



Sheffield Lower School Uniform Policy

Written by	Reviewed and Ratified by Governors	Shared with Staff	Last Updated	Review Period	Next Review due
Head teacher, Mrs Polly Ross and Deputy Headteacher, Lorraine Freeman	November 2024	November 2024	November 2023	3 Years	November 2027

1. Statement of Intent

1.1 It is our policy that all children should wear school uniform when attending school, or when participating in a school organised event outside normal school hours.

1.2 We provide a complete list of all the items needed for the children's school uniform in this policy.

1.3 Aims and objectives

Our policy is based on the notion that a school uniform:

- promotes a sense of pride in the school;
- engenders a feeling of community and belonging;
- is practical and smart;
- identifies the children with the school;
- is not distracting in class (as fashion clothes and accessories might be);
- makes children feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance and items purchased;
- is regarded as suitable, and good value for money, by most parents;
- has been designed with health and safety in mind (nail varnish and temporary tattoos are not).

As part of our ethos we would like all children to wear the correct uniform properly at all times. This includes to and from school, the playground, corridors and classrooms. It is important for the promotion of social independence that the younger children are able to manage their own clothes and shoes (Younger children may not be able to manage laces for example). This should be considered when purchasing school uniform. In order to return lost property, all uniform and personal items should be clearly marked with your child's name. In some instances, where medical professionals require your child to wear something different, they will provide you with reported statements for the school file.

2.0 Legal Framework

2.1 This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- The Equality Act 2010
- DfE (2023) 'Keeping children safe in education 2022'
- DFE Guidance on the cost of school uniform 2021

2.2 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/carers to get in touch with Lorraine Freeman, EDI lead, inclusion lead and deputy headteacher, who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis

2.3 This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Equality Diversity and Inclusion policy
- Accessibility Plan
- Complaints Policy
- SEND Information Report and Policy
- Anti-bullying Policy

3. Roles and Responsibilities

3.1 The governing board will be responsible for making sure that the policy:

- Is appropriate for our school's context
- Is implemented fairly across the school
- Takes into account the views of parents/carers 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.

3.2 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 Mrs Freeman if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics.

3.3 Parents and carers:

We ask all parents who send their children to our school to support the school uniform policy. We believe that parents have a duty to send their children to school correctly dressed and ready for their daily school work. 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/carers are also expected to contact Lorraine Freeman (in writing in the first instance) 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/carers 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/carers to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome. The school welcomes children from all backgrounds and faith communities. If there are serious reasons, for example religious objections, why parents want their child to wear clothes that differ from the school uniform the school will look sympathetically at such requests. Similarly, should an item of school uniform prove problematic for a child with disabilities then parents are invited to draw this to the attention of the Inclusion Manager, or the Headteacher. The school will not treat children with disabilities unfavourably.

3.4 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 a member of SLT if the situation doesn't improve.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with by class teacher then phase leader, then deputy 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.

4. Limiting the cost of school uniform

4.1 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 uniform. We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that need 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/carers' 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

4.2 School Uniform finance

This is available to parents who qualify and meet the criteria for Free School Meals. No child will be disciplined for non-compliance because of their particular cultural, race or religious dress code.

4.3 We will limit costs 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 and/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 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/carers to acquire second-hand uniform items
- 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 the policy.

5. Our School Uniform

5.1 Earrings

Earrings are strongly discouraged in school. Earrings pose a safety hazard on a busy playground and during sports. If parents opt for their child to wear earrings they must only be small studs, either silver or gold. Children who are participating in P.E., swimming, sports clubs and /or physical activities **must not wear earrings.** This is due to the potential risk of injury, earrings being lost/stolen and the spread of infections. It is therefore recommended that children do not come to school wearing earrings on these days. **Parents are expected to remove children's earrings before school on days of sporting activity. Children may be asked to remove earrings and to store them themselves.** If children are unable to remove their earrings, they will be supported by adults to tape them to safeguard from injury.

5.2 Make up and cosmetics

Make up and cosmetics are not considered appropriate or consistent with our school uniform and safeguarding requirements. Nail varnish is not allowed, and is deemed unsafe in an emergency when determining heart flow. Temporary tattoos breach our safeguarding protocols and are distracting to other pupils in class also.

5.3 Hair

Long hair must always be tied back. This is not gender specific. Hair accessories must be understated; hairbands must be plain, and not draw attention to distractions, nor add to a child's height.

5.4 Accessories

Children may not wear adornments or jewellery that are not for religious, medical or safety purposes. Where there is a requirement for religious, medical or safety purposes, they must comply with health and safety requirements and be agreed with the Headteacher.

5.5 Non – compliance with school uniform

The Headteacher can discipline pupils for breach of uniform policy. This may mean a behaviour consequence if a child persistently breaches school uniform policy.

Children may be sent home with a note to parents highlighting the breach of policy and asking them to remedy the breach. However, the school will endeavour to establish the reasons for non-compliance and will be sensitive if parents are in financial difficulty.

Some children experience different needs for medical reasons. Where this is asserted, evidence will be stored in compliance of GDPR and our Inclusion Manager will provide clarity.

The school may loan missing items of uniform to ensure that children do not feel singled-out, should parents be unable or unwilling to provide them with the required items of uniform.

Uniform

Parents are asked to send their children to school clean, tidy and appropriately dressed. The school uniform was consulted as part of the schools for the future consultations in 2020. There is a change from red to green as a result. A two and a half year 'lead in' was agreed to support cost of living for families. This policy was brought again to the Parent Forum in 2024 with a survey sent to all parents. Our uniform will no longer contain the name of our school to support the safeguarding of our pupils when they play online, or in public.

It comprises of:

Grey skirt/pinafore dress, trousers or shorts.

Green or white polo-shirt and green jumper, cardigan or sweatshirt.

Black school shoes (not trainers); plain black, white or grey socks/tights.

Optional green fleece for outdoor learning

We would also recommend a pair of wellies to be left in school to support our OPAL playtimes.

Green and white checked dresses may be worn in the summer months – with black shorts.

PE: Children can wear their PE kit for the day on their allocated PE lesson. Boys and girls wear black shorts and plain house t-shirts for PE with black, white or coloured trainers. Black jogging bottoms and plain black sweatshirts/hoodies will be needed for outdoor activities.

Year 3 children will need swimming kits.

House colours:

Your child will be allocated a house group by the school office upon admission. Each house is designated a colour, which your child will wear for PE and sporting events.

Earth House - Green

Air House - White

Fire House - Red

Water House – Blue

Your child can wear any plain t-shirt of the house colour (no branding please) or you may purchase a t-shirt with the school logo on at Price & Buckland.

Forest School: Children can wear suitable mufti clothes for an outdoor environment which covers their arms and legs.

If you need to send items into school, we recommend a named draw-string bag. Other bags are not allowed due to limited cloakroom space. *Ruck sacks in particular do not allow coats to be pegged over the top, and these then fall off and become a safety hazard.*

Sweatshirts, cardigans, polo shirts, PE bags and book bags, displaying the school logo are available to purchase online from Price and Buckland [shefford-lower-school-uniform](https://www.priceandbuckland.co.uk/school-uniform). The PSA runs a second-hand online uniform shop and holds regular pop up stalls.

6. Monitoring and review

The Board of Governors supports the Headteacher in agreeing and implementing the school uniform policy. We will collectively consider all representations from parents regarding this policy and ensure that the policy is implemented fairly and with sensitivity. We will ensure that the school uniform meets all national regulations concerning equal opportunities, and that our uniform policy is consistent with our policy on equal opportunities.

6.1 When monitoring this policy, we will:

- Seek the views of parents, to be sure that they agree with the policy, and support it;
- Consider any requests from parents for individual children to have special dispensations;
- Report to the governing body on the way the policy is being implemented.

6.2 This policy will be reviewed by the Board of Governors within the review cycle or earlier if considered necessary.