

Uniform Policy

1. Purpose

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. Statutory Duties

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 Head of School, 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;
- Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics where possible. If your school has a blazer and jumper uniform, add: for example, by only asking that the blazer, worn over the jumper, features the school logo;
- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost or long-lasting items, such as ties;
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| Policy Owner | Head of School | Review Date: | June 2025 |
| Policy No. | 135d | Version No. | 1 |

- 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 leveler;
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups;
- 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;
- 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.

Financial assistance with purchasing school uniform is available from some local authorities for the parents of children receiving Free School Meals and also for those experiencing difficulty in meeting the cost of a uniform. If your local authority does not offer financial assistance your child may qualify for a clothing grant, funded directly from the school pupil premium income. The grant amount you will receive is £60 per pupil, please see appendix 1 for the application.

4. Expectations for school uniform

4.1 Our School Uniform

It is expected that our uniform shall include:

| | Uniform | P.E Kit |
|-----------|--|---|
| Primary | White polo shirt Forrest green sweatshirt (with logo) Grey trousers or skirt Black shoes Grey or black socks/tights Book bag (with logo) Forrest green cardigan (with logo) Forrest green fleece / lined jacket / reversible jacket (with logo) | White T-shirt (with logo) Forrest green shorts or tracksuit bottoms Black plimsolls or trainers PE bag (with logo) Forrest green sweatshirt / tracksuit top Forrest green fleece |
| Secondary | White polo shirt / shirt Grey trousers or skirt Black shoes Black socks / tights Forrest green sweatshirt (with logo) Forrest green v-neck jumper (with logo) Forrest green fleece / lined jacket / reversible jacket (with logo) Forrest green / black ruck sack (with logo) | White T-shirt (with logo) Forrest green shorts or tracksuit bottoms Black trainers PE bag (with logo) Forrest green sweatshirt / tracksuit top Forrest green fleece Shin pads |

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|--------------|----------------|--------------|-----------|
| Policy Owner | Head of School | Review Date: | June 2025 |
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Jewellery / Make-Up / Hairstyles

- Jewellery should not be worn in school, other than an inexpensive watch and one small stud in each lobe.
- The wearing of heavy make-up is not permitted.
- Long hair should be tied back, and hair should be of a natural colour. No hairstyles of passing trends, eg shaving all or part of the head or tramlines.
- Where applicable headscarves should be plain and should be navy blue or black.

Outdoor Weather

- Suitable outdoor wear in inclement weather should be worn.
- No hoodies are permitted.

Due to the sensory needs of our pupils the school is happy to make the necessary exemptions for pupils that struggle to wear the authorised school uniform. In these cases, staff shall work with the pupil, parent/carer and school to put in place the correct guidance for the individual pupil.

4.2 Where to purchase

Our uniform can be purchased at the following sites:

www.schoolbellsuniforms.co.uk

Second-hand uniform can be purchased:

www.schoolbellsuniforms.co.uk

5. Expectations for our school community

5.1 Pupils

Pupils are encouraged to wear the correct uniform at all times (other than specified non-school uniform days), whilst considering our understanding sensory needs (as detailed above) 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 contact Deputy Head of School if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics.

5.2 Parents/carers

Parents and carers are expected to make sure their child has appropriate clothing for school 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 Deputy Head of School if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to:

- Their child's protected characteristics;

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|--------------|----------------|--------------|-----------|
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- 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 suitable clothing for school.

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;
- Takes into account the views of parents and pupils;
- Offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all pupils.

6. Links to other policies

This policy should be read alongside the following The Rise School and Ambitious about Autism policies and procedures, which can be found [here](#):

- Behaviour Policy;
- EDI Policy;
- Anti-bullying Policy;
- Compliments and Complaints Policy.

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