



# School Uniform Policy

## Statement of Intent

Richard Cobden Primary School is committed to promoting equality and value for money and to ensuring that no child is discriminated against due to their religion or belief, economic circumstances or social or cultural background. This policy contains provisions to meet these objectives and has been created with health and safety, value for money and practicality at its heart.

Additionally, it is important that our pupils feel a sense of belonging to our school. We believe that wearing a smart and practical uniform allows all children, regardless of their backgrounds, to feel equal to their peers and confident in their appearance.

We also believe it is important for children to wear clothing that is conducive to a successful learning environment, including activity-appropriate clothing, such as sports attire.

## Equality

This policy has been written with due regard the Equality Act 2010. The school is required to ensure that this policy does not discriminate unlawfully.

The school endeavours to ensure that our uniform is as gender neutral and inclusive as possible. We do not insist that children of any sex must wear specific items of clothing.

Every step has been taken to ensure that the cost of similar uniform items, for example, trousers versus skirts, are not disproportionate.

## Religious Clothing

The school endeavours to allow religious requirements to be met, wherever possible. The school does not discriminate against any religious belief; however, the school weighs the needs and rights of the individual pupils against the health and safety concerns of the entire school community.

Parents'/guardians' concerns and requests regarding religious clothing are dealt with on a case-by-case basis by the Head Teacher and Governing Board. This is always conducted in accordance with the school's Complaints Policy.

## Limiting the Cost of the School Uniform

In accordance with the School Admissions Code, the school ensures that the School Uniform Policy does not discourage parents/guardians from applying for a place for their child.

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 does not amend uniform requirements regularly and takes the views of parents/guardians and pupils into account when considering changes to school uniforms. Where changes are required, the school ensures that assistance is provided to parents/guardians struggling to meet the associated costs.

## Expectations for our School Community

### The Governing Body

- In consultation with the Head Teacher and school community, establishing a practical and smart school uniform that accurately reflects the school's vision and values.
- Ensuring that equal opportunities are considered regarding the school's uniform and that no person is discriminated against.
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of parents/guardians, pupils and the wider school community regarding changes to the school's uniform.
- Ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible and affordable.

## **The Head Teacher**

- Enforcing the school's uniform on a day-to-day basis.
- Ensuring that school staff understand this policy and know what to do if a pupil is in breach of the policy.
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of the school community regarding the school's uniform and making appropriate recommendations to the Governing Body.
- Providing pupils with exemptions as appropriate e.g. for a pupil who has a broken arm and requires a loose-fitting top.

## **Teaching and support staff**

- Ensuring that pupils dress in accordance with this policy at all times.
- Taking appropriate action when pupils are in breach of this policy.
- Ensuring that pupils understand why having a consistent and practical school uniform is important e.g. to establish school identity.

## **Parents/guardians**

- Providing their children with the correct school uniform as detailed in this policy.
- Informing the Head Teacher 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**

- Wearing the correct uniform at all times, unless the Head Teacher has granted an exemption.
- Looking after their uniform as appropriate.
- Respecting why a school uniform is important to the school e.g. to develop a sense of belonging.

## **Our School Uniform**

The school endeavours to ensure that our uniform is as gender neutral as possible. The uniform is as follows:

- Navy sweatshirt or navy cardigan (with or without the school logo)
- White polo shirt or buttoned shirt
- Grey or navy trousers
- Grey or navy pinafore or skirt (in summer, a blue checked summer dress may be worn)
- Black, sensible shoes or trainers
- Grey, black or white socks
- Grey, navy or white tights

Open-toed sandals and large, thick boots are not considered suitable footwear for school. High heels are not permitted: sensible, plain black shoes or trainers must be worn by both boys and girls.

Black jeans and leggings are not permitted in day-to-day uniform.

All items of clothing and footwear must be labelled with the pupil's name.

## **Our PE Kit**

Children are asked to come into school on the day of their PE lesson wearing their PE kit. They can wear it for the full school day. Parents/guardians are responsible for ensuring their child is dressed appropriately for PE.

The PE kit is as follows:

- Plain navy T-shirt (with or without the school logo)
- Navy zipped fleece or sweatshirt or normal school jumper
- Navy tracksuit bottoms or leggings
- Navy shorts (in summer)
- Plain, suitable trainers or black or white pumps

The Swimming kit is as follows:

- Tight fitting, lycra swimming trunks (no baggy shorts as per rules from swimming pool)
- Full lycra swimming consume (no bikinis or loose T-shirts to be worn over costume)

A tight fitting lycra body suits or tight leggings under a swimming costume is permitted.

All items of clothing and footwear must be labelled with the pupil's name.

## **Jewellery**

The only permitted jewellery that may be worn is:

- One pair of stud earrings (no other piercings are permitted)
- A sensible wristwatch (not a smartwatch)

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, for example, PE lessons / swimming lessons.

## **Hair Styles**

Hairstyles should be smart and moderate in style. Brightly coloured hair is not permitted.

Pupils with what could be deemed extreme hairstyles may be exempt from the rule above on racial or religious grounds. The Head Teacher will take each individual pupil's scenario into consideration.

Long hair should be tied up. This is to avoid health and safety risks and ensure that children's vision is not impeded.

Large, excessive hair accessories should not be worn; however, small hair clips or plain headbands are acceptable.

Hair extensions are not permitted.

At the Head Teacher's discretion, there may be exceptions to the above in extreme circumstances e.g. a pupil may be permitted to cover their hair if they have hair loss / illness etc.

## **Adverse Weather**

### **Hot Weather**

Everyone working at/attending the school during hot weather conditions is required to wear sun-safe clothing that covers as much of their skin as possible.

This includes wearing:

- Loose fitting tops with collars or covered necklines
- Tops that cover the shoulder area
- Grey or navy shorts or blue checked summer dress of an appropriate length (if families wish to)
- Sun-safe hats
- Sunglasses with UV protection
- Sunscreen (children from Year 2 up must be able to apply this themselves, younger children will be assisted. Sunscreen must be labelled and handed to the child's class teacher)

During hot weather, lightweight clothing is required to reduce the risk of overheating. Pupils are not required to wear their jumpers/cardigans during heatwaves. If outside during break and lunch times, pupils not wearing sun-safe clothing/sunscreen are advised to stay in an area protected from the sun.

**Cold Weather**

During cold weather, pupils are required to wear scarves, gloves, coats and hats when they are outside. Additional layers underneath the usual school uniform are accepted.

Where possible, pupils not wearing warm clothing are provided with spare clothing if going outside during break and lunch times.

Last Reviewed on:	September 2023
Next Review Date by:	September 2025