

Headcorn Primary School

School Uniform Policy



Approved by	Full Governing Body
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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 school uniform

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 age, sex, disability, race, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity, 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 a way that is appropriate for school and makes them feel most comfortable
- Allow pupils to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons or if they are experiencing discomfort related to their sex, gender or gender reassignment
- Allow pupils to wear headscarves and/or other religious garments
- Allow pupils with sensory or physical needs to make reasonable adaptations to their uniform depending on their specific needs
- Allow for reasonable adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents/carers to get in touch with the Head Teacher (slt@headcorn.kent.sch.uk) who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

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 (DfE) on the cost of school uniform.

We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that need 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/carers' 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, for example, by only asking that the jumper/cardigan/fleece and the PE T-shirt, features the school logo, if it can be afforded
- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost and/or long-lasting items

- Considering cheaper alternatives to school-branded items, such as allowing plain versions of logo-ed items or 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 leveller
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- Considering alternative methods for signalling differences in groups for interschool competitions, such as providing school team sports kits
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents/carers to acquire second-hand uniform items
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents/carers of any changes
- Consulting with parents/carers 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

Items in **red** below can **only** be purchased from our uniform supplier. See below form details.

WINTER UNIFORM
Headcorn School purple sweatshirt, fleece or cardigan with logo or plain purple sweatshirt or cardigan
Purple or white polo shirt or white blouse / shirt (with or without school logo) with either black skirt / pinafore dress / trousers or tailored shorts (no jeans or leggings)
White or black socks / tights with suitable supportive low-heeled close-toe plain black shoes
Optional: Purple Headcorn School Storm Jackets
SUMMER UNIFORM
Purple and white checked dress / playsuit OR Short-sleeved blouse / shirt or purple or white polo shirt with either Black trousers, tailored shorts or skirt
White or black socks with supportive low-heeled closed-toe sandals (black or white) or supportive black low-heeled closed-toe shoes
BAGS
Early Years / Year 1: School book bag Years 2-6: Small bag to fit in lockers or the optional School rucksack <i>NB: Bags and rucksacks that cannot fit in the lockers will not be permitted in school</i>
PE UNIFORM
Children are to wear their PE Uniform to school on their allocated PE days along with their purple sweatshirt, cardigan or fleece. As this is in place of wearing their usual school uniform, we expect children to be smartly dressed in the correct PE uniform items.
Tops: <i>All year round:</i>

NEW Headcorn School purple or previous house coloured round-neck T-shirt with school crest (red, blue, green, yellow)

with Headcorn School purple cardigan, jumper or fleece

Optional: **Purple hoody with school crest available** (PE days only)

NB: House colours will no longer be assigned by the school as these coloured T-shirts are being phased out and replaced with purple T-shirts. Colours can be chosen by availability while stock lasts.

Bottoms:

In colder weather:

In warmer weather:

Black or navy track suit bottoms or leggings

Black or navy shorts, skirt, or skort

Shoes:

All Year Round: Trainers with black or white socks (no plimsolls)

Outdoor Activities

Wellies are required for use on the field throughout the year during wetter weather and winter months

Waterproof clothing is recommended for Outdoor Education activities.

Additional notes

- Only small plain studs may be worn to school, no other items of jewellery allowed.
- Watches can be worn by children who can tell the time. No Smart watches allowed.
- For health and safety reasons earrings must not be worn during PE or swimming (Children should either not wear them to school on PE days or be able to remove/replace earrings themselves).
- Longer hair must be tied up during PE.
- Hair accessories must be small, modest and in school or muted colours.
- Nail varnish and make up is not permitted.

Please ensure all clothing, footwear and school bags are labelled clearly with names.

4.2 Where to purchase it

Most items of school uniform can be purchased from any supermarket or high street retailer. Items that are specific to our school or with school logos can be purchased from our uniform supplier 'Monkhouse' who have a shop at Newnham Court Shopping Village (Bearsted Road, Weaving, Maidstone ME14 5LH) or on-line using this link: <https://www.monkhouse.com/school/headcorn-primary-school-urn-118291>

Most of our uniform items can be purchased through other retailers such as supermarkets and many of these stock plain purple sweatershirts, cardigans, collared T-shirts and round-necked PE T-shirts as well.

Good quality secondhand uniform can be purchased from the PTFA who hold regular second-hand uniform sales. However if you require an item at another time please email info@headcornschoolptfa.org.uk

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)

5.2 Parents and carers

Parents and carers are expected to make sure their child has the correct uniform and PE uniform, and that every item is:

- Clean
- Clearly labelled with the child's name
- In good condition

Parents/carers are expected to contact the Head Teacher on slt@headcorn.kent.sch.uk or via the school office 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/carers 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/carers to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

5.3 Staff

Staff will closely monitor pupils to make sure they are in correct uniform. They will give any pupils and families breaching the uniform policy the opportunity to comply but will follow up with the Head Teacher if the situation doesn't improve.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with by a senior member of staff who will speak to the parent/carer.

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/carers 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 and by re-tendering contracts at least every 5 years.

6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Head Teacher. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

- Equality information and objectives statement
- Complaints policy