Shilbottle Primary

Fun, Respect & Friendship



School Uniform Policy

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Statement of intent

Shilbottle Primary believes that a consistent school uniform policy is vital to promote the ethos of the school and provide a sense of belonging and identity for all pupils, regardless of their protected characteristics or socio-economic circumstances.

This policy lays out the measures the school has taken to ensure a consistent, fair and inclusive uniform policy, and to implement a uniform that reflects the needs of all pupils, and is affordable and the best value for money for the school and pupils' families.

We believe that pupils learn most effectively and achieve their best outcomes when they are comfortable, able to be themselves, and dressed in such a way that sets an appropriate tone for education.

1. Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Education Act 2011
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Equality Act 2010
- The UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)
- Data Protection Act 2018

This policy has due regard to all relevant guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- DfE (2021) 'Cost of school uniforms'
- DfE (2021) 'School Admissions Code'
- DfE (2021) 'School uniforms'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Complaints Procedures Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Tendering and Procurement Policy

2. Roles and responsibilities

The governing board is responsible for:

- Establishing, in consultation with the Executive Headteacher and school community, a practical and smart school uniform that accurately reflects the school's vision and values.
- Ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible and inclusive, and does not disadvantage any pupil by virtue of their protected characteristics or socio-economic status.
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of parents, pupils and the wider school community regarding changes to the school's uniform.
- Ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible and affordable.
- Demonstrating how best value for money has been achieved in the uniform policy.
- Ensuring compliance with the DfE's 'Cost of school uniforms' guidance.
- Processing and approving all eligible School Uniform Assistance Application Forms.

The Executive Headteacher is responsible for:

- Enforcing the school's uniform on a day-to-day basis.
- Ensuring that teachers understand this policy and what to do if a pupil is in breach of the policy.
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of the school community in regard to the school's uniform and making appropriate recommendations to the governing board.
- Providing pupils with an exemption letter as appropriate, e.g. for a pupil who has a broken arm and requires a loose-fitting top.

Staff members are responsible for:

- Ensuring that pupils dress in accordance with this policy at all times.
- Disciplining pupils who are in breach of this policy.
- Ensuring that pupils understand why having a consistent and practical school uniform is important, e.g. school identity.

Parents are responsible for:

- Providing their children with the correct school uniform as detailed in this policy.
- Informing the Executive Headteacher in writing, with supporting evidence where applicable, if their child requires a more relaxed uniform policy for a period of time, including why.
- Ensuring that their child's uniform is clean, presentable and the correct size.

Pupils are responsible for:

- Wearing the correct uniform at all times, unless the Executive Headteacher has granted an exemption, following a written application (see above).
- Looking after their uniform as appropriate.
- Understanding and respecting why a school uniform is important to the school, e.g. school identity and community.

3. Cost principles

The school is committed to ensuring that its school uniform is affordable and accessible to all pupils, and does not place an unreasonable financial burden on parents.

In accordance with the 'School Admissions Code', the Executive Headteacher will ensure that the school's uniform policy does not discourage parents from applying for a place for their child.

The school will assess the overall cost implications of its uniform policy regularly, including prior to making any changes to the school uniform. When evaluating whether costs are reasonable and proportionate, the school will take into account the opinions and situations of:

- Economically disadvantaged parents.
- Parents with multiple children who are, or will be in the future, pupils at the school.
- Parents of younger children, as they are likely to grow quickly and require new sets of uniform more frequently.
- Parents of pupils with protected characteristics that may impact their ability to access the uniform due to costs.
- LAC and PLAC.

The school will evaluate the cost of its uniform based on the overall collection of uniform items that parents would need to purchase for a pupil, rather than on the cost effectiveness of individual items; this will include consideration of the fact that parents will need to purchase multiples of certain items, e.g. shirts and socks, to ensure their child can come to school in clean uniform every day.

The school keeps variations in school uniform for different groups of pupils, e.g. year group-specific items or house colours, to a minimum where possible to ensure that pupils can get the most wear out of their uniform possible and that parents can pass some items down to younger siblings.

The school keeps branded uniform items to a minimal level that is reasonable for all members of the school community. The school defines a branded uniform item as any item of clothing that cannot be purchased at a range of retailers, including by virtue of logos, colours, design and fabrics. At present the school does not require any branded items to be worn. However, where the school later decides to require an item of branded clothing, it will conduct an assessment to ensure prices are kept as low as possible, e.g. by offering sew- or iron-on logo badges for jumpers that can be bought at retailers instead of requiring special branded jumpers.

The school is committed to meeting the DfE's recommendations on costs and value for money. Every care is taken to ensure that our uniforms are affordable for all current and prospective pupils, and that the best value for money is secured through reputable suppliers.

The school works with multiple suppliers to obtain the best value for money possible. Any savings negotiated are passed to parents where possible and does not enter into exclusive single supplier contracts or cash-back arrangements. The school does not, and has never, entered into any contracts with suppliers from which they will benefit financially eg cash-back incentives. The school has endeavoured to make families aware of more than one supplier including supermarkets which are easily accessible.

The school will not amend uniform requirements regularly and will take the views of parents and pupils into account when considering any changes to school uniforms.

4. Equality principles

The school takes its legal obligation to avoid discriminating against any protected characteristic unlawfully very seriously, and aims to ensure that the uniform policy is as inclusive as possible so that all pupils are supported to access a school uniform which is comfortable, suitable for their needs, and reflects who they are.

The school will work to ensure that school uniform's cost does not disproportionately affect any pupils by ensuring that uniforms for all genders are as equal in price as possible and by adhering to the cost principles laid out in section 3.

The school will ensure that parents and pupils are consulted over any changes to school uniform, and that views and advice is sought specifically from pupils, and parents of pupils, who:

- Are transgender, including non-binary pupils.
- Have SEND and/or sensory needs.
- Are of a religious or cultural background that has dress requirements.

The school implements a gender-neutral uniform, meaning that pupils are not required to wear specific items based on their gender, and may wear any of the uniform items listed in the

‘School uniform’ section of this policy regardless of the legal sex recorded on the school’s records. Transgender pupils are supported to access the uniform that best reflects their gender expression.

The school ensures that pupils who are required to follow certain dress requirements, e.g. by virtue of their membership of a particular religious or cultural group, are afforded flexibility to allow them to wear a uniform that adheres to their requirements as far as possible. The school endeavours to meet all requests for amendments to the uniform for these purposes; however, will ensure that the needs and rights of individual pupils are weighed against any health and safety concerns for the entire school community.

Parents’ concerns and requests regarding religious clothing are dealt with on a case-by-case basis by the Executive Headteacher and governing board, and always in accordance with the school’s Complaints Procedures Policy.

The school ensures that the needs of pupils with SEND and/or sensory difficulties are considered in the uniform policy, e.g. ensuring soft, stretchy fabrics and avoiding intricate buttons or hard seams; however, where the needs of these pupils cannot be met in the standard uniform policy, individual adaptations to the uniform will be considered and permitted wherever possible and assessed on an individual case basis taking into account evidence provided.

5. Complaints and challenges

The school endeavours to resolve all uniform complaints and challenges locally and informally, in accordance with the school’s Complaints Procedures Policy.

To make a complaint, parents should refer to the Complaints Procedures Policy and follow the stipulations outlined.

When a complaint is received, the school works with parents to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

Governors are willing to consider reasonable requests for flexibility to allow a pupil to accommodate particular social and cultural circumstances.

6. School uniform supplier

Our current school uniform supplier are:

https://emblematic.co.uk

https://totstoteams.com/

Tesco online

7. Uniform assistance

The school supports vulnerable families in meeting the costs of uniforms. School uniform assistance is provided provision of two sets of uniform per school year, including PE kit (excluding shoes). The budget for the school uniform assistance scheme comes from pupil premium funds.

To claim school uniform assistance, parents should be eligible for FSM (not Universal Free School meals – Reception to Year 2). Eligibility is determined by checking original documents from the relevant authority, detailing receipt of the benefit and the address of the pupil.

The school holds second-hand school uniforms, donated by other parents for parents to access; access to these uniforms is available upon request made to the Executive Headteacher and stock is limited to items donated at any given time. Parents are invited to donate their child's uniform when they no longer need it.

8. Non-compliance

Staff members are permitted to discipline pupils for breaching this policy, in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy.

The Executive Headteacher, or a person authorised by the Executive Headteacher, is permitted to ask a parent to provide the correct uniform (including footwear) to remedy breaches to the school's uniform.

9. School uniform

School colours

Our school colours are red and yellow (the colours of the Northumbrian flag)

Clothing

The school uniform is as follows:

Item	Optional or required	Branding	How to acquire	Cost per item from school supplier (as at 13/7/26)
Regular school uniform				
Red sweatshirt or red cardigan	Required	No branding/logo required	See section 6 of Policy (or alternative supplier with the same colour)	£10-£13
Yellow polo shirt	Required	No branding/logo required	See section 6 of Policy (or alternative supplier with the same colour)	£9-£11
Red Hoodie (Years 5 and 6 only)	Optional	No branding/logo required	See section 6 of Policy (or alternative supplier with the same colour)	£13
Grey or black trousers or skirt	Required	No branding/logo required	See section 6 of Policy (or alternative supplier with the same colour)	£6-£10
Red gingham dress	Optional	No branding/logo required	See section 6 of Policy (or alternative supplier with the same colour)	£4-£10
Sensible, plain black shoes	Required	No branding/logo required	Available from regular retailers.	N/A
PE kit				
Plain red t-shirt	Required	No branding/logo required	See section 6 of Policy (or alternative supplier with the same colour)	£6
Plain black shorts	Required	No branding/logo required	See section 6 of Policy (or alternative supplier with the same colour)	£3-£6
Plain black or grey jogging trousers (outdoor PE)	Optional	No branding/logo required	See section 6 of Policy (or alternative supplier with the same colour)	£5-£10

Accessories				
School book bag	Optional	No branding/logo required	See section 6 of Policy (or alternative supplier with the same colour)	£7
PE bag	Optional	No branding/logo required	See section 6 of Policy (or alternative supplier with the same colour)	£5

Trainers are not considered suitable footwear.

Skirts must be knee-length. Black jeans and leggings are not permitted.

Parents are responsible for ensuring their child brings their PE kit to school when needed.

Jewellery

Permitted jewellery that may be worn is:

- A sensible wrist watch. 'Smart' watches with internet capability are not permitted.

Jewellery is the responsibility of the pupil and not the school. Lost or damaged items will not be refunded. All jewellery must be removed during practical lessons, including PE lessons and science experiments.

No other forms of jewellery are permitted at any time, including earrings, bracelets or necklaces. If children do attend school wearing earrings we will contact parents asking them to call into school to remove them if they cannot be removed independently.

School bag

Pupils must use an appropriately sized waterproof bag to carry their books and equipment. It should hold A4-sized work books comfortably without causing any damage.

School bags featuring inappropriate images, slogans or phrases are not permitted.

The school encourages pupils to bring non-valuable bags to school. The school will not be liable for lost or damaged school bags.

Hairstyles

The school reserves the right to make a judgement on where pupils' hairstyles or hair colours are inappropriate for the school environment; however, will ensure that any such judgements do not discriminate against any pupil by virtue of their protected characteristics. Each individual pupil's scenario will be taken into account where any judgements on appropriateness are to be made, and parents will always have the freedom to complain via the school's Complaints Procedures Policy. It is extremely important that a child's hairstyle does not distract them or other children from learning.

Pupils with long hair must ensure that this does not impede their vision, cover their face or provide a health and safety risk. Long hair must be tied up at all times and there will be no discrimination regarding gender as all children are expected to have long hair tied back.

The following hairstyles are **not** considered appropriate for school:

- Brightly-coloured, dyed hair.
- Headwear with bold patterns or colours.
- Excessive hair accessories.
- Tramlines and patterns.

Makeup

The school rules on makeup is that it is not permitted as it is inappropriate for primary aged children. This includes nail varnish and where children are wearing any form of makeup parents will be asked to attend school to remove it. For special occasions and celebratory events, such as Children in Need or World Book Day this may be permitted as part of a costume. Any makeup worn for the events should be completely removed the following day.

10. Adverse weather

All pupils are required to wear weather-appropriate clothing that covers as much of their skin as possible during adverse weather.

For hot temperatures, this includes wearing:

- Loose-fitting and lightweight shirts and dresses with sleeves and collars or covered necklines.
- Over the knee skirts, shorts or trousers.
- Tops that cover the shoulder area.
- Sunglasses with UV protection when outside, where possible.

Pupils are advised not to wear any jumpers or cardigans during heatwaves. If outside during break times, pupils not wearing sun-safe clothing are advised to stay in an area protected from the sun, or spare clothing is provided.

For cold temperatures, this includes wearing:

- Scarfs, gloves, coats and hats when they are outside.
- Warm jumpers that conform to the school's uniform policy.
- Trousers, or thick tights with skirts.

11. Labelling

All pupils' clothing and footwear is clearly labelled with their name. It is recommended that parents periodically check the visibility of their child's name as this can wash off over time.

Any lost clothing is be taken to the lost property box. All lost property is retained for one week and is unnamed items not returned to parents will be added to those items donated by other parents.

Monitoring and review

This policy is reviewed every two years by the chair of governors and the Executive Headteacher.