

Wincheap Foundation Primary School



School Uniform Policy

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1. Purpose and Aims

At Wincheap Foundation Primary School, we consider the purpose of our uniform is:

- To develop and support a sense of community, school identity and foster a sense of pride in belonging to Wincheap Foundation Primary School.
- To ensure that our children are safely dressed for school activities and the environment.
- To minimise competition between the children to wear more expensive or fashionable clothing and the pressure on parents to purchase this type of clothing, whilst encouraging equity among pupils.

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 age, sex, disability, race, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity, 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 a way that is appropriate for school and 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, gender or gender reassignment

- Allow pupils to wear headscarves and/or other religious garments
- Allow pupils with sensory or physical needs to make reasonable adaptations to their uniform depending on their specific needs
- Allow for reasonable 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.

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 (DfE) on the cost of school uniform.

We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that need 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/carers' 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 or making optional any items with distinctive characteristics where possible
- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost and/or long-lasting items
- 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, or making optional, 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/carers to acquire second-hand uniform items
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents/carers of any changes
- Consulting with parents/carers 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

Children are required to wear uniform made up from the list below:

- Navy blue sweatshirt or fleece (can be purchased through school with school logo or locally without logo);
- Navy blue jumper or cardigan (no logo, purchased locally – not through school);
- White polo shirt (no logo, purchased locally – not through school);
- Grey, black or blue trousers, shorts, skirt or pinafore dress;
- Black shoes (with sensible heels) or black trainers – no boots or high heels;
- Blue gingham check summer dress;
- Grey, black, navy or white socks.

For Physical Education (PE) children need:

- Black plimsolls or trainers;
- White t- shirt ;
- Navy blue or black shorts
- PE bag (simple drawstring bag so can be hung on cloakroom pegs)

On Sports Day, children have the option of wearing a t-shirt in their house colour if they have one and wish to, otherwise they are expected to just wear their usual white PE t-shirt.

Tracksuits may be worn outside in the cold weather. Swimming costumes, towels etc will be needed on the days a child goes swimming (certain year groups only).

Jewellery and Watches

Jewellery should not generally be worn in school. Only wristwatches and one pair of small stud earrings are allowed. Watches and stud earrings must be removed for PE lessons. Stud earrings may be covered with an appropriate plaster during the early period that ears have been pierced.

Valuable items of clothing or jewellery should not be brought into school. Loss or damage can cause distress and Wincheap Foundation Primary School is not responsible or covered for such losses via insurance.

Please ensure that all uniform items are clearly labelled with the child's name.

4.2 Where to purchase it

Some items of Wincheap school uniform can be purchased from the school office (sweatshirts and fleeces with the school logo). However, the option for parents to purchase clothing elsewhere, for example from high street retailers and major supermarkets, is recognised and perfectly acceptable.

All clothing brought to school (including coats/jackets) should be clearly labelled with the child's name.

5. Expectations for our school community

5.1 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)

Pupils are also expected to talk to 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 make sure their child has the correct uniform and PE kit, and that every item is:

- Clean
- Clearly labelled with the child's name. This make life much easier for your child and school staff when they go astray, and helps avoid the cost of replacement. Named items are usually quickly returned to the owner, unnamed items are placed in lost property bins which can be found near each cloakroom.
- In good condition

Parents/carers 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/carers 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 always work closely with parents/carers to try to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

5.3 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.

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. Staff and/or parents/carers are advised to speak to the school's Pastoral Manager in this event, who can assist in finding a discreet solution.

5.4 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/carers and pupils
- Offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all pupils

The governors 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.

6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Headteacher. At every review, it will be approved by Learning and Teaching committee of the governing body.

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

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