

The Priory CE VA Primary School

*Inspiring a generation to learn, flourish and achieve in a caring,
Christian community.*



School Uniform Policy

School Uniform Policy			
Approval	Board of Governors	Chairman	Geoff Tabor
Headteacher	Paul Ruffle Author: Helen Brown	Ratification	Oct 2022
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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 a child's presentation in school (uniform, jewellery etc.)

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 Mrs H Brown, School Business Manager on 01202 484105 or office@prioryceprimary.co.uk who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests
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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
- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost or long-lasting items, such as ties
- 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 extra-curricular activities
- 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

4. Expectations for school uniform

4.1 Our school's uniform

The Priory Primary School has a school uniform and we strongly encourage all children to wear it. We believe that wearing school uniform encourages children to be ready for learning, prevents discrimination, reduces arguments about clothes at home, makes recognition of pupils easier and fosters a pride in our school. We are often complimented on how smart our children look.

- Branded items required: -
 - school navy pullover and/or cardigan
 - tartan pinafore for KS1 and tartan skirt for KS2
 - blue striped summer dress
 - school PE t-shirt in house colours
 - long sleeved navy polo

- Accepted generic items instead of branded ones: -
 - plain navy tie
 - white formal school shirt (long or short sleeved) with collar
 - charcoal trousers or shorts
 - navy tights or navy, black, grey or white socks
 - blue or black coat (branding optional)

- Expectations for PE and swimming kit: -
 - black shadow striped shorts
 - long black socks
 - trainers (EYFS pupils can wear black plimsolls)
 - plain black jogging pants may be worn during Winter months
 - The school does not stipulate a particular swimming costume

PE clothing should be clearly named and kept in a drawstring bag. Due to lack of space, large sports bags and rucksacks should not be brought to school. County safety guidelines require children to undertake gymnastics activities in bare feet. Children with verrucas should cover them with a plaster or clear nail varnish. Shoulder length hair will need to be tied back.

- Expectations for jewellery and hairstyles: -

In general terms, you are advised not to allow your child to wear jewellery at school in case of loss, damage or injury.

- Long hair should be tied back using plain black or navy hair ties
- Studs are permitted for those children who have pierced ears, however during P.E. and swimming even these will need to be removed. On occasion, where a child's ears are still healing, children are allowed to cover their earrings with tape and the class teacher will assess whether they can fully (or partially) participate in the activity.
- Make-up, including nail varnish, is not appropriate in school and should also not be worn.
- Watches and activity trackers (e.g. fitbits) are allowed, unless they record images and video, but these remain the responsibility of the owner.

- Expectations for shoes and bags: -
 - Black sensible shoes
 - Navy book bag (branding optional)
 - Sunhat (branding optional)

N.B. boots, sling-backs, open-toed sandals and high heels should not be worn in school for safety reasons.

4.2 Where to purchase it

- When the Priory school uniform was changed back in 2017, a contract was made with [Stevensons](#) to be the sole provider of Priory branded clothing. The school remains locked into that contract until January 2024.
- Priory logo uniform or bespoke items (jumpers, cardigans, polo shirts, dresses etc) can only be purchased from **Stevensons** (visit the store at 148- 150 Seabourne Road, Bournemouth or [online](#)).
- Shorts, shirts, coats etc can be purchased from **any high street store**.
- Children in receipt of the 'Pupil Premium' are entitled to a **£40 clothing grant in the form of a voucher** which may be redeemed at Stevensons in Southbourne. Please contact the school office in the first instance.

4.3 Pre-loved uniform sales

- The Friends of Priory School PTA charity have started running a pre-loved uniform shop, via the facebook page '**The Priory School FPS school uniform shop**' and all proceeds are donated to the school. A new drop-off and collection area for pre-loved uniform has been set up in the reception area.
- The school also runs special uniform sales throughout the year, which are announced via the [fortnightly newsletter](#).

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*)

Pupils are also expected to contact Mrs H Brown, School Business Manager if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics and/or temporary reasonable adjustments e.g. due to a medical condition.

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 Mrs H Brown, School Business Manager 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 the 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 an informal discussion with the parents by the Headteacher in the first instance.

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

The board will also make sure that the school's uniform supplier arrangements give the highest priority to cost and value for money, for example by avoiding single supplier contracts **in the future** and by re-tendering contracts at least every 5 years.

6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years by the School Business Manager. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing body.

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

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

8. Policy Version History

Date	Comments / Reviewed:
September 2022	<p data-bbox="456 300 1525 412">New policy written by H Brown, School Business Manager in response to the new guidance on the cost of school uniforms (released November 2021). The deadline for completion was Sept 2022. 'The Key' was used as a basis for this policy.</p> <p data-bbox="456 456 1474 604">The website and school prospectus have also been updated to reflect the new requirements e.g. gender differences removed / unnecessary branded items removed and second hand items now available via the newly organised FPS second hand shop.</p> <p data-bbox="456 649 1522 761">The school is not yet fully compliant, due to the pre-existing contract with Stevensons, which can not be renegotiated until January 2024. This circumstance is foreseen in the new guidance and accepted.</p> <p data-bbox="456 806 1449 837">The policy will be rewritten once a new tender process has been completed.</p>