

School Uniform Policy



Approved by:	Full Governing Body	Date: December 24
Next review due by:	Summer 2 2025	

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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 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 or deputy headteacher, 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:

- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics such as logos are necessary
- Regularly reviewing the supplier of our school uniform, to ensure they give best value for money to parents
- Operating a Sustainability Swap Shop where parents are encouraged to make use of the good quality school uniform that has been donated and recycle any uniform no longer needed.
- 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 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

Our school uniform has already been altered to remove the need for key stage 2 children to purchase a cotton shirt and a tie, in order to reduce cost for families. These are no longer part of our school uniform.

4. Expectations for school uniform

4.1 Our school's uniform

- White or bottle green polo shirt.
- Bottle green cardigan or sweatshirt.
- Black or grey trousers/shorts/skirts/pinafores.
- Flat black shoes, black boots or black trainers (easy fastening until they can tie their own laces).
- green gingham check summer dress (during Summer term and Autumn first half term).

Depending on the weather, children will also need:

- a sun hat and sun cream
- a raincoat
- a warm coat, hat and gloves

Sweatshirts, cardigans, polo shirts with the school logo on can all be purchased online from the following supplier www.yourschoolwear.co.uk. Non-logoed alternatives can be purchased from many local supermarkets or department stores.

Sun hats with logos can be purchased from the following supplier www.yourschoolwear.co.uk. Non-logged alternatives can be purchased from any shop and can be any colour.

There are no restrictions on school bags, book bags or packed lunch boxes, but we ask that they are of a reasonable size and style. Book bags with the school logo on can be purchased online from www.yourschoolwear.co.uk

PE Kit

From September 2023, families will be informed which two days their children will have PE. On those days, the children should come to school wearing their PE kit all day. This allows more time for joining in activities.

- a school logo or plain T shirt in the house colour
- black shorts
- Trainers
- Plain black track suit - plain black zipped top / sweatshirt and plain black tracksuit joggers (this item is to be added to our school uniform shop, but can also be purchased from any supermarket/sports shops).

Hair which is longer than shoulder length must be tied back on PE days.

Earrings must be removed for PE lessons. Please ensure children can do this themselves or make sure earrings are not worn on PE days.

If you are planning to have your child's ears pierced, please ensure this is done at the beginning of the summer holidays, so it does not interfere with curriculum PE.

All school clothing should be clearly named.

Children are encouraged to make the most of our grounds as well as being inside the classroom and will go out to play in most weather conditions. Please make sure that on hot days you have provided a sun hat and have applied sunscreen. On cooler, damp days a warm coat/anorak will be necessary.

- **Swimming:** any colour trunks/one piece swimsuit, towel and a named swimming cap (caps available to purchase from the school office).
- **Make up/Hair/Temporary Tattoos** Make up, including nail varnish, is not permitted at Friar's Grove. In order to avoid the spread of head lice, we request that shoulder-length hair is tied back. Hair should be the pupil's natural colour, with no extremes in style such as shaved heads (i.e a cut which is less than a number two), or shaved patterns in the hair. Tattoos are not permitted. These rules prepare children for the expectations at Secondary school.
- **Jewellery:** Jewellery is not part of our school uniform and children should not wear bracelets, rings or necklaces for safety reasons. Earrings should be stud only – no hooped or dangly earrings. If you are planning to have your child's ears pierced please ensure it is done at the beginning of the summer holidays so it does not interfere with curriculum PE.

In accordance with Local Authority Health and Safety guidance, it is no longer allowable for children to tape earrings for PE & games sessions. Please ensure your child can remove their earrings themselves or that earrings are not worn on PE days. Adults in school are not permitted to help children remove earrings.

We ask that all school clothing is clearly named.

4.2 Where to purchase it



TESCO

ASDA

Sainsbury's

M&S
EST. 1884

- Branded school uniform is supplied by Anglia Schoolwear <https://www.yourschoolwear.co.uk/>. Uniform can be delivered to your home or collected from a designated parcel centre in Clacton on Sea in Essex.
- Non – logoed alternatives can be purchased from many local supermarkets or department stores.
- The school operates a Sustainability Swap Shop where parents are encouraged to make use of the good quality school uniform that has been donated and recycle any uniform that is no longer needed.
- DNA Networks run a free school uniform service that allows families of any child attending school to apply for free used uniform. They have a shop on North Station Road, Colchester.

5. Expectations for our school community

5.1 Pupils

Pupils are expected to wear the correct uniform at all times (other than specified non-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)

Pupils are expected to contact the 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

Parents are asked to contact the class teacher if there is a reasonable explanation for their child being unable to wear an item of school uniform on a certain day.

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.

5.3 Staff

Staff will monitor pupils to make sure they are in correct uniform. They will follow up any breaches to the policy with the child, depending on their age, and / or with the family.

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.

5.4 Governors

The Governing Body supports the Headteacher in implementing the School Uniform Policy and liaises with the Headteacher to ensure that the Policy is implemented fairly and with sensitivity.

It is the Governors' responsibility to ensure that the school uniform meets all regulations concerning equal opportunities.

The Governors ensure that the school uniform policy helps children to dress sensibly, give children a sense of identity and ensures clothing is hardwearing, safe and practical.

The board will also make sure that the school's uniform supplier arrangements give the highest priority to cost and value for money.

6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

- Behaviour policy
- Equality information and objectives statement
- Anti-bullying policy
- Complaints policy