



School Uniform Policy

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1. Aims

This policy aims to:

- Set out our approach to ensure that our uniform is of reasonable cost and offers good value for money for parents and carers
- Explain how we will avoid discrimination in line with our legal duties under the Equality Act 2010 and in line with the Government guidance found at:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-uniform>
- 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:

- 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

- 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
- Allow for adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents to get in touch with the School Officer Manager who can answer questions about the policy and respond or direct the person to the appropriate person to consider 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 our school badge/ logo 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.
- Therefore, we make this available but also make it clear to parents in information evenings that uniform can be non-branded, which will allow parents to 'shop around' for items which are available at a reasonable cost and provide the best value.
- We will do this by:
 - Accepting uniform both with and without the school logo.
 - Keeping the number of optional branded items to a minimum.
 - Avoiding specific requirements for items pupils wear on non-school days, where there is a theme' – this is optional.
 - Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year groups, although 'Leavers' hoodies' are available in Year 6.
 - Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents to acquire second-hand uniform items, through our 'Friends' pre-loved clothes sales.
 - 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 timings of these, giving an appropriate 'handover' time.
 - Supporting PP children with the purchase of uniform through our PP scheme, which is detailed within our Charging & Remissions Policy.
 - Supporting families experiencing hardship via contact with our Parent Link Worker.

4. Expectations for school uniform

4.1 Our school uniform

School uniform includes:

<u>List</u>	<u>Branded available</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↪ White polo shirt ↪ Blue jumper ↪ Blue cardigan ↪ Blue fleece ↪ Blue raincoat (or other own choice) ↪ Book bag ↪ Grey skirt ↪ Grey shorts or culottes ↪ Grey trousers ↪ Grey pinafore dress ↪ Blue and white checked dress (Summer) ↪ Black shoes (no boots) ↪ Socks or grey tights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↪ Logo available

PE Kit should include:

<u>Indoor and Outdoor (nice weather)</u>	<u>Outdoor</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↪ Blue/dark shorts ↪ White T-shirt ↪ Plimsolls/Trainers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↪ Dark, plain jogging bottoms ↪ White T-Shirt ↪ Dark, plain jumper ↪ Socks ↪ Trainers

- Please do not bring rucksacks or large bags into school. Bookbags only please until Year 6 due to the lack of space in the classroom. Any blue bookbag which fits into a school drawer is acceptable.
- Year 6 are able to purchase Leavers' hoodies through the school; if any parent/carer needs support with this, please let the school know, via the School Office. This is **not** required school uniform, but an option for Y6.
- Hairstyles must be suitable for school and not extreme 'fashion' cuts. Natural hair colour is expected in term-time. Long hair may be required to be tied back for cooking, PE and other activities where there is a health and safety requirements.
- Please leave jewellery for home-time and weekends. It must not be worn in school.

Earrings are **not** part of the school uniform and are unsafe for PE and should **not** be worn to school. If ears have been recently pierced, please temporarily cover with plasters or low adhesive micropore tape until they can be removed during school times. Try to have ears pierced at the start of the summer holidays, giving them time to heal before returning to school in September.

Earring retainers, for the purpose of this policy, are considered by the school as earrings. This is supported by Northamptonshire Sport, as they are considered to be a potential health and safety hazard.

➤ Nail polish, false nails, eyelashes, and make-up

Children must not wear artificial nails, nail polish or make-up into school. Please enjoy these at home or at the weekends.

4.2 Where to purchase the branded and other uniform items:

- ✓ Stevensons, 40 – 42 Abington Square, Northampton, NN1 4AA.
- ✓ Tel: 01604 635828 Email: northamptonbranch@stevensons.co.uk
- ✓ Our Friends of Bridgewater regularly have pre-loved uniforms clothing sales, including on New Intake evening and at parent events. Please ask the Office for more details of the next sale.
- ✓ Other high street brands are acceptable. Purchasing a branded item with the school logo is parental preference, not a requirement.

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
- At out-of-school events or on trips that are organised by the school, or where they are representing the school (unless otherwise informed)

Parents are requested to contact the School Office Manager in the first instance 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 the uniform is:

- Clean and tidy
- Clearly labelled with the child's name
- In appropriate condition

If there are any concerns, the school will work closely with parents to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

Parents are expected to lodge any complaints or objections relating to the school uniform in a timely and reasonable manner. Please see our Complaints Policy on the website for more details.

5.3 Staff

Staff will check pupils are in correct uniform. They will talk to any pupils and families where the uniform policy is not being followed to resolve any difficulties, address barriers and support families. If there are ongoing issues, the member of staff will follow up with the Year Group Leader, Phase Leader and finally a member of the Senior Leadership Team if the situation remains unresolved.

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

Our governing board will review this policy and make sure that it:

- Is appropriate for our school's context
- Is implemented fairly across the school
- 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 considers cost and value for money and that the school reviews their arrangements with the supplier regularly.

6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed **biannually** by Julie Breakwell, School Office Manager. At every review, it will be approved by Head Teacher and the Governing Body. The named governor for uniform is Mary Kay.

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

Equality Duty

Charging and Remissions Policy

Pupil Premium Statement