



School Uniform Policy

For the body is not made with one, but many.
1 Corinthians 12:14

1. Aims and objectives

Our policy on school uniform is based on the idea that, whilst celebrating our differences and diversity, we are one group as a school community. It is this and the following beliefs that form the basis for having a uniform policy – we believe that uniform:

- Promotes a sense of pride in our school.
- Helps to create a sense of community and belonging.
- Identifies the children with the school.
- Supports our commitment to inclusion.
- Prevents children from wearing 'fashion clothes' that could be distracting in class and which may not be equitable for those who are more economically challenged, as well as can encourage bullying between children.
- Is practical, smart and designed with health and safety in mind.

This policy:

- Sets out our approach to requiring a uniform that is of reasonable cost and offers the best value for money for parents and carers.
- Explains how we will avoid discrimination in line with our legal duties under the Equality Act 2010.
- Clarifies 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 reassignment.

To avoid discrimination, our school will:

- Avoid listing uniform items based on gender, 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 (whilst reserving the right to ask for this to be tied back).
- Allow all pupils to style their hair in the way that is appropriate for school yet makes them feel most comfortable.
- Allow pupils to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons.
- Allow pupils to wear headscarves and other religious or cultural symbols.
- Allow for adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents to get in touch with the 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. As a result of this, 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:

- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost and/or long-lasting items, such as jumpers
- 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 leveler
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class groups
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities (e.g. residential will not require specific school-based items and support is available for additional items if necessary)
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents to acquire second-hand uniform items easily and affordably
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents of any changes
- Trying, where possible, to ensure consistency in colours with our feeder middle school so unbranded uniform can be worn from year 4 into year 5
- Consulting with families and children on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy

We do this because:

- The school's demographics are mixed and, alongside the long-term financial impact of the pandemic, we are highly aware of the challenges many families face.
- This policy is in line with other schools within the Gosforth Schools Trust
- It is taken in consultation with families, balancing the need to be financially accessible for those in need as well as the wishes for families to keep the distinctive characteristics of our uniform.

Our PTFA keep a selection of pre-loved uniform which has been donated to school. This is for both helping families financially as well as encouraging sustainable clothing practice and reducing the impact of landfill. In line with the school's ethos, we believe that we are stewards of God's earth and reducing clothing waste is one small action that we can take to reduce the harm caused by excessive clothes production.

Parents are encouraged to hand on of uniform to fellow parents or donate uniform to the school office. Please contact the PTFA directly: archbishopruncieptfa@gmail.com

There is also a local community uniform scheme in the North East. The scheme offers free school uniforms and all other items link to school life, such as coats, shoes, bags etc, which have all been donated. For more information please email info.communityschools@gmail.com or look at their Twitter account - @communityscs / Facebook page - Community schools Clothing Scheme.

4.1 Our school's uniform

Nursery – Year 4:

- Yellow Polo Shirt - either completely plain or with school logo
- Royal blue round neck sweatshirt or cardigan, preferably with school logo.
- Plain grey or black trousers, shorts, skirts, pinafores.
- During the Summer Term, blue gingham dresses may be worn
- Sensible fitting smart black shoes, (not trainers) or boots. Shoes with a heel are not permitted. These should be suitable for outdoor play and running and should not have open toes.
- Plain grey, black or white tights or socks (not leggings).



PE Kit

- Plain yellow T-Shirt

- Royal blue, plain shorts and/or navy tracksuit bottoms
- Navy hoodie, sweatshirt or zip-through top either completely plain or with school logo
- Well-fitting trainers that children can fasten themselves (not plimsolls). We ask families to not send children with lace up shoes if they cannot tie their own laces.
- Children in Nursery and Reception bring PE kits to keep in school. Families are asked to bring drawstring bag in which to store their PE kit.

Children in Years 1 - 4 should come to school ready for PE on their allocated day (see class newsletters). Children should arrive in their PE kit.

Logoed PE hoodies can be funded for children in receipt of PP funding

Jewellery

- Small wrist watches may be worn (smart watches are not allowed); however these must be removed for PE.

Hairstyles

- There are no specific rules about hair lengths or styles, however, long hair (below collar length) needs to be tied back.
- The over-riding factor is always reasonableness. We are not in favour of children having extreme hairstyles as this serves as a distraction to others and sets the pupil out as being different, which can lead to problems with behaviour and discipline amongst the pupils.
- The Headteacher shall have the final say in deciding what is acceptable, so when in doubt parents should consult with her before buying items which might not be acceptable or if in doubt about hair style.

Other

- Royal blue books bags are recommended (plain or with the school logo). We do not have space in school to store any bags larger than this. Please do not send rucksacks to school. *A branded bag is available from Tots to Teams, or a plain blue book bag can be purchased from other retailers.*
- Children are also asked to bring a warm, waterproof coat and appropriate seasonal clothing such as hats or gloves. These should also be clearly named. Coats can be of any type or colour. We play out in most safe weather conditions. Please sure your child brings a coat every day. Tots to Teams also provide a school fleece and coat for those families who would like one, there is no obligation to purchase this.
- A named water bottle.
- Everything that comes to school needs to be clearly labelled with your child's full name.
- Jewellery, make up and nail varnish are not permitted. Smart watches, watches which take photographs/make recordings are not allowed to be worn by children in school.
- Children are also not allowed to bring mobile phones into school. If these are found, they will be removed from the child and kept safely in the school office until an adult can collect them. Please see the school's Behaviour Policy for further information.

4. Expectations for school uniform

We expect all children and parents to comply with this uniform policy, which will be monitored. Where a pupil falls short of these requirements, parents will be notified. Continued failure to comply will be brought to the attention of the Head Teacher and parents will be invited in to try to find a resolution.

We encourage children to be independent and it is important that they are able to remove their own clothes when they need the toilet.

Pupils

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

Parents of pupils are also expected to contact the Headteacher if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics. The school reserves the right to be allowed a reasonable time to implement such changes.

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 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 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 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.

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.

Governors

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

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

The Governing Body 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-examining supplier options at least every 5 years.

The governing body supports the Head Teacher in implementing the School Uniform Policy. It considers all representations from parents regarding the uniform policy and liaises with the Head Teacher to ensure that the policy is implemented fairly and with sensitivity. It is the governors' responsibility to ensure that the school uniform meets all regulations concerning equal opportunities. Governors ensure that the school Uniform Policy enables children to dress sensibly, in clothing that is hardwearing, safe and practical.

Where to buy School uniform

Branded, new school uniform can be purchased from Tots to Teams, in Kingston Park (details are available from the office or school website). Parents do not need to purchase all items from here. Parents are reminded that pre-loved items are available through the PTFA. All other elements can be purchased from a wide range of retailers.

Tots to Teams
Unit 10b, Airport Industrial Estate
Kingston Park,
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE3 2EF
Tel: (0191) 2715454

<https://totstoteams.com/>

Children who qualify for Pupil Premium can also claim 10% off new school uniform. Please bring your receipt to the school office and 10% of the cost will be reimbursed.

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6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Headteacher. At every review, it will be approved by the TLA Committee.

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

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

Date	Action	By whom	Date of next review
July 2015	Reviewed	JR	July 2017
September 2017	Reviewed	KM	September 2019
April 2022	Agreed new PE uniform	TLA Cttee	July 2023
April 2022	Updated in line with DfE guidance	KM	July 2023
June 2022	Reviewed & adopted Published on website for consultaion	TLA Cttee	July 2023