



School Uniform Policy

September 2023

Due for next review in: September 2024

www.woodsideschool.co.uk

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1. 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
- › Clarify our expectations for school uniform

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 sex, race, religion or belief, and gender.

To avoid discrimination, our school will:

- › Make sure that our uniform costs the same for all children
- › Allow for adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking parents/carers to get in touch with Claire Bennett, Headteacher who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests

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 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. For example, jumpers and cardigans that feature our school logo are available but alternatives can be worn
- › Considering cheaper alternatives to school-branded items, as long as this doesn't compromise quality and durability
- › Avoiding specific requirements for items children 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 extra-curricular activities
- › Considering alternative methods for signalling differences in groups for interschool competitions, such as creating posters or labels. At Woodside we will provide 'house' bibs, or other suitable alternatives if needed
- › Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents to acquire free, second-hand uniform items
- › Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents of any changes
- › Consulting with parents and children on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy

4. Expectations for school uniform

4.1 Our school's uniform

Our school dress code can be found on our school website

<https://www.woodsideschool.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=207&type=pdf>

- › Branded items such as jumpers, cardigans and book bags are available but generic alternatives are acceptable. For example, a dark green jumper without a logo is fine
- › PE kits do not include any branded items
- › Expectations for jewellery and hairstyles are age-appropriate and take into account the Equality Act 2010 as well as health & safety considerations
- › Shoes, bags and coats should be appropriate for school but do not need to be branded

4.2 Where to purchase it

All items of uniform can be purchased from high-street/online retailers. Children do not need to wear items with the school logo on.

Uniform with the school logo on, and school ties, can be purchased from

<https://myclothing.com/>

If parents/carers want V-neck jumpers with the school logo on, they can be purchased directly from school. We also hold limited stock of other items, including ties, in school.

Contributions of clean, second-hand uniform in good condition are welcomed. We store second-hand uniform which is available upon request, as well as being available during events in school such as parent consultations, or drop-in sessions in our Wellbeing Centre.

5. Expectations for our school community

5.1 Children

Children 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)

Children are also expected to contact Claire Bennett, Headteacher if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics. This should be done preferably with parents/carers.

5.2 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 are also expected to contact Claire Bennett, 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 locally
- Dealt with in accordance with our school's complaints policy

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

5.3 Staff

Staff will closely monitor children to make sure they are in correct uniform. They will give any children 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 Claire Bennett, Headteacher according to our school Behaviour Policy.

In cases where it is suspected that financial hardship has resulted in a child not complying with this uniform policy, staff will take a mindful and considerate approach to resolving the situation.

5.4 Trustees

The Trustee Board will ensure that this policy:

- Is appropriate for our school's context

- Is implemented fairly across the school
- Takes into account the views of parents and children
- Offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all children

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.

6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by Claire Bennett, Headteacher.

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

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