full time by children in Reception): black track suit trousers (shorts in the summer), maroon or black track suit top or zipped fleece, white round neck short-sleeved t shirt, black or white trainers
- Long hair should be tied back
- No jewellery, except for small stud earrings, which **must** be removed for PE lessons

4.2 Where to purchase it

Our current uniform supplier is Happy Fish who continue to offer all items at a very competitive cost, with free termly delivery to school. However, all items can be purchased from an alternative supplier (other uniform suppliers or high street traders as appropriate to item availability) at the parents' discretion. In all cases, the Happy Fish website is the best starting point so that recommended items can be viewed before shopping around. We encourage any parent facing any issues with our supplier to contact us in the first instance so that the best resolution can be sought.

Our PTA arrange a second had uniform sale at least once a month from which uniform may be exchanged or purchased at a considerably reduced cost.

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

Pupils are also expected to contact Terri Daters, Headteacher, 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 and fits well

Parents are also expected to contact Terri Daters, Headteacher, 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 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 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 Terri Daters, 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 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 annually by the Headteacher. At every review, it will be approved by the full Governing Board.

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

- Positive relationships policy
- Equality information and objectives statement
- Anti-bullying policy
- Complaint's policy