



School Uniform Policy

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1. Introduction

School uniform, as stated in the Department for Education's statutory guidance: [Cost of School Uniforms](#), should:

'help to build a sense of identity and community among children and with their school. To do this, it must be affordable. Affordability should never be a barrier to the schools for which parents apply or the activities in which children can participate'.

A uniform, can play a key role in promoting the ethos of a school; providing a sense of belonging and identity; and setting an appropriate tone for education.

By creating a common identity among all children, regardless of background, a uniform can act as a social leveller. It can also act to reduce bullying and peer pressure to wear the latest fashions or other expensive clothes.

However, if the uniform is too expensive, it can place an unreasonable burden on families. If a distinction can be made between those who can afford it and those who cannot, this can reduce its benefits. This has the potential to negatively impact attendance, access and participation and has the potential to lead to bullying.

Parents / carers should not have to think about the cost of a school uniform when choosing which school(s) to apply for. No uniform should be so expensive as to leave children or their families feeling unable to apply to, or attend, a school of their preference. Nor should the cost of uniform be a barrier to children participating in sport and other school activities. Therefore, it is important to ensure their uniforms are affordable.

2. Aims

This policy aims to:

- Set out Peterborough Diocese Education Trust's (PDET / the Trust) approach for its schools (school / s) in relation to requiring a uniform that is of reasonable cost and offers the best value for money for all parents and carers
- Explain how the Trust will avoid discrimination in line with its legal duties under the Equality Act 2010
- Clarify the Trust's expectations for school uniform.

3. Legal Duties Under the Equality Act 2010

The [Equality Act 2010](#) prohibits discrimination against an individual based on the protected characteristics, which include: age, sex, sexual orientation, disability, race, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity, and gender reassignment. Schools should be mindful of their duties under the Equality Act and the Trust's Equality Statement.

4. Limiting the Cost of School Uniform

Schools have a duty to make sure that the uniform required is affordable, in line with statutory [guidance](#) from the Department for Education (DfE) on the cost of school uniforms.

The Trust understands that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that need to have a school logo attached or be in a unique fabric or style) cannot be purchased from a wide range of retailers, and that requiring many such items limits parents / carers' ability to shop around for the best price.

Therefore, each school will make sure their uniform:

- Is available at a reasonable cost
- Provides the best value for money for parents and carers.

They will do this by:

- Following the statutory limits for compulsory branded items of uniform and PE kit to a maximum of 3 or fewer
- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary, and limiting these items where possible
- Limiting compulsory branded items to low-cost and / or long-lasting items
- Avoiding single-supplier contracts, to make sure generic items can be purchased from a range of retailers
- Considering cheaper alternatives to compulsory 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 such as coats, bags and shoes / trainers that children could also wear on non-school days
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities including (but not limited to) sport, music and drama
- Considering alternative approaches, including loaning compulsory branded items such as sports kit for competitions
- Avoiding requiring different branded items for particular times of the year, such as a branded dress in summer and a branded skirt in winter
- Making sure that opportunities to acquire second-hand items in a timely manner are accessible to parents and carers of both current and prospective children, and publishing this information on the school's website
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications, and minimising the financial impact on parents / carers of any changes
- Consulting with parents / carers and children on any proposed significant changes to the school uniform policy
- Continuing to review the school specific part of this policy, to ensure the cost of uniform is reasonable and provides the best value for money.

5. Expectations for School Uniform

Details of an individual school's expectations for school uniform are set out in the *Appendix*.

6. Expectations for the School Community

6.1 Children

Children 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).

6.2 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.

Any concerns or complaints parents / carers may have relating to the school uniform should be raised in a timely and reasonable manner in accordance with the school's complaints policy.

6.3 Staff

Staff will closely monitor children to make sure they are in correct uniform. They will give any children 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 the uniform policy will be dealt with by the headteacher.

In cases where it is suspected that financial hardship has resulted in a child not complying with this uniform policy, staff will take a mindful and considerate approach to resolving the situation and the child will not miss classroom teaching because of a sanction. This is in line with the statutory [guidance](#).

7. Monitoring Arrangements

This policy will be reviewed every three years by the Trust's Central Executive Team.

8. Links to Other Policies

This policy is linked to our:

- Behaviour policy (which includes Anti-bullying policy)
- Equality information and objectives statement
- Complaints policy

APPENDIX - School Specific Details: Expectations for School Uniform

1. Limiting the Cost of School Uniform

- Following the statutory limits for compulsory branded items of uniform and PE kit (maximum of 3 or fewer), the school's uniform consists only of the following branded items:
- Jumper/Cardigan
- P.E. T-shirt
- Book bag – optional

2. Details of Our School Uniform

Main School Uniform

Required branded items:

- Ringstead CE Primary School sweatshirt or cardigan with school logo

Generic items (non-branded):

- White polo shirt
- Grey trousers
- Grey shorts
- Grey skirt
- Grey pinafore dress
- Blue and white gingham dress (summer option)
- Grey, white or black socks
- Grey, white or black tights

Children should wear clothing that is suitable for school activities, comfortable and modest. Uniform should be clean, in good condition and clearly named.

PE Kit

Required branded item:

- Ringstead CE Primary School PE t-shirt

Generic items (non-branded):

- Plain black /navy blue shorts
- Plain black/navy blue jogging bottoms or leggings
- Plain black/navy blue sweatshirt or hoodie (optional for colder weather)
- Trainers suitable for physical activity

Children should ensure that their PE kit is in school on their designated PE days as communicated by class teachers.

Swimming Kit

For Key Stage Two swimming lessons, children should bring:

- Swimming costume or swimming trunks/shorts
- Towel
- Swimming cap if required by the swimming provider

Footwear

Children should wear sensible black shoes suitable for school. Plain all black trainers may also be worn. Footwear should be practical, safe and suitable for active play.

For PE, children should wear trainers that provide appropriate support and grip.

Jewellery, Hair and Appearance

- Children may wear one pair of small stud earrings.
- Earrings must be removed by the child before PE lessons and sporting activities.
- Analogue watches may be worn but should be removed for PE where requested by staff.
- No necklaces, bracelets, rings or other jewellery should be worn to school.
- Long hair should be tied back for safety and hygiene reasons.
- Hair accessories should be small and in school colours where possible (blue, white, grey or black).
- Extreme hairstyles, shaved patterns, or hair colours that are not natural are not permitted.

Coats and Bags

- Children should bring a suitable coat appropriate for the weather.
- Coats do not need to be branded.
- Any practical school bag may be used.
- Branded Ringstead CE Primary School book bags or rucksacks are available but are optional.

Additional Items

For outdoor learning, educational visits or special events, parents may be informed of any additional clothing requirements in advance. Wherever possible, these items will be non-branded and items families already own may be used.

Loaning, Gifting and Supporting Families

Ringstead CE Primary School is committed to ensuring that the cost of uniform does not become a barrier to attendance or participation.

The school maintains a stock of good-quality pre-loved uniform, including branded items, which families may access confidentially through the school office. Where appropriate, families may also be offered gifted uniform items. Staff will work sensitively with families experiencing financial hardship to ensure that children can attend school in the correct uniform without unnecessary financial pressure.

3. Where to Purchase or Acquire It

Branded uniform

Branded items can be purchased from: The School Uniform Shop, Wellingborough.

Generic uniform items may be purchased from any retailer, including supermarkets, department stores and online suppliers. Parents are not required to purchase generic items from a specific supplier.

Second-Hand Uniform

Ringstead CE Primary School operates a pre-loved uniform service. Good-quality second-hand uniform, including branded items where available, can be requested discreetly through the school office or via the

Family Support Worker throughout the year. Donations of clean, good-condition uniform are welcomed from families.

This approach supports the school's commitment to affordability, sustainability and ensuring that all children can fully participate in school life.