School Uniform and Jewellery Policy

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Statement of intent

Colindale School believes that a consistent school uniform policy is vital for:

- Promoting the ethos of the school
- Providing a sense of belonging and identity
- Supporting good behaviour
- Setting an appropriate tone for education
- Feeling a sense of pride in how they look and present.
- Encouraging responsibility for their belongings
- Preparing them for secondary school and their working life

For the purposes of this policy, “uniform” includes the following elements of pupils’ appearance:

- Clothing, including the school uniform itself, variations of the school uniform such as PE kits, and other clothing worn at school, e.g., non-uniform.
- Hairstyles and headwear.
- Jewellery and other accessories.
- Cosmetics such as makeup and nail polish.

This policy lays out the measures the school has taken to ensure a consistent, fair and inclusive uniform policy, and to implement a uniform that reflects the needs of all pupils, is affordable, and provides the best value for money for both the school and pupils’ families.

We believe that pupils learn most effectively and achieve their best outcomes when they are comfortable, able to be themselves, and dressed in a way that sets an appropriate tone for education.

In writing and updating this policy, we have sought to:

- Consider how this policy might affect groups represented in the school, especially those who share protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010.
- Consider how comfortable the uniform will be for pupils.
- Take a sensible approach to allow for exceptions to be made, e.g., during adverse weather.
- Ensure that the uniform is suitable and safe for pupils who walk or cycle to school.
- Choose a PE kit which is practical, comfortable, appropriate to the activity involved and affordable.
- Ensure the policy is easy to access and understand.

1. Key roles and responsibilities

The governing board is responsible for:

- Establishing, in consultation with the headteacher and school community, a practical and smart school uniform that accurately reflects the school's vision and values.
- Ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible, inclusive, and does not disadvantage any pupil because of their protected characteristics or socio-economic status.
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of parents, pupils, and the wider school community regarding changes to the school's uniform.
- Ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible and affordable.
- Demonstrating in this policy how best value for money has been achieved.
- Ensuring compliance with the DfE's 'Cost of school uniforms' guidance.

The Headteacher is responsible for:

- The day-to-day implementation and management of this policy.
- Ensuring that teachers understand this policy and what to do if a pupil is in breach of the policy
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of the school community regarding the school's uniform and making appropriate recommendations to the governing board.
- Speaking to the parents of children who persistently do not wear the correct uniform.

Staff are responsible for:

- Setting a good example in terms of dress
- Ensuring that pupils dress in accordance with this policy at all times
- To remind pupils to wear correct school uniform.
- Speak to children who do not wear the correct uniform, sensitively.
- Refer children who continue not to wear correct school uniform to the phase leader, who will contact parents.

Parents are responsible for:

- Providing their children with the correct school uniform as detailed in this policy, including PE kit.
- Ensuring their children adhere to the school's uniform policy.

- Ensuring their children come to school in uniform everyday unless there are special circumstances such as non-uniform days.
- Ensuring that all uniform is labelled correctly with their child's name and class.
- Ensuring that their child's uniform is clean, presentable and the correct size.

Pupils are responsible for:

- Wearing the correct uniform at all times (other than specified non-uniform days)
- Looking after their uniform as appropriate
- Understanding and respecting why a school uniform is important to the school e.g., school identity and community.
- Understand that when they wear the school uniform, they are representing the school. This includes travelling to and from school, and out of school events or trips.

2. Our School Uniform

The uniform is as follows:

- White polo shirt (with or without school logo)
- Purple jumper or cardigan (with school logo)
- Grey trousers or skirt
- Black school shoes or plain black trainers
- Black/ grey or white socks / grey tights.

3. PE Kit

- Children come to school dressed in their PE kit, on PE days only.

  PE kit includes:
  - Black shorts / joggers
  - White t-shirt (no logo)
  - Black plimsolls or trainers (no logo)

- Children in years 2-6 need a swimming kit, in a separate bag.

  Swimming kit includes:
  - Swimming costume or shorts
  - Towel
  - Swimming hat
  - Goggles

4. Purchasing uniform

Branded and unbranded uniform, with the Colindale logo on can be bought online via our uniform suppliers Smiths Schoolwear. You can access this by clicking here:

- Colindale Primary School – Smiths Schoolwear

Unbranded items of uniform can be purchased at local supermarkets and department stores.

The school also has a school-hand uniform clothes rail, available every Friday in the foyer. These items are free of charge and intended to support those families in financial hardship. Sizes and items are not guaranteed as we rely on donations from other families.

5. Labelling your child's uniform

- It is vital that all children can locate their own property as it facilitates early reading skills, independence, and self-esteem.
- Please ensure that your child's clothing and property are clearly labelled.
- Your child's name should appear in lower case letters, with the first letter of their name / surname in capitals.
- Labelling can be done with a permanent marker pen or by using pre-printed iron on name labels.

6. Hair

- Please be mindful that 'bold' hair styles distract children from their learning.
- Hair should be kept away from their eyes so not to distract from learning.
- Hair below the shoulders should be kept tied back.
- Dyed hair is not permissible: hair must be in the child's natural colour.
- Headbands can be worn but these must be black or in the purple school uniform colour.
- Hair bands must be of a neutral colour e.g., brown or black and must not be made of metal for health and safety purposes.
- Hats / headwear are not permitted to be worn during class time or inside the school building, except for religious or medical reasons.

- Headscarves, worn for religious purposes, must be black or purple. No other colours are permitted.
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7. Nail varnish, make-up, and tattoos

- Children must not come to school wearing nail varnish or transfer tattoos.
- We respect that henna may be used for religious / cultural occasions.
- Children are not permitted to wear make-up.

8. Jewellery

- Children are not allowed to wear jewellery in school.
- School will authorise the wearing of small studs in ears. No hoops or dangly earrings are permitted as they pose a serious safety risk and can be dangerous in a school setting.
- Should a pupil need to wear jewellery for religious or medical reasons, parents/carers must seek permission by way of a letter to the Headteacher.

9. Watches

- Children in KS2 are allowed to wear a simple wristwatch to school – this can be digital or analogue.
- Smart watches are not allowed.
- Novelty wrist watches are not allowed.

10. Our school's legal duties under the Equality Act

All children have equal access to wearing school uniform regardless of their culture, race, religion, gender, disability or ability.

We ensure that the set uniform respects other policies such as Equalities and allows for individual sets of circumstances of all groups and individuals.

The Equality Act 2010 prohibits discrimination against any 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 reserved the right to ask for this to be tied back)

- Allow all pupils to style their hair in a way that is appropriate for school yet makes them feel comfortable.
- Allow pupils to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons.
- Allow pupils to wear headscarves.
- 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.

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Human Rights Act 1998
- Equality Act 2010
- Education Act 2011
- DfE (2024) 'school uniforms: guidance for schools'
- Equality and Human Rights Commission (2022) 'preventing hair discrimination in schools'.

11. Limiting the cost of school uniform

Our school has a duty to make sure that the uniform we require is affordable and in line with statutory guidance from the Department of Education on the cost of school uniform.

We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that must 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 to the jumper, cardigan and bookbag
- 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 and hats.

- Keeping the number of optional branded items to a minimum, so that the school's uniform can act as a social leveller.
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- Considering alternative methods for signalling differences in groups for interschool competitions
- 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.

12. Amendments and complaints

Parents will contact the Headteacher if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to:

- Their child's protected characteristic
- 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.

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13. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed by the Governing Body every 2 years.

14. Links to other policies

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