



UNIFORM POLICY

Adopted: Spring 26

Review: Spring 29

Policy Review and Monitoring

This policy is due to be reviewed at the time stated, unless circumstances determine that this policy needs to be reviewed at an earlier time.

Signed: **Chair of Governors**
Mr J Orchard

Headteacher
Mr K Stroud

UNIFORM POLICY

Introduction

The power to introduce a school uniform policy is contained in Section 88 of the *'Education and Inspections Act 2006'* (from January 2010). It places a duty on governing bodies to ensure that policies designed to promote good behaviour and discipline are pursued at the school. Section 89 places a duty on a headteacher to determine measures (including rules and provisions for enforcing them) to be taken with a view to promoting discipline among pupils, a proper regard for authority, encouraging good behaviour and respect for others and otherwise securing an acceptable standard of behaviour.

This policy reflects the current Welsh Government statutory guidance *'School uniform and appearance: policy guidance for governing bodies (WG23-17)'*, last updated May 2023 which places additional requirements on governing bodies to ensure that due regard is given to securing equality of treatment between pupils of different sexes and genders; pupils from different ethnic and religious backgrounds and disabled pupils. Cost and affordability also need to be given due regard. The guidance also references practical considerations involved in introducing or changing school uniform policies, together with consultation with parents, pupils and the community.

Welsh Government strongly encourages schools to have a uniform policy and identifies that, when appropriately implemented, it can:

- provide a sense of identity, community and cohesion within the school,
- support positive behaviour and school discipline,
- ensure pupils dress appropriately for learning activity,
- remove peer pressure to dress in particular fashions,
- enable pupils of all backgrounds to share in a common identity which embraces their particular requirements,
- help reduce inequalities between pupils and help reduce some triggers for bullying,
- benefit safeguarding and attendance policies through helping to identify truants,
- assist identification of strangers on school premises,
- support and promote the ethos of the school.

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

Human Rights, Equality, Discrimination and Anti-Bullying considerations.

Our uniform policy is designed to ensure that it does not discriminate in the treatment of pupils unlawfully on the grounds of any protected characteristics, such as sex, race, disability or religion. Whilst the school policy expects and encourages all pupils to wear school uniform, it is not compulsory, and as such, any appropriate alterations to suit pupils with different needs or beliefs can be easily accommodated. The school uniform is also very flexible to allow for all price ranges and personal taste.

Uniform Details and Availability

A complete list of school uniform options are detailed below, and is also included within the school prospectus.

- White polo shirt or short-sleeved shirt.
- Red jumper, cardigan, fleece or sweatshirt.
- Plain black trousers, shorts, skirt or pinafore
- *Plain black* jogging bottoms (option for Foundation Phase)
- Red / white 'gingham' dress (summer option)
- *Plain black* sensible shoes or shoe-style trainers.

For safety reasons, pupils must not wear the following footwear:

Shoes / boots with heels or 'heelies', open toe or 'strappy' sandals, flip flops.

Jeans are inappropriate and are strongly discouraged.

All school uniform clothes are available from several suppliers with an embroidered school logo. They are also available without logo from local supermarkets and clothing outlets. These are generally less expensive than those with the school logo. All types of appropriate uniform as listed above, with or without school logo or written name are acceptable. The School Essentials Grant provides financial assistance to eligible families on lower incomes to support with the purchase of items such as school uniform, coats shows etc. Eligible families are encouraged to apply for this financial support where appropriate.

Jewellery and Accessories

On health and safety grounds, we do not allow children to wear jewellery in school. This includes all body, and tongue piercings. The exceptions to this rule are plain earring studs in pierced ears, any items or religious observance and watches. We expect pupils to remove earrings during PE and games for safety reasons. If a pupil has newly pierced ears, the school will allow small plain studs provided they are covered with plasters during P.E. to prevent them from causing injury. Parents will need to provide the plasters and permission for this is at the discretion of the Headteacher. Teachers are not required or expected to remove or re-fit any earrings, nor apply plasters – the parent consent form needs to be checked if teachers decide to assist pupils with plasters. Outside of P.E., watches are worn at the pupils' own risk. Parents are reminded that P.E. is a compulsory element of the Curriculum for Wales and pupils are not permitted to withdraw from P.E. for reasons of their parents' decision to have their child's ears pierced.

Footwear

The school wants all children to grow into healthy adults. We believe that it is dangerous for children to wear shoes that have platform soles or high heels, so we do not allow children to wear such shoes in our school. Similarly, we do not allow flip-flops or flimsy summer shoes, as these do not provide sufficient protection to pupil's feet, particularly in a busy playground.

Pupils are required to wear plain dark school shoes or trainers, that are in keeping with the general style of the school uniform. Brightly coloured trainers may be suitable for sports but are not in keeping with the smart appearance of a school uniform.

P.E. Kit

In order to minimise time lost and to resolve logistical challenges around pupils changing for P.E., we have changed our procedures and now ask that pupils wear their PE kit to school on relevant days, plus their school jumper. Pupils still need to change for after school sports clubs, such as rugby / netball. For PE, pupils will need:

- A plain white t-shirt
- Plain black / dark shorts or jogging bottoms.
- Plain black / dark trainers.

Parents are informed of the days of the week for their child's P.E. sessions and are expected to ensure that their pupils wear appropriate kit to school on that day.

We want to ensure that any costs associated with this are kept to an absolute minimum, so parents are asked to avoid expensive branded products, as this can create pressure to other families to do the same.

Extreme Haircuts

The school does not permit children to have haircuts that could serve as a distraction to other children (e.g. unnatural colours or motifs). In such instances, parents will be contacted and will be expected to make appropriate alterations.

The Role of 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 schoolwork. Parents and carers should ensure that their child has the correct uniform, and that it is clean and in good repair.

If any parent would like the school to modify the uniform policy, they should make representation, in the first instance, to the Headteacher. The school welcomes children from all backgrounds and faith communities. If there are serious reasons, e.g. religious objections, why parents and carers want their child to wear clothes that differ from the school uniform, the school will look sensitively at such requests. Similarly, should an item of school uniform prove problematic for a pupil with disabilities, then parents and carers are invited to draw this to the attention of the Headteacher. The school will not treat pupils with disabilities unfavourably and will endeavour to make any reasonable adjustments upon request.

Sanctions

Occasional infringement

The teacher or senior staff will first try to establish why the pupil is not complying with the policy and seek to agree a resolution with the family. If it is because families are in financial difficulties, we will endeavour to support the family, for example through the provision of unclaimed second-hand uniform.

Regular infringement

If a pupil is regularly not in uniform and/or wearing clothing that is considered unacceptable, the responsibility lies with the Headteacher who may contact parents directly to set out the expectations of the school policy and determine how best to seek resolution including the application of any sanctions or disciplinary action if this is felt to be necessary.

If the pupil continues to regularly infringe the uniform code, the Headteacher retains the right to require a parent to bring appropriate clothing to school, or collect the pupil to go home to change their clothes. This should be for no longer than necessary to effect the change of clothing and would only be appropriate where the change could be made quickly and easily. No pupil will be sent home indefinitely or for longer than is necessary to change clothes or modify appearance (e.g. by having a haircut) as this could amount to an unofficial exclusion.

The school does not consider exclusion to be an appropriate response to continual defiance of the uniform policy. However, where these breaches are persistent and in open defiance of the school's uniform policy, and where all other avenues for resolving the uniform dispute have been exhausted, then the school may consider exclusion as a last resort depending on the circumstances of the case. This would be done in consultation with the Governing Body.

The Governing Body has a responsibility to ensure that absenteeism does not arise because families are unable to provide uniform for their children. If that arises, the school will recommend that the family contact the Local Authority for appropriate assistance.

Lost Property

The school makes all reasonable attempts to reunite lost property with their owners. However, by its very nature, lost property generally does not have a pupil's name on it and will usually remain unclaimed. In these circumstances, the lost items become the property of the school, once a reasonable time has elapsed. Once lost property has remained unclaimed for a full school year, we will either retain these clothes as spares for accidents or offer these (where they are in 'good as new' condition) to parents for a nominal sum.

In order to avoid confusion and to keep lost property to a minimum, all items of clothing, P.E. kit, bags etc. should be clearly named, before being brought into the school.

School Uniform Recycling Schemes

The school makes every effort to encourage parents to ensure that all pupil uniform is labelled, so that lost property can be returned and organises lost property to help assist families with finding any un-named garments. Where lost property has still not been claimed after a period of time, the school makes these freely available for collection. Parents are periodically encouraged to return any outgrown, but good condition uniform to the school so that it can be made available to others.

The school also has arrangements in place with external organisations to donate non-uniform items, e.g. coats, that have not been collected after a reasonable period of time.

The Role of the Governing Body

The Governing Body supports the Headteacher in implementing the school uniform policy. It considers all representations from parents and carers regarding this 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 national regulations concerning equal opportunities, and that our school uniform policy is consistent with our policy on equal opportunities.

Governors ensure that the school uniform policy helps children to dress sensibly, in clothing that is hardwearing, safe and practical.

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