

SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY

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At West Borough Primary School, we believe that wearing our school uniform helps to promote a feeling of equality, partnership and belonging.

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

Our school's legal duties under the Equality Act 2010

The <u>Equality Act 2010</u> 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 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. These should be black or navy blue)
- 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 the headteacher, who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis

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 <u>quidance</u> 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 are necessary
- Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics where possible, by only asking that the **sweatshirt/cardigan/zip-up hoody** and house coloured **T-Shirt features** the school logo. (Non-logo jumpers, sweatshirts and cardigans can also be worn)
- Avoiding specific requirements for items pupils could wear on non-school days, such as coats.
- Keeping the number of optional branded items to a minimum, so that the school's uniform can act as a social leveler
- 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

New uniform can be purchased via ParentMail. Second hand can be purchased by contacting the school office.

Expectations for School Uniform

West Borough Primary School uniform consists of:

- White collared t-shirt, shirt or blouse
- Navy blue sweatshirt/cardigan with or without school logo
- Grey school trousers, skirt or pinafore dress
- Grey or white socks or grey, white or black tights
- Black shoes
- House coloured logo T-shirt and navy shorts for PE
- Navy checked dresses in the Summer Term and Autumn Term I
- Grey shorts in the Summer Term and Autumn Term I

PE kit to be worn to school on PE days consists of:

- Navy blue hooded sweatshirt with or without school logo during colder months
- House coloured logo T-shirt and navy shorts
- Navy jogging bottoms or leggings (non- branded) in colder months
- Trainers

Watches, hair & jewellery

One small analogue or digital watch. (No smart watches)

- Children can have their ears pierced but may only wear small stud earrings (no hoops allowed). These must be removed during PE and sporting activities. This is for health and safety reasons.
- Taping ear-rings is no longer recommended as it can cause further harm and give a false sense of security.
- Hair tied back using natural coloured hair bands or with small bows, clips, headbands and ribbons in school colours; navy blue, white and grey.
- No hair dye. (Temporary coloured spray is permitted on dress up days.)

Expectations of our school community

Pupils

Children are expected to wear the correct uniform at all times (other than 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/carers 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/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.

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. The Family Liaison Officer will offer advice and support. Secondhand uniform is available

The Role of Governors

The governing body will review this policy frequently and make sure that it:

- is appropriate for our school's context
- is implemented fairly across the school
- Takes account the views of parents and pupils
- Offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all pupils.

The governors 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

This policy will be reviewed every 2 years by the Headteacher. At every review it will be approved by the full governing body.

Links to other Policies

This policy is linked to our:

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