

Shotley Bridge Primary School



School Uniform Policy

Approved by: Governing Board **Date:** January 2026

Last reviewed on: January 2026

Next review due by: January 2028

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

As we are an OPaL school (Outdoor Play and Learning) and we take part in many other physical activities and sporting festivals and competitions, we encourage our children to wear a relaxed uniform. We believe that this gives the children the freedom to be much more active and ensure they keep themselves as safe as possible when engaging in physical activities. With no fiddly zippers, this uniform also supports our youngest children in being more independent during toilet time. All children from Early Years to Year 6 should wear the following items (if not opting for a traditional school uniform).

- Fully black trainers (no white/colours)
- Red polo shirt /T shirt (can include school logo but no other colours)
- Fully black jogging bottoms/leggings/PE shorts/cycling shorts (leggings and cycling shorts must be thick so they can't be seen through and shorts must be just above the knee)
- Red hoodie/jumper/cardigan (can include school logo and initials –no other colours)
- Hair fully tied back (unless too short to do so)

Children who prefer to wear a traditional school uniform are able to, but school policy must be adhered to. They should continue to come to school in their PE uniform (as above) on PE days.

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

4.2 Where to purchase it

Items with the school logo can be purchased from:

- Border Embroideries Tel: 01361 810304 or visit www.beschoolwear.co.uk
- 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 or visit <https://app.uniformd.co.uk/schools>

4.3 The Wearing of Jewellery

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

- Strictly no jewellery or plastic earring spacers. If your child comes to school wearing earrings/spacers 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 so that they can join their class.
- Strictly no nail varnish or extensions (unless school holds an organised event)
- A watch that is unable to send messages, make calls or take photographs (or is set to this mode) 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 (unless it is too short to do so).

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/extensions 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/extensions at all times. 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/extensions. 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 board.

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 and Headteacher. At every review, it will be approved by the governing board.

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

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