School Uniform Policy

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Related policies:

- Behaviour Policy
- Equality Information & Objectives Statement
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Complaints Policy

Contents

1. Aims 2
2. Our School's Legal duties under the Equality Act 2010 2
3. Expectations for School Uniform 3
4. Limiting the Cost of School Uniform ..... **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
5. Where to purchase school uniform 4
6. Jewellery 4
7. Nail Varnish 5
8. Extreme Haircuts 5
9. Expectations for our school community 5
10. Monitoring Arrangements 7

1. Aims

This policy aims to:

- Clarify our expectations for school uniform
- 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
- Promote a sense of pride in the school
- Identifies the children with the school
- Prevents children from coming to school in fashion clothes that could be distracting in class;
- Makes children feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance
- Is regarded as suitable wear for school
- Is designed with health and safety in mind

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 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 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 a way that is appropriate for school and makes them feel most comfortable
- 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 to get in touch with Headteacher who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

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 (DfE) on the cost of school uniforms.

We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that need to have a

school logo attached or be in a unique fabric or style) cannot be purchased from a wide range of retailers, and that requiring many such items limits parents/carers' ability to shop around for the best price.

We will therefore make sure our uniform:

- Is available at a reasonable cost
- Provides the best value for money for parents and carers

We will do this by:

Following the statutory limits for compulsory branded items of uniform and PE kit to a maximum of:

- 3 or fewer
- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary, and limiting these items where possible
- Limiting compulsory branded items to low-cost and/or long-lasting items
- Considering cheaper alternatives to compulsory branded items, such as logos that can be ironed on, as long as this doesn't compromise quality and durability or through purchasing sweatshirts for example from a supermarket.
- Avoiding specific requirements for items such as coats, bags and shoes/trainers that pupils could also wear on non-school days.
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different years
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities including (but not limited to) sport, music and drama
- Avoiding requiring different branded items for particular times of the year, such as a branded dress in summer and a branded skirt in winter
- Considering alternative approaches, including loaning compulsory branded items such as sports kit for competitions
- Making sure that opportunities to acquire second-hand items in a timely manner are accessible to parents and carers of both current and prospective pupils, and publishing this information on our website
- 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 uniform in line with the school's complaints policy
- Continuing to review this policy, to ensure the cost of our uniform is reasonable and provides the best value for money

4. Expectations for School Uniform

The School Uniform is:

- Black or grey trousers
- Black or grey skirt/ dress
- White shirt/blouse/polo shirt
- Royal blue jumper or cardigan (branded with school logo or unbranded)
- Grey or black socks or tights
- Blue Windrush Thamesmead branded Book Bag (optional)
- Winter coat – no particular colour specified

In summer (from Easter to the end of the Summer term):

- Royal Blue gingham dresses
- Black or grey shorts

PE Kit

- Plain, white T-shirt or polo shirt
- Plain navy blue or black shorts, tracksuit bottoms or leggings
- Black or white trainers
- In colder weather children should wear their Windrush Thamesmead School Jumper or cardigan over their white t-shirt or polo shirt. No hoodies are to be worn.

On PE days, pupils are to come to school wearing their PE kit; this is an extension of their school uniform.

Correct PE kit MUST be worn. Children will not be allowed to participate in PE unless they have the correct clothing and footwear

Footwear

Pupils are to come to school wearing plain black/white trainers or shoes.

No lightup shoes, boots over the ankle or Ugg boots are permitted. In the summer, sandals can be worn however the heel and toes must be covered.

In wet weather, pupils may come to school in wellies but will need to take school shoes or trainers to change into.

5. Where to purchase school uniform

Casey's Schoolwear are our new uniform provider where you can purchase a range of uniform including our Sweatshirts and Book Bags with school logos on them.

Should you wish to order, either:
Visit the store - 246 Blackfen Road, Sidcup, Kent, DA15 8PW

Order online: https://www.caseysschoolwear.co.uk/primary-school.html - and have the items delivered directly to you, (although you will need to pay postage & packing)

Order online: https://www.caseysschoolwear.co.uk/primary-school.html - and collect from the school office, orders are delivered to the school every Friday.

There are other items available on the website, they are not compulsory.

We hold 'Pre-Loved uniform' sales. We notify parents via Bromcom with details of dates/times of these sales.

6. Jewellery

On health and safety grounds we only allow the following items of jewellery to be worn:

- Stud earrings in pierced ears only (no hoops)
- Small objects of religious significance, such as a crucifix on a chain or Sikh Kara, which must be worn under clothing
- Medical identification bracelets where required for medical reasons
- Analogue watches only (no digital watches)

For **PE lessons, games and swimming**, jewellery must not be worn for health and safety reasons.

Children should **arrive at school with earrings removed on PE days**. Earrings should be removed at home by the child or their parent/carer.

Parents and carers are advised to **consider the timing of ear piercing**, as earrings will still need to be managed in line with this policy during PE lessons.

Where pupils are able to **remove their own earrings independently**, they should do so prior to the lesson and do not need to have them taped.

Where earrings cannot be removed, they will be **covered with tape before the lesson** so that pupils can participate safely. The school will provide tape for this purpose.

School staff will not remove earrings.

7. Nail Varnish

The school does not permit children to wear nail varnish, the Headteachers have nail varnish remover and will remove it if children come to school wearing it.

8. Extreme Haircuts

The school does not permit children to have 'extreme' haircuts that could serve as a distraction and competition with other children. Hairstyles and haircuts which are deemed too extreme such as tramlines, shaved patterns, Mohican cuts, or dyed hair for fashion. Hair styles associated with particular ethic groups may be permitted but must be conservative as not to distract other children in school. Pupils with long hair below the shoulders should also tie it back for safety reasons.

9. Expectations for our school community

9.1 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 (if required)

Pupils are also expected to contact the Headteacher if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics.

9.2 Parents & 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
- Appropriate for the weather

Parents are also expected to contact 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 with the school leadership team
- Dealt with in accordance with our school's complaints policy

The school will work closely with parents to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

9.3 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 is not resolved.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with by Headteacher. Where necessary, school staff will provide school uniform for a pupil to be worn when on school premises.

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.

9.4 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.

10. Monitoring Arrangements

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