

PRIMARY UNIFORM POLICY

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INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

In developing our uniform policy we have taken full account of the Education (Guidance about Costs of School Uniform) Act 2021 and the Department for Education's non-statutory guidance on school uniform. Key points of this legislation and guidance are:

1. Parents/carers should not have to think about the cost of a school's uniform when choosing which school to apply for. Therefore, schools need to ensure that their uniforms are affordable.

Since our Trust was established in 2009, we have provided every child joining our schools in Reception (primary), Year 3 (Junior) and Year 7 (secondary) with a free uniform 'bundle' that contains every compulsory uniform item to ensure that the cost of uniform does not restrict the ability to attend one of our schools. Similarly, for any school that joins the Trust we provide a free uniform 'bundle' for every child, to ensure that parents/carers are not out-of-pocket as a result of the school's change of governance. The free bundle consists of:

- Cardigan or jumper
- Book bag

2. In considering cost, schools will need to think about the total cost of school uniform, taking into account all items of uniform or clothing parents/carers will need to provide while the child is at the school.

Cost of uniform is a priority for our schools, this is minimised through the provision of a free uniform 'bundle' and families can apply for financial support through our Hardship Fund if needed. Regular tendering has ensured that the price of uniforms for families has not risen significantly, the most recent tender secured an average 6% reduction in price on all items.

3. Schools should keep the use of branded items to a minimum.

The requirement for branded items is kept under regular review. In recent years we took the decision to remove the need for a branded shirt at our secondary schools, which we know was welcomed. More recently, we have also removed the need for branded skirts and trousers. We believe it is important to minimise branded items, whilst maintaining the quality and consistency of uniform and to avoid the distraction that can be created by lengthy discussions about what does and does not meet the uniform standards.

4. A school's uniform policy should be published on the school's website and available for all parents/carers, including prospective parents/carers, and easy for parents/carers to understand.

This requirement is met by this policy, which is available on our website.

5. Schools should ensure that their uniform supplier arrangements give highest priority to cost and value for money (including the quality and durability of the garment) for parents/carers.

Securing value for money has been the key driver within the Trust's procurement of school uniforms; both quality of material (including durability and wearability) and cost were tested with suppliers during the procurement process.

6. Schools should tender their uniform contracts at least every 5 years. Exclusive single supplier contracts should be avoided unless regular tendering competitions are run where more than one supplier can compete for the contract and where best value for parents/carers is secured.

Our uniform contract is currently with Trutex. They were appointed following an open tender competition in 2020. This tender process achieved an average 6% reduction in price across the uniform range.

7. Schools should ensure that second-hand uniform is available for parents/carers to acquire. Information on second-hand uniform should be clear for parents/carers of current and prospective pupils and published on the school's website.

Our schools run multiple different schemes to ensure that second-hand uniform is available, these include uniform items being available directly from the school, schemes with local charities and also via Trutex Pre-Loved, which can be accessed at www.trutex.com and sign in with code: LEA00980SC.

OUR UNIFORM POLICY

It is essential for the school and pupils that the way pupils present themselves is positive and acceptable and is in keeping with a disciplined and well-ordered establishment. It is expected that all pupils will come to school every day in a neat, clean uniform, giving the message that our pupils take pride in belonging to their school. The support of families is essential to this process.

A smart uniform improves discipline, self-esteem and self-respect. Uniform focuses attention upon learning and away from distractions. Uniforms remove differences in dress that can be caused by socioeconomic background or fashion trends. This can help reduce peer pressure and bullying.

So that all pupils have a sense of pride in their appearance, we ask that the uniform is worn appropriately and in its entirety as described above.

Pupils not adhering to the uniform code will be supported in ensuring they do not face discrimination because of this. Pupils arriving to school in incorrect uniform will be supported to rectify this by loaning items of uniform from the school. Parents/carers will be informed, where appropriate, that this has taken place so they can assist with ensuring the correct uniform is worn in future.

On occasions, where medical conditions are evidenced to the school, there can and will be reasonable adjustments made.

Hardship

Our Hardship Fund is a discretionary source of financial help available to all registered full-time school students. This Fund is available to help students/parents/carers who have difficulties in paying for uniform, shoes or sports equipment. Please see the Hardship Policy on the school website for details of how to apply for this funding.

Nail Polish

Nail polish and any type of false nails (including clear gels, acrylics, extensions, Shellac etc) are not allowed.

Jewellery and Make-Up

No jewellery is allowed except a wrist watch, a Medic Alert necklace or bracelet. New piercings should be planned for the start of the summer holidays to ensure appropriate healing, as students will not be allowed to wear earrings, piercing retainers or any other jewellery.

Make-up must be discreet. The decision as to what qualifies as discreet rests with the Principal and Executive Principal of the individual school. False eyelashes of any type are not allowed.

Hair

Hairstyles should be a natural colour. Hair styles should not be offensive. Please check with your child's Learning Manager before considering any dramatic changes to style or colour. No scarves or bandanas are allowed (unless for religious reasons). Small hair accessories can only be worn in the hair and must be black, white or school purple. The decision rests with the Principals and Executive Principal of the school.

Religious Dress

We recognise that some students may wish to wear distinctive garments for religious reasons. However, the school reserves the right to determine the religious garments and symbols that will be allowed after consultation with the representatives of parents/carers and local leaders of the relevant religious groups. No dress will be allowed that covers any part of the face from forehead to chin in the interests of safety. It is vital that the school staff have full visibility of students' faces and can recognise at all times who is in school. Should parents/carers require their child to wear a specific religious garment or symbol, they should contact the school who, after consultation, will contact the parent/carer with a decision.

Current guidelines permit the following:

Religious head covering may be worn but must be plain, as well as of an agreed colour to be fixed upon by the school. In most cases, the standard colour would include black, purple or white, although exceptions may be made in consultation with the school. In addition, clips and pins to hold the covering in place should be plain and undecorated.

Religious symbols

The wearing of unobtrusive religious symbols will normally be allowed as a waiver to the policy on jewellery, provided that:

- The item is an extremely important mark of faith.
- by wearing it, no pressure is brought on other pupils.
- it generally is not seen, because it is under other clothing.
- there is no health & safety risk.
- permission for a waiver has been obtained in advance of it being worn, from the Principal, and permission granted in writing.

Equal Opportunities

In determining and implementing the uniform policy schools will take account of our Equality & Diversity Policy and the needs of individual students.

UNIFORM

The primary school uniform consists of the below, and must not be altered in a way that changes the style of the item.

- Purple sweatshirt or cardigan, with school logo
- White polo shirt
- Grey skirt, trousers or school shorts
- Grey socks or tights
- Black shoes

Shoe Policy

Only plain black polishable shoes are allowed to be worn with the uniform. - please see images for reference. No colour, chains, large or inappropriate embellishments and decorations are allowed. No trainer-like shoes, boots, pumps or canvas shoes (including 'Vans') will be allowed. Heels should be no higher than 2.5cm/1 inch.

Principal discretion will be applied where appropriate.



If students are not wearing the correct footwear they will be expected to borrow a pair of shoes from SID/Student Reception/Learning Manager - the shoes will be treated with a hygienic spray before each use.

Summer Uniform

The summer uniform consists of purple dress or grey shorts, white socks, and black shoes, and may be worn after the Easter holidays until October half term.

PE Kit

The children are required to wear:

- White t-shirt
- Black shorts
- Black socks

ORDERING UNIFORM

The items of the uniform which have the Outwood logo on, must be ordered from Trutex or locally approved stockists. You can visit their website [here](#). Simply click on the 'register' button and enter our unique code which can be found on the relevant school website.

Trutex Pre-Loved is available at www.trutex.com and sign in with code: LEA00980SC.