



SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY

Statement of intent

Offley Primary Academy believes that a consistent school uniform policy is vital to promote the ethos of the school and provide a sense of belonging and identity for all pupils, regardless of their protected characteristics or socio-economic circumstances.

This policy lays out the measures the school has taken to ensure a consistent, fair and inclusive uniform policy, and to implement a uniform that reflects the needs of all pupils, and is affordable and the best value for money for the school and pupils' families.

We believe that pupils learn most effectively and achieve their best outcomes when they are comfortable, able to be themselves, and dressed in such a way that sets an appropriate tone for education.



SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY

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

- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Education Act 2011
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Equality Act 2010
- The UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)
- Data Protection Act 2018
- Education (Guidance about Costs of School Uniforms) Act 2021

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

- DfE (2021) 'Cost of school uniforms'
- DfE (2021) 'School Admissions Code'
- DfE (2021) 'School uniforms'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Complaints Procedures Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- LGBTQ+ Policy
- Tendering and Procurement Policy

Roles and responsibilities

The governing board is responsible for:

- Establishing, in consultation with the Principal and school community, a practical and smart school uniform that accurately reflects the school's vision and values.
- Ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible and inclusive, and does not disadvantage any pupil by virtue of their protected characteristics or socio-economic status.
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of parents, pupils and the wider school community regarding changes to the school's uniform.
- Ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible and affordable.
- Demonstrating how best value for money has been achieved in the uniform policy.
- Ensuring compliance with the DfE's '[Cost of school uniforms](#)' guidance.
- Processing and approving all eligible School Uniform Assistance Application Forms.

The Principal is responsible for:

- Enforcing the school's uniform on a day-to-day basis.
- Ensuring that teachers understand this policy and what to do if a pupil is in breach of the policy.
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of the school community in regard to the school's uniform and making appropriate recommendations to the governing board.
- Providing pupils with an exemption letter as appropriate, e.g. for a pupil who has a broken arm and requires a loose-fitting top.

Staff members are responsible for:

- Ensuring that pupils dress in accordance with this policy at all times.
- Disciplining pupils who are in breach of this policy.
- Ensuring that pupils understand why having a consistent and practical school uniform is important, e.g. school identity.



SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY

Parents are responsible for:

- Providing their children with the correct school uniform as detailed in this policy.
- Informing the Principal if their child requires a more relaxed uniform policy for a period of time, including why.
- Ensuring that their child's uniform is clean, presentable and the correct size.

Pupils are responsible for:

- Wearing the correct uniform at all times, unless the Principal has granted an exemption.
- Looking after their uniform as appropriate.
- Understanding and respecting why a school uniform is important to the school, e.g. school identity and community.

Cost principles

Offley Primary Academy is committed to ensuring that its school uniform is affordable and accessible to all pupils, and does not place an unreasonable financial burden on parents.

In accordance with the 'School Admissions Code', the Principal will ensure that the school's uniform policy does not discourage parents from applying for a place for their child.

The school will assess the overall cost implications of its uniform policy regularly, including prior to making any changes to the school uniform. When evaluating whether costs are reasonable and proportionate, the school will take into account the opinions and situations of:

- Economically disadvantaged parents.
- Parents with multiple children who are, or will be in the future, pupils at the school.
- Parents of younger children, as they are likely to grow quickly and require new sets of uniform more frequently.
- Parents of pupils with protected characteristics that may impact their ability to access the uniform due to costs.
- LAC and PLAC.

The school will evaluate the cost of its uniform based on the overall collection of uniform items that parents would need to purchase for a pupil, rather than on the cost effectiveness of individual items; this will include consideration of the fact that parents will need to purchase multiples of certain items, e.g. shirts and socks, to ensure their child can come to school in clean uniform every day.

The school keeps variations in school uniform for different groups of pupils, e.g. year group-specific items or house colours, to a minimum where possible to ensure that pupils can get the most wear out of their uniform possible and that parents can pass some items down to younger siblings.

The school keeps branded uniform items to a minimal level that is reasonable for all members of the school community. The school defines a branded uniform item as any item of clothing that cannot be purchased at a range of retailers, including by virtue of logos, colours, design and fabrics. Where the school decides to require an item of branded clothing, it will conduct an assessment to ensure prices are kept as low as possible, e.g. by offering sew- or iron-on logo badges for jumpers that can be bought at retailers instead of requiring special branded jumpers.

The school is committed to meeting the DfE's recommendations on costs and value for money. Every care is taken to ensure that our uniforms are affordable for all current and prospective pupils, and that the best value for money is secured through reputable suppliers.

The school works with multiple suppliers to obtain the best value for money possible. Any savings negotiated are passed to parents where possible and does not enter into exclusive single supplier contracts or cash-back arrangements. More information on supplier processes can be found in the 'School uniform supplier' section of this policy.



SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY

Offley Primary Academy will not amend uniform requirements regularly and will take the views of parents and pupils into account when considering any changes to school uniforms.

Equality principles

The school takes its legal obligation to avoid discriminating against any protected characteristic unlawfully very seriously, and aims to ensure that the uniform policy is as inclusive as possible so that all pupils are supported to access a school uniform which is comfortable, suitable for their needs, and reflects who they are.

The school will work to ensure that school uniform's cost does not disproportionately affect any pupils by ensuring that uniforms for all genders are as equal in price as possible and by adhering to the cost principles laid out in section 3.

The school will ensure that parents and pupils are consulted over any changes to school uniform, and that views and advice is sought specifically from pupils, and parents of pupils, who:

- Are transgender, including non-binary pupils.
- Have SEND and/or sensory needs.
- Are of a religious or cultural background that has dress requirements.

The school implements a gender-neutral uniform, meaning that pupils are not required to wear specific items based on their gender, and may wear any of the uniform items listed in the 'School uniform' section of this policy regardless of the legal sex recorded on the school's records.

The school ensures that pupils who are required to follow certain dress requirements, e.g. by virtue of their membership of a particular religious or cultural group, are afforded flexibility to allow them to wear a uniform that adheres to their requirements as far as possible. The school endeavours to meet all requests for amendments to the uniform for these purposes; however, will ensure that the needs and rights of individual pupils are weighed against any health and safety concerns for the entire school community.

Parents' concerns and requests regarding religious clothing are dealt with on a case-by-case basis by the Principal and governing board, and always in accordance with the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.

The school ensures that the needs of pupils with SEND and/or sensory difficulties are considered in the uniform policy, e.g. ensuring soft, stretchy fabrics and avoiding intricate buttons or hard seams; however, where the needs of these pupils cannot be met in the standard uniform policy, individual adaptations to the uniform will be considered and permitted wherever possible.

Complaints and challenges

The school endeavours to resolve all uniform complaints and challenges locally and informally, in accordance with the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.

To make a complaint, parents should refer to the Complaints Procedures Policy and follow the stipulations outlined.

When a complaint is received, the school works with parents to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

Governors are willing to consider reasonable requests for flexibility to allow a pupil to accommodate particular social and cultural circumstances.



SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY

School uniform supplier

Our current school uniform supplier is Work Wear Nation and Andrew Hyde. Uniforms UK supply the branded PE shirts and shorts.

The Principal will work to ensure that the items are procured as cheaply as possible without compromising on the quality, e.g. by requesting standard-style items from the supplier rather than more intricate and unique designs.

The school does not sign contracts with suppliers before requesting visualisations of proposed uniform, as well as fabric samples.

Uniform assistance

The school supports vulnerable families in meeting the costs of uniforms.

The school holds second-hand school uniforms in school for parents to access; access to these uniforms is available upon request.

Parents are invited to donate their child's uniform when they no longer need it.

Non-compliance

Parents will be contacted as necessary.

Uniform expectation reminders are shared with parents and carers via the school newsletter.



SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY

School uniform

School colours

Our school colours are as follows:

- Royal Blue, white and grey

Clothing

The school uniform is as follows:

Item	Optional or required	Branding	How to acquire	Cost per item from school supplier
Regular school uniform				
Royal Blue sweatshirt or Royal Blue cardigan	Required	School logo on right-hand side (optional)	Branded sweatshirt and cardigan available to purchase from OPA school office plus and second hand items available. Plain royal blue sweatshirt or cardigan can be bought from regular retailers.	£9 - £10
Royal Blue or White polo t-shirt	Required	School logo on right-hand side (optional)	Branded white or royal blue polo t-shirt available to purchase from OPA school office plus and second hand items available. Plain royal blue or white polo t-shirts can be bought from regular retailers.	£8 - £9
Grey trousers, grey shorts or grey skirt	Required	Non-branded	Grey trousers, shorts or skirts can be bought from regular retailers. Second hand items available from OPA school office	N/A
Sensible, plain black shoes	Required	Non-branded	Available from regular retailers.	N/A
PE kit				
Branded blue t-shirt or white round neck t-shirt	Required	School logo on blue top or non-branded	Branded tops available from Sports Coaching Group or from OPA school office. Plain white t-shirt available from regular retailers.	£5.50 - £8.50
Branded blue shorts or plain black shorts	Required	School logo on blue shorts or non-branded	Branded shorts available from Sports Coaching Group or from OPA school office. Plain white t-shirt available from regular retailers.	£9.50 (branded)
Accessories				
School book bag	Optional	School logo	Provided by OPA to all Reception aged pupils	£7 (if bought)



SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY

Jewellery

Jewellery is not permitted to be worn. Pupils may wear one pair of small stud earrings however these must be removed for PE lessons.

School bag

Pupils can bring an appropriately sized bag to carry their iPads, reading books and lunch bags. School bags featuring inappropriate images, slogans or phrases are not permitted.

The school encourages pupils to bring non-valuable bags to school. The school will not be liable for lost or damaged school bags.

Hairstyles

The school reserves the right to make a judgement on where pupils' hairstyles or hair colours are inappropriate for the school environment; however, will ensure that any such judgements do not discriminate against any pupil by virtue of their protected characteristics. Each individual pupil's scenario will be taken into account where any judgements on appropriateness are to be made, and parents will always have the freedom to complain via the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.

Pupils with long hair must ensure that this does not impede their vision, cover their face or provide a health and safety risk. Long hair must be tied up during practical lessons, e.g. during PE.

The following hairstyles are not considered appropriate for school:

- Brightly-coloured, dyed hair.
- Headwear with bold patterns or colours.
- Excessive hair accessories.

Makeup

- No makeup is permitted.
- False nails and nail extensions are not permitted.
- No nail varnish may be worn.
- Temporary tattoos are not permitted.

Adverse weather

All pupils are required to wear weather-appropriate clothing that covers as much of their skin as possible during adverse weather.

For hot temperatures, changes to the regular uniform requirements may be necessary e.g. wear loose fitting, cool clothing. Parents will be informed if this is the case.

For cold temperatures, pupils may require:

- Scarfs, gloves, coats and hats when they are outside.
- Trousers, or thick tights with skirts.

Labelling

All pupils' clothing and footwear should be clearly labelled with their name.

Any lost clothing is taken to the lost property. All lost property is retained, any named items returned, other items, if not reclaimed, will support our second-hand donations collection.

Monitoring and review

This policy is reviewed annually by the chair of governors and the Principal.

The scheduled review date for this policy is September 2023.