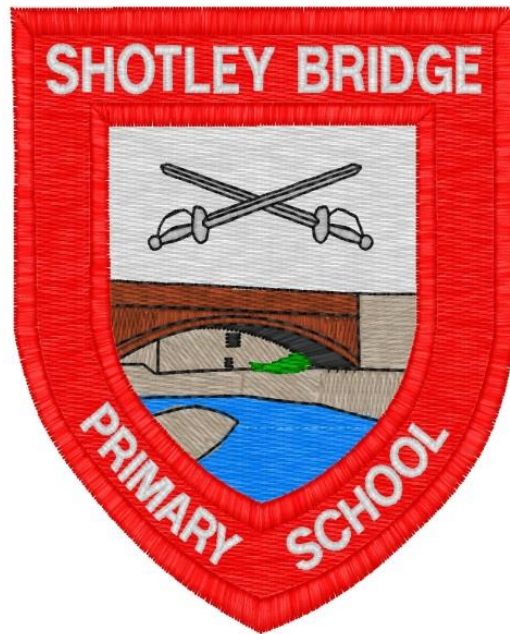


# Shotley Bridge Primary School



## SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY

<b>Approved by:</b>	Governing Body	<b>Date:</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2022
<b>Last reviewed on:</b>	November 2022	
<b>Next review due by:</b>	November 2023	

## 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 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
- 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 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.

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
- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost or long-lasting items, such as ties
- Considering cheaper alternatives to school-branded items, such as logos that can be ironed on, as long as this doesn't compromise quality and durability
- 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
- 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 to acquire second-hand uniform items
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents of any changes
- Consulting with parents 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

The children in our school wear their school uniforms with pride and parents ensure that their children are in uniform everyday. The school colour is red and this is reflected in the uniform which consists of the following items :-

- Grey/black trousers/skirt/pinafore/shorts
- White polo shirt
- Bright red sweatshirt/cardigan/hooded sweatshirt
- White, red, black or grey socks/tights
- A red and white gingham dress may be worn in warmer months
- Plain black school shoes/boots or trainers.

PE uniform consists of the following items:-

- Plain black shorts/jogging bottoms/leggings
- Bright red, round neck t-shirt (no buttons or fastenings)
- Bright red sweatshirt/cardigan/hooded sweatshirt (everyday uniform)
- Trainers

### 4.2 Where to purchase it

If parents wish to have items with the school logo, they can be purchased from Border Embroideries Tel: 01361 810304 or visit [www.beschoolwear.co.uk](http://www.beschoolwear.co.uk) and Track Sportswear in Consett. Non-branded items can be purchased from local supermarkets. We have a school uniform recycling scheme, please ask in the school office for details.

### 4.3 The Wearing of Jewellery

The wearing of any jewellery (including within hair braids) is **NOT** allowed because of possible dangers.

- No earrings – children must take these out before coming to school. If your child comes to school wearing earrings they will be asked to take them out. If they are unable to do this parents/carers will be contacted and asked to come into school to take them out.
- No chains (necklaces, bracelets, anklets)
- No smart watches (a regular watch can be worn)

- Children should not have their hair dyed or styled in extreme fashions during term time (unless school holds an organised event).
- Hair must be tied back in school (unless it is too short to do so)
- Coloured nail varnish is not allowed (unless school holds an organised event).

## **5. Expectations for our school community**

### **5.1 Pupils**

Pupils are expected to wear the correct uniform, PE kit, have hair tied back (no extreme styles), and not be wearing jewellery or nail varnish 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 (unless otherwise stated)

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.

### **5.2 Parents and carers**

Parents and carers are expected to ensure their child has the correct uniform, PE kit, hair tied back (no extreme styles), and that they are not wearing jewellery or nail varnish. Parents and carers must make sure every item of clothing 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.

### **5.3 Staff**

Staff will closely monitor pupils to ensure they are in correct uniform, PE kit, have hair tied back (no extreme styles), and that they are not wearing jewellery or nail varnish. 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.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with by the governing body.

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.

### **5.4 Governors**

The governing board 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 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 suppliers.

## **6. Monitoring arrangements**

This policy will be reviewed bi-annually by the school business manager. At every review, it will be approved by the governing body.

## **7. Links to other policies**

This policy is linked to our:

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