

**Outcomes
First
Group.**

School Uniform Policy



Acorn Park

1 Introduction

1.1 It is our school policy that all pupils except Post 16 wear school uniform/colours when attending school, or when participating in a school-organised event outside normal school hours. We provide a complete list of the items needed for school uniform in our school brochure and provide a set of logo uniform, free of charge to each family, annually.

2 Aims and objectives

2.1 Our policy on school uniform is based on the notion that school uniform:

- promotes a sense of pride in the school;
- engenders a sense of community and belonging towards the school;
- is practical and smart;
- identifies the pupils with the school;
- prevents pupils from coming to school in fashion clothes that could be distracting in class;
- makes pupils feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance;
- is regarded as suitable wear for school and good value for money by most families;
- is designed with health and safety in mind.

3 Jewellery

3.1 On health and safety grounds we do not allow pupils to wear jewellery in our school.

The exceptions to this rule are:

- small objects of religious significance, such as a crucifix on a chain or Sikh Kara
- Clear or skin coloured plastic retainer earring studs

We ask the pupils to remove these objects during PE, games and swimming for health and safety reasons.

The school advises parents who wish their child to have their ears pierced to do so at the beginning of the school holidays. Piercings of any sort represent a safety risk and are not permitted in school.

3.2 Medical identification bracelets may be worn by pupils who have significant medical problems e.g. Diabetes or epilepsy.

4 Hair and Make-up

4.1 'Extreme' haircuts can serve as a distraction to other pupils and are not allowed in school.

4.2 Examples of hairstyles and haircuts which are deemed extreme would be tramlines, stars, shaved heads (No shorter than a number 2), extreme patterns 'V' styles, Mohican cuts, or brightly coloured, tipped or dipped hair.

- Pupils with long hair should also tie it back for safety reasons.

4.3 Some pupils are sensitive to sudden change or have sensory sensitivities around textures. Some pupils are sensitive to sudden change or have sensory sensitivities around textures. Any haircut can result in distraction and dysregulation, and this is especially the case with extreme haircuts.

4.4 Discrete make-up may be worn by pupils from Year 11 upwards.

5 Footwear

5.1 The school wants all pupils to grow into healthy adults. We believe that it is dangerous for pupils to wear shoes that have platform soles or high heels, so we do not allow pupils to wear such shoes in our school. Neither do we allow pupils to wear branded trainers to school; this is because we think that this footwear is appropriate for sport or for leisurewear, but is not in keeping with the smart appearance of a school uniform. We require all pupil to wear black shoes as stated in the uniform list. These can be trainer style as we recognise that these are often most comfortable and have less sensory challenges.

5.2 In wintertime, winter black shoes or black boots may be worn – fashionable boots like Ugg boots are not allowed to be worn in school. Pupils coming to school during the winter months who wear boots should bring with them black school shoes or slippers (not large character slippers) to change into.

6 The role of parents

6.1 We ask all parents who send their child to our school to support the school uniform policy. Parents have a duty to send their child to school correctly dressed and ready for their daily schoolwork. One of the responsibilities of parents is to ensure that their child has the correct uniform, and that it is clean and in good repair. If you need additional uniform, it can be ordered from 'Birds of Dereham' <https://www.birdsofdereham.com/shop/category/acorn-park-768/>

- Our School Administrators are always happy to answer questions about uniform availability.

6.2 If any parent would like the school to modify the uniform policy, they should make representation, in the first instance, to the Head of School. The school welcomes pupils from all backgrounds and faith communities. If there are serious reasons, for example on religious grounds, why parents want their child to wear clothes that differ from the school uniform, the school will look sympathetically at such requests. We understand that some pupils face sensory issues around certain clothing and are sympathetic to this also.

7 The role of governors

7.1 The governing body supports the Head of School in implementing the school uniform policy. It considers all representations from parents regarding the uniform policy and liaises with the Head of School to ensure that the policy is implemented fairly and with sensitivity.

7.2 It is the governors' responsibility to ensure that the school uniform meets all regulations concerning equal opportunities.

7.3 Governors ensure that the school uniform policy helps pupil to dress sensibly, in clothing that is hardwearing, safe and practical.

8 Monitoring and review

8.1 The governing body monitors and reviews the school uniform policy through its committee work by:

- seeking the views of parents, to ensure that they agree with and support the policy;
- considering, with the Head of School, any requests from parents for individual pupils to have special dispensation with regard to school uniform;
- requiring the Head of School to report to the governors on the way the school uniform policy is implemented.

9 Uniform

The School Uniform is:

- Black trousers or school shorts and plain grey or black socks or
- Black school skirt and plain grey/ black woollen tights or grey or black socks
- Blue polo shirt (Logo preferred)
- Blue Sweatshirt or Cardigan (Logo preferred)

NB. Trousers and shorts worn in school for uniform should be appropriate uniform style material and 'cut', not sportswear or fashion styles.

As part of the school uniform a blue logo fleece jacket with the school logo can be worn.

The school strongly discourages the wearing of leather and expensive fashion coats/jackets since the school cannot take responsibility for loss or damage of items of clothing. School coats should be plain black or navy.

PE kit:

- Black non-marking sole trainers
- Navy PE shorts
- School PE T-shirt (with logo)
- Optional navy joggers

The PE kit should be brought to school on a Monday morning and may be taken home on Friday afternoon.

All items of clothing – including shoes and wellingtons – should be clearly marked with the pupil's name.

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NB. The school has used the DfE non-statutory guidance on school uniform and agrees with the guidance given in the DfE booklet which states: 'The school uniform plays a valuable role in contributing to the ethos of a school and setting an appropriate tone. The Department strongly encourages schools to have a uniform as it can instil pride; support positive behaviour and discipline; encourage identity with, and support for, schools ethos; ensure pupils of all races and backgrounds feel welcome; protect pupil from social pressures to dress in a particular way; and nurture cohesion and promote good relations between different groups of pupils. The Department also encourages schools to have a very clear position about appearance such as hair colour, style and length and the wearing of jewellery and make-up.'