School Uniform Policy

Policy Date: Nov 2025

Next Review: November 2028

Fairfields School

Approved by Governors

Fairfields School

School Uniform Policy

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 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 the Headteacher who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests

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 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:

- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary
- Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics where possible
- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost or long-lasting items
- 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 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 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

Expectations for school uniform

Our uniform consists of blue sweatshirts, cardigans and polo shirts supplied by My Clothing with the school's logo embroidered on it, teamed with dark trousers, joggers, pinafores, or skirts. Shorts can be worn in summer.

https://myclothing.com/pupil-uniform/22887.school

To order a child's uniform parents can set up an account and add items into your basket. Uniform order should arrive within 14 days.

We request that the children are dressed sensibly, remembering that our pupils will participate in activities during the school week such as art and may spend some time outside; therefore clothes are likely to get dirty. We also request that children don't come to school in jeans. Parents are asked to send their child with a coat as they regularly play and learn outside. We understand that for some children the wearing of school uniform can be a challenge. If this is the case, please get in touch and we will support you with this.
Alternatively you may purchase school uniform without a logo. Please make sure the uniform consists of a blue sweatshirt or cardigan and polo shirts teamed with dark trousers or joggers.

Footwear: It is important that the children wear sensible footwear to school. Proper footwear is essential for the children's safety, comfort, and overall well-being throughout the school day. Sensible shoes help prevent injuries and provide adequate support during physical activities. Parents are asked to ensure their child wears closed-toe shoes to protect their feet from potential injuries. It is important that they have sturdy shoes that fit securely and comfortably. Parents are asked not to send their child to school in flip flops or Crocs as these shoes can pose safety hazards and are not suitable for school. We recognise that some children find it difficult to wear certain shoes due to sensory issues, so parents are asked to discuss this with a member of staff.

Outside Learning: Outside learning is a really important part of our provision in school. Parents are asked to send in a waterproof coat and a pair of wellies for their child in school. The best thing for the children is a waterproof onesie. This ensures they keep dry while enjoying their learning outside, whatever the weather. Where needed resources can be provided for children to use but we unfortunately don't have enough for everyone.

PE: parents are asked to send in shorts, a t-shirt and plimsoles

Swimming: if a pupil has access to swimming as part of their individual provision, parents are asked to send in a swimming costume, towel, swimming pad or swimming rubbers if required.

Jewellery: pupils are allowed to wear stud earrings. Other jewellery shouldn't be worn due to safety, unless this is for religious reasons.

Hair styles: parents are asked to ensure pupils with long hair have this tied back while at school.

Expectations for our school community

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)

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 are also expected to contact the 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.

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.

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.

Monitoring arrangements
This policy will be reviewed in line with our policy monitoring cycle by The Headteacher. At every review, it will be approved by The Full Governing Body.