

School Uniform Policy



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1. 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

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 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
- Allow pupils to wear headscarves and other religious or cultural symbols
- Allow for adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents to get in touch with the headteacher who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests
- Allow for adaptations to our policy being made for SEND pupils by asking pupils or their parents to get in touch with the headteacher who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests

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 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
- Accepting the appropriate colour of uniform items without logo e.g. plain white shirts, plain blue jumpers/cardigans
- Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics and ensuring we get best value for money from our supplier.
- Avoiding specific requirements for items pupils could wear on non-school days.
- Keeping the number of optional branded items to a minimum, so that the school's uniform can act as a social leveler
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different groups - only the prefects have a different colour and school purchase one jumper for each to ensure this is not an additional financial burden.
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- Considering alternative methods for signaling differences in groups for interschool competitions, such as creating posters or labels – teams competing in the Bury School Games events will be provided with a Westgate kit to wear
- 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
- Regularly checking lost property items and returning named items and also displaying lost property items half termly so that parents can find any missing items

4. Expectations for school uniform

4.1 Our school's uniform

- Our school uniform is made up of a blue sweatshirt or cardigan and a white or blue polo shirt (either plain or with a Westgate logo).
- These items should be worn with **plain black or grey trousers or a knee length skirt/dress and black shoes or trainers**. In the **summer**, grey or black tailored knee length shorts or blue and white checked summer dresses can be worn.
- Trousers, skirts and plain polo shirts can be bought in all major supermarkets and other retailers.

PE Kit

Children are asked to wear their PE kit to school on PE days. The PE kit consists of:

- Plain white or royal blue t-shirt
- Black, grey or navy shorts / jogging bottoms (or tracksuit on colder days) – these should be as plain as possible. Shorts should be at least mid-thigh length.
- Trainers

These can be bought in all major supermarkets and other retailers.

4.2 Where to purchase uniform

- Items without the school logo can be bought from any major supermarket (see above section 4.1).
- Items with the school logo can be bought through a local Bury St Edmunds company by ordering online at: <https://westgate.resuffolk.co.uk/>
- If uniform with the Westgate logo is ordered, the items need to be collected at the company (just off Eastgate Street) or it can be delivered to your home address for a fee.

Before the start of each new school year, there will be short window of time where you can place an order, postage free, to be collected from school on a designated date

- The PTA also have a number of second-hand uniform items and these will be available at a minimum cost by contacting the school office or at the termly uniform sales.

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)

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
 - 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.

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.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with by the headteacher.

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.

5.4 Governors

The governing board will review this policy and make sure that it:

- Is appropriate for our school's context
- Is implemented fairly across the school
- Considers the views of parents and pupils
- Offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all pupils
- Expects the supplier to 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 the full governing board.

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

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