

Uniform Policy



Approved by: The Full Governing Body

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Signed

Howard Park Community School

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Uniform Policy

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.

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 or if they are experiencing discomfort related to their sex or gender
- › Allow pupils to wear headscarves and other religious or cultural symbols
- › Allow for pupils with sensory or physical needs to make reasonable adaptations to their uniform depending on their specific need
- › Allow for adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents/carers to get in touch with the Headteacher, who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests . These will be considered on a case-by-case basis

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 leveller
- › Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups
- › Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- › Considering alternative methods for signalling 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

Expectations For School Uniform

Our School Uniform

Main School Uniform

Plain charcoal grey or black tailored trousers/shorts, skirt/dress with a white or navy polo shirt
(with or without logo)
Green and white gingham pattern dress

Howard Park's Jade sweatshirt or sweat cardigan with or without the school logo

Footwear

Black, flat-soled shoes
Black, grey or white socks or
Black or grey tights

PE Kit:

Plain white T-shirt (with or without logo)

Plain black/navy shorts or leggings

Black trainers

Hair ties for children with long hair

Jewellery:

Watch

Single stud earrings in each ear.

Pupils are allowed to wear a more 'trainer' style shoe providing they are all black. This then enables them to be used for PE and avoids having to buy separate footwear.

Where To Purchase It

All of our branded school items can be purchased from Sports FX based in Millbridge. Alternatively non-branded items can be purchased from any store provided colours are a match for our school uniform.

Similarly, school operates a service where unwanted uniform (that is still in good condition) can be donated and parents can come and take for free. These items can be found on a coat rail in the main entrance of the school.

Expectations For Our School Community

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 (if required)

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.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with by a member of SLT.

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 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 supplier contracts and by re-tendering contracts at least every 5 years.

Links To Other Policies

This policy is linked to:

- › Behaviour policy
- › Equality information and objectives statement

- › Anti-bullying policy
- › Complaints policy

Review Schedule

The Governing Body reviews this policy every three years. They may, however, review the policy earlier than this if the government, or the LA, introduces new regulations, or receives recommendations on how the policy might be improved.