



School Uniform Policy

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Statement of intent

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

- Promoting the ethos of a school.
- Providing a sense of belonging and identity.
- Setting an appropriate tone for education.

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:

- Engage with parents and pupils.
- 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.

Legal framework

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

- Human Rights Act 1998
- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Equality Act 2010
- Education Act 2011
- The UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)
- Data Protection Act 2018
- Education (Guidance about Costs of School Uniforms) Act 2021 •
- DfE (2021) ‘Cost of school uniforms’
- DfE (2021) ‘School Admissions Code’
- DfE (2021) ‘School uniforms’
- Equality and Human Rights Commission (2022) ‘Preventing hair discrimination in schools’

The headteacher is responsible for:

- Enforcing the school's uniform rules on a day-to-day basis.
- 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 in regard to the school's uniform and making appropriate recommendations to the governing board.
- Providing pupils with an exemption letter as appropriate, e.g. for a pupil who has a broken arm and requires a loose-fitting shirt.

Staff are responsible for:

- Staff will monitor pupils to ensure that they are dressed in accordance with the uniform policy. Staff will ensure that pupils understand why uniforms are important within education, in that they provide a sense of belonging, promote the ethos of the school and set an appropriate tone for education.
- Where a pupil is in breach of the uniform policy, the parents / carers will be given the opportunity to comply. However, if the situation does not improve, the Headteacher will be informed.
- Ongoing breaches of the uniform policy will be dealt with by the child's class teacher and/or senior leadership team.
- Consideration will be given as to the reason for the breaches and how the school can provide support. For example, where a pupil has broken their arm, loose fitted tops may be allowed.
- Where pupils are attending more than one school, the school will consider how it can support the pupil with their uniform for both this school and the other setting.

Parents are responsible for:

- Parents or carers are expected to ensure that their child dresses in accordance with this policy at all times. Parents or carers are to ensure that every item is clean, clearly labelled with their child's name, and in good condition.
- If they wish to request an amendment to the uniform due to a protected characteristic or due to the cost of the uniform, they are expected to contact the headteacher.

Pupils are responsible for:

- Wearing the correct uniform at all times, unless the headteacher has granted an exemption.

Cost principles

The school will develop its uniform policy in relation to the following starting principles:

- The school will seek to ensure that the uniform is affordable. In so doing, the school will consider the total cost of school uniforms, taking into account all items of uniform or clothing parents will need to provide while their child is at the school.
- The school will seek to keep the use of branded items to a minimum.
- The school will seek to ensure that uniform supplier arrangements give the highest priority to cost and value for money, including the quality and durability of the garment.

Principles in practice

The headteacher will ensure that the school's uniform requirements do not discourage parents from applying for a place for their child.

The school will assess the overall cost implications of its uniform policy regularly, including prior to making any changes to the school uniform. When evaluating whether costs are reasonable and proportionate, the school will take into account the opinions and situations of:

- Economically disadvantaged parents.
- Parents with multiple children who are, or will be in the future, pupils at the school.
- Parents of younger children, as they are likely to grow quickly and require new sets of uniform more frequently.
- Parents of pupils with protected characteristics that may impact their ability to access the uniform.
- LAC and PLAC.

The school will evaluate the cost of its uniform based on the overall collection of uniform items that parents would need to purchase for a pupil, rather than on the cost effectiveness of individual items; this will include consideration of the fact that parents will need to purchase multiples of certain items, e.g. shirts and socks, to ensure their child can come to school in clean uniform every day.

The school will keep branded uniform items to a minimal level that is reasonable for all members of the school community. The school defines a branded uniform item as any item of clothing that cannot be purchased at a range of retailers, e.g. supermarkets, due to the item's logo, colour, design, fabric or other unique element.

The school will meet the DfE's requirements and recommendations on costs and value for money. Care will be taken to ensure that school uniform is affordable for all current and prospective pupils, and that the best value for money is secured through reputable suppliers.

The school will work with multiple suppliers to obtain the best value for money possible. Any savings negotiated will be passed to parents where possible. The school will not enter into exclusive single-supplier contracts or cash-back arrangements. More information on supplier processes can be found in the '[School uniform supplier](#)' section of this policy.

The school will not make frequent changes to uniform requirements and will take the views of parents and pupils into account when considering any changes.

Equality principles

The school takes its legal obligation to avoid unlawfully discriminating against any pupil very seriously.

In line with the above, the school will aim to ensure that its uniform policy is as inclusive as possible so that all pupils can access a school uniform which is comfortable, suitable for their needs, and reflects who they are, while avoiding any direct or indirect discrimination on the basis of protected characteristics or socio-economic status.

The school will ensure that parents and pupils are consulted over any changes to school uniform.

Parents' concerns and requests regarding school uniform and amendments to it are handled on a case-by-case basis by the headteacher, and always in accordance with the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.

The school will ensure that it works with a supplier that acts in accordance with the school's values and principles on equality and inclusion.

Complaints and challenges

The school will endeavour to resolve all uniform complaints and challenges locally and informally, in accordance with the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.

The school will refer individuals who wish to complain to the Complaints Procedures Policy and request that they follow the procedures outlined therein.

When a complaint is received, the school will work with the complainant to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

The school has an agreed procedure in place with its uniform supplier to deal with complaints about the supply and quality of uniforms.

In considering a complaint, parents should be aware that teachers can sanction pupils for breaching the school's rules on appearance or uniform. The school expects this to be carried out in accordance with the school's published behaviour policy. The school aims to deal with pupil non-compliance in a proportionate and fair way.

School uniform supplier

The school's current school uniform supplier is:

Grays Schoolwear in Blackburn. They offer an online ordering, and a click and collect service.

If parents do opt to make their own arrangements to purchase the uniform the shades are white, bright red and grey.

Non-compliance

The headteacher, or a person authorised by the headteacher, will be permitted to contact the parents to remedy breaches to the school's uniform.

School uniform

The school uniform is as follows:

Item	Optional required	or	Branding	How to acquire
Bright red sweatshirt / sweater or cardigan	Required		School logo or No branding	Branded sweatshirt and cardigan available from school supplier. Red sweatshirt or cardigan can be bought from regular retailers.
Children in Year 6 wear a blue jumper / cardigan	Required		School Logo or No branding	Available from school supplier and from regular retailer
White polo shirt	Required		School Logo or No branding	Available from school supplier, second-hand from school office, and from regular retailers
Light grey skirt/pinafore (knee length) / trousers / shorts	Required		No branding	Available from school supplier and from regular retailer

Summer red and white checked dress	Optional	No branding	Available from school supplier and from regular retailer
White socks when wearing skirts / pinafores / dress	Required	No branding	Available from regular retailers
Dark socks when wearing trousers	Required	No branding	Available from regular retailers
Sensible, plain black shoes (these should be flat / low heeled and suitable for playing out) No trainers. <i>For younger pupils we recommend they have Velcro or buckled shoes not laces.</i>	Required	No branding	Available from regular retailers

P.E Kit

Item	Optional or required	Branding	How to acquire
Plain white t-shirt	Required	School logo or No branding	Available from school supplier and regular retailers
Plain black shorts	Required	No branding	Available from regular retailers
Black leggings/tracksuit can be worn in winter and for outdoor activities	Optional	School PE hooded or No branding	Available from regular retailers
Reception to Year 4 Black Pumps (no trainers) Year 5/6 black pumps / trainers	Required	No branding	Available from regular retailers
Red school book bag	Required	School Logo or No branding	Available from school supplier and regular retailers
A small black or red draw string bag to store PE kit	Required	No branding	Available from school supplier and regular retailers

Parents are responsible for ensuring their child brings their PE kit to school when needed.

Please note that the school PE hooded is to be worn for PE lessons only and is not part of our daily school uniform.

Jewellery

The school rules on jewellery are as follows:

- No jewellery in school
- Only stud earrings may be worn – no other piercings are permitted.

Pupils will be advised that jewellery is their personal responsibility and not that of the school. Lost or damaged items will not be refunded. All jewellery must be removed during PE lessons where possible. Earring must be covered up by a plaster if they cannot be removed (plasters must be provided by home).

School Bags

From Reception to Year 6 only a red reading bag, to carry their reading books in, is all pupils require. No other bags should be brought into school as we have limited space for storage.

The school will discourage pupils from bringing valuable bags to school. The school will not be liable for lost or damaged school bags.

Hairstyles and headwear

The school reserves the right to make a judgement on whether a pupil's hairstyle, hair colour or headwear is inappropriate for the school environment; however, the school will ensure that any such judgements do not discriminate against any pupil by virtue of their protected characteristics. Each individual pupil's scenario will be taken into account where any judgements on appropriateness are to be made, and parents will always have the freedom to complain via the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.

Pupils with long hair must ensure that this does not impede their vision, cover their face, or cause a health and safety risk. Long hair must be tied up during practical lessons, e.g. during PE.

The following hairstyles, hair colours and headwear are not considered appropriate for school:

- Brightly-coloured dyed hair
- Hair Gel
- Headwear with bold patterns or colours
- Excessive hair accessories
- Headwear featuring inappropriate words or images

Makeup and cosmetics

The school rules on makeup and cosmetics are as follows:

- Makeup is not permitted
- False nails and nail extensions are not permitted
- Nail varnish is not permitted
- Temporary tattoos are not permitted

Adverse weather

All pupils will be advised to wear weather-appropriate clothing.

For hot temperatures, this includes wearing:

- Tops that cover the shoulder area.
- Sun hat
- Sunglasses with UV protection when outside.

Pupils will be advised not to wear any jumpers during heatwaves. If outside during break times, pupils not wearing sun-safe clothing will be advised to stay in an area protected from the sun.

For cold temperatures, this includes wearing:

- Scarfs, gloves, coats and hats when outside.
- Warm jumpers.
- Trousers, or skirts and thick tights.

Labelling

Parents will be advised to ensure that all pupils' clothing and footwear is clearly labelled with their name and year group.

Lost Property

We appreciate that replacing lost items of uniform can be expensive and we always work hard to reunite pupils with any lost items. Children should be encouraged to look after their belongings and we will positively encourage this attitude in school.

Below is a summary of how lost property will be dealt with, going forward, at Avondale Primary School.

- Clearly labelled items will be passed to the relevant teacher or pupil. Please help by naming all clothing - particularly coats, jumpers, and hats, as well as water bottles and lunch boxes. Please regularly check these so the printing has not washed off or faded.
- Pupils should visit the last area they were in. If the item is not there, they should retrace their steps and check all classrooms/areas that they have been in that day. Younger pupils will be supported by an adult.
- If they have been unable to find their lost item, they should go to check whether the item has been placed in lost property. Please note that sometimes, it may take a few days before lost items are handed in. Our lost property box is located in the Key Stage 2 corridor. Children and parents are welcome to search for lost items at the beginning and the end of the day.

Lost property that is not labelled will be held for a term. On the last day of each term all items will be displayed in the school MUGA area. At the end of this

Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the chair of governors and the headteacher.

The school will engage with parents and pupils when reviewing this policy.

Any subsequent changes to this policy will be communicated to all staff, pupils, parents and other relevant stakeholders.