

School Uniform Policy



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Approved by: Jayson Rawlings

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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 age, sex, disability, race, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity, 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 and is accessible for all families
- 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 wear headscarves and/or other religious garments
- 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 Ben Connolly - Pastoral Manager, who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis

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 (DfE) on the cost of school uniform.

We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that need 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/carers' 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
- Considers the needs of our children and young people.

We will do this by:

- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary
- Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics where possible
- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost and/or long-lasting items, such as ties
- 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 leveller
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- Considering alternative methods for signaling differences in groups for interschool competitions, such as creating posters or labels
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents/carers to acquire second-hand uniform items working in conjunction with The Hub (Bournville Village community access shop with school uniform swap shop)
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents/carers of any changes

- Consulting with parents/carers and pupils 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

Branded items required:

- T-shirt (crew neck or Polo style- white or purple)
- Sweatshirt or fleece or cardigan

Optional branded items:

- Hooded sweatshirt (**only to be worn on Active Citizens days**)
- Waterproof jacket
- Generic items acceptable
- Black trousers or skirt

With consideration of need, Maple House School will accept plain black tracksuit trousers as part of the daily uniform.

We expect jewellery and hairstyles to be of an appropriate nature

There is an expectation footwear will be black shoes or mostly black trainers

We recommend students wear their usual school tops and black tracksuit trousers for PE days. There will be no expectation for students to change clothing in school for a specific lesson.

When purchasing uniform, we ask parents to consider our school environment and curriculum (Active Citizens and PE) when making their decisions. School can advise as part of the induction process.

5. Expectations for our school community

5.1 Pupils

Pupils are expected to always wear the correct uniform (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)

Pupils are also expected to contact Ben Connolly – Pastoral Manager if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics.

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/carers are also expected to contact Ben Connolly- Pastoral manager 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.

5.4 Governors

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

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

The headteacher will also make sure that the school's uniform supplier arrangements give the highest priority to cost and value for money. We currently use:

[Kids Essentials Birmingham Schoolwear – Kids Essentials Schoolwear Birmingham](#)

Who specialise in working with local schools at cost effective prices.

6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed every two years by Jayson Rawlings- headteacher. At every review it will be approved by the governing body.

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

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