

Cotgrave Church of England Primary School



SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY

Reviewed	Summer 2019			
	Spring 2020			
	Spring 2023			
	Autumn 2023			



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School Uniform Policy

School Uniform

All children in our school should, wherever possible, be wearing our standard uniform which is set out below, giving all of the children in school a shared sense of identity and belonging.

The wearing of uniform is incorporated into the school's 'Home School Agreement' for the Parent (We/I will ensure that our/my child wears the correct school uniform, is sufficiently prepared for school and brings all the items needed for the school day.) and the Child (I will wear the correct school uniform.).

Our school uniform policy is based on the notion that school uniform:

- Promotes the Christian ethos of the school through wearing the school's logo of a cross;
- Promotes a sense of pride in the school;
- Engenders a sense of community, family and belonging;
- Is regarded as suitable wear for school and is practical and smart;
- Identifies the children with the school;
- Prevents children from coming into school in 'fashion clothes' that could be distracting;
- Makes all children feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance;
- Is regarded as good value for money for most parents;
- Is designed with health and safety in mind.

	Girls	Boys
Standard Uniform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black school shoes • Grey trousers/Grey skirt/Grey pinafore dress • White aertex polo shirt (school badge optional) • Red school sweatshirt (with school badge) or Red cardigan • White socks/Red or grey tights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black school shoes • Grey Trousers • White aertex polo shirt (school badge optional) • Red school sweatshirt (with school badge) • Grey or black socks
Summer Alternative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black school shoes • Red and white gingham (check) dress • Red cardigan (school badge optional) • White socks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black school shoes • Grey shorts • White aertex polo shirt (school badge optional) • Red school sweatshirt (with school badge) • Grey or black socks

Footwear

Black school shoes are part of this school uniform. 'Proper shoes' support the development of the children's feet (as their bones are not fully developed until they reach their late teens). Subtle, plain black leather boots are appropriate for girls' winter uniform during periods of inclement weather, but are not part of our designated uniform. Other forms of footwear are inappropriate.

PE Kit

PE Kits should be in school all week and kept in a drawstring bag, clearly marked with the child's name. Children need a change of footwear for PE.

Physical Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black Trainers (for outdoor use) • Black shorts • Black joggers • Red T-shirt (with school badge) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black Trainers (for outdoor use - these should be worn to school on PE days) • Black shorts • Black joggers • Red T-shirt (with school badge)
For those representing the school Football Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red football socks (plain) • Shin pads • Football boots (trainers for indoor/AstroTurf) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red football socks (plain) • Shin pads • Football boots (trainers for indoor/AstroTurf)

Non Compliance

Class teachers should identify and follow up, where appropriate, with their parents those children who are persistently not wearing: a) appropriate uniform; b) appropriate school shoes; c) appropriate PE kits. Texted reminders can also then be sent (through the school office). This approach must be employed consistently if it is to be successful and reference should be made to the Head Teacher in case a short-term request has been made eg regarding school shoes or lack of suitable 'school trousers' etc. Hopefully, through the parent/school relationship, most issues will be dealt with by class teachers as they arise, leaving the texted reminders as the resort when all else has failed. Department for Education Guidance (School uniform Guidance for governing bodies, school leaders, school staff and local authorities September 2013) states that teachers can discipline pupils for breaching the school's rules on appearance or uniform. This should be carried out in accordance with the school's published behaviour policy.

Department for Education Guidance also states that a head teacher, or a person authorised by the head teacher, may ask a pupil to go home briefly to remedy a breach of the school's rules on appearance or uniform. When making this decision schools need to consider the child's age and vulnerability, the ease and time it will take, and the availability of the child's parents. This is not an exclusion but an authorised absence. However, if the pupil continues to breach uniform rules in such a way as to be sent home to avoid school, or takes longer than is strictly necessary to effect the change, the pupil's absence may be counted as an unauthorised absence. In either case the pupil's parents must be notified and the absence should be recorded. If a school is considering excluding a pupil in response to breaches of uniform policy then this must be in line with the legal requirements for exclusion.

Jewellery

For health and safety reasons and the potential risk of loss we discourage the wearing of any jewellery for pupils. The only jewellery pupils are permitted to wear are one small pair of stud earrings and a watch. Items related to religious observance will be considered by the Head Teacher on a case-by-case basis (see below). Practice in Physical Education' guidelines issued by the British Association of Advisers and Lecturers in Physical Education states that all jewellery should be removed for Physical Education and related 'out of hours' activities. Nottinghamshire County Council guidance states that earrings can be taped for non-contact sport. However, earrings must be removed for all potential contact sports and all swimming lessons. Teaching and non-teaching staff will not assist any pupil in the removal, or replacement of jewellery prior to, or following, a physical education lesson or out of hours' activity, but will support taping. Parents who choose to have their children's ears pierced are strongly encouraged to time the piercing to take place as swimming stops before Christmas for the winter break or immediately after the final swimming session of the academic year, in order that the piercing has healed and earrings can be removed for P.E. lessons.

Caps and Hats

Suitable knitted hats may be worn outside in cold weather and baseball caps or a suitable alternative are encouraged in hot and sunny weather. All headwear must be removed when in school.

Hair

The principle behind the school's expectation on children's hair is that it should be tidy. We operate a principle of 'if it can be tied back, it should be tied back'. This is to help keep the spread of head lice to a minimum and to support a 'tidy' appearance. It is essential for participation in swimming.

Naming

We strongly and regularly encourage parents to name all items of clothing and footwear with the child's name in permanent marker or on a name tape.

Reading Bags

To underline our belief in the importance of regular reading practice at home, we have a red reading book bag with the school logo, which can be purchased from the school office.

Value for Money

The school has taken due regard of the guidance in the Department for Education statutory guidance documents 'School uniform Guidance for governing bodies, school leaders, school staff and local authorities September 2013' and 'Cost of School Uniforms 2021' which underline the importance of cost consideration.

The purpose of the guidance is to ensure the cost of school uniforms is reasonable and secures the best value for money. The guidance outlines the cost considerations which schools should consider when: developing and implementing their uniform policies; managing their uniform supplier arrangements. It also covers: the provision of second-hand uniform; other support with the cost of school uniforms; the information schools should provide to parents regarding their uniform requirements

The guidance is issued under the Education (Guidance about Costs of School Uniforms) Act 2021. This Act requires the appropriate authorities of relevant schools to have regard to this guidance when developing and implementing their school's uniform policy. Schools and governing boards will also need to have regard to other relevant legal obligations, in particular duties under equalities legislation.

The main points of the guidance reflected in our policy are that:

- **Parents should not have to think about the cost of a school uniform when choosing which school to apply for. Therefore, we need to ensure that our uniform is affordable.**
- **In considering cost, we will need to think about the total cost of school uniform, taking into account all items of uniform or clothing parents will need to provide while their child is at the school.**
- **We should keep the use of branded items to a minimum.**
- **Our uniform policy should be published on the school website, be available for all parents, including parents of prospective pupils, and be easily understood.**
- **We should ensure that our uniform suppliers arrangements give the highest priority to cost and value for money (including the quality and durability of the garment).**
- **Single supplier contracts should be avoided unless regular tendering competitions are run where more than one supplier can compete for the contract and where the best value for money is secured. The contracts should be retendered at least every 5 years.**
- **We should ensure that second-hand uniforms are available for parents to acquire. Information on second-hand uniforms should be clear for parents of current and prospective pupils and published on the school's website.**
- **We should engage with parents and pupils when they are developing our school uniform policy.**

Funding

In our school, funding is available to provide all children in receipt of free school meals (or who have been eligible within the last six years) with one polo shirt, one PE T-shirt and two school sweatshirts each academic year. We have also committed to provide each child in receipt of free school meals one book bag when they are in Key Stage 1 and another when they are in Key Stage 2. This provision is on the understanding that the items are for that child's use only. The uniform will not be given out automatically; it must be requested from the school office. High quality second hand uniform is available for a nominal price through the school office. Regular 'stalls' of 'lower-quality' second hand uniform are provided, with no cost to parents.

Other Considerations

Some religions and beliefs require their adherents to conform to a particular dress code, or to otherwise outwardly manifest their belief. This could include wearing or carrying specific religious artefacts, not cutting their hair, dressing modestly, or covering their head. Pupils have the right to manifest a religion or belief, but not necessarily at all times, places or in a particular manner.

Where a school (in line with Department for Education guidance) has good reason for restricting an individual's freedoms, for example, the promotion of cohesion and good order in the school, or genuine health and safety or security considerations, the restriction of an individual's rights to manifest their religion or belief may be justified. The school must balance the rights of individual pupils against the best interests of the school community as a whole. Nevertheless, it should be possible for most religious requirements to be met within a school uniform policy and a governing body should act reasonably through consultation and dialogue in accommodating these.

Complaints and Challenges to the School Uniform Policy

Disputes about school uniforms should be resolved locally and should be pursued in accordance with the school's complaints policy. In law, governing bodies must have a complaints procedure in place to deal with issues such as a complaint about school uniform.

Reviewed Autumn Term 2023