Southwark Diocesan
Board of Education
Multi-Academy Trust

SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY

Part of the 2025/2026 Trust Operating Manual

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SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY

1. AIMS

1.1 This policy aims to:

(a) Set out our approach to requiring a uniform that is of reasonable cost and offers the best value for money for parents and carers

(b) Explain how we will avoid discrimination in line with our legal duties under the Equality Act 2010

(c) Clarify our expectations for school uniform

2. OUR SCHOOL'S LEGAL DUTIES UNDER THE EQUALITY ACT 2010

2.1 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.

2.2 To avoid discrimination, our school will:

(a) 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

(b) Make sure that our uniform costs the same for all pupils

(c) Allow all pupils to have long hair (though we reserve the right to ask for this to be tied back)

(d) Allow all pupils to style their hair in a way that is appropriate for school and makes them feel most comfortable

(e) Allow pupils to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons or if they are experiencing discomfort related to their sex, gender or gender reassignment

(f) Allow pupils to wear headscarves and/or other religious garments

(g) Allow pupils with sensory or physical needs to make reasonable adaptations to their uniform depending on their specific needs

(h) Allow for reasonable adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents/carers to get in touch with Alisha Bhatnagar 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

3.1 Christ Church Streatham CE Primary School serves a diverse community, with families from a wide range of socio-economic, cultural and religious backgrounds. Our uniform aims to promote a sense of belonging and pride in our school while remaining affordable, practical and inclusive.

When setting and reviewing our uniform requirements, we will consider:

(a) The financial circumstances of our families, keeping costs to a minimum and avoiding unnecessary branded or specialist items.

(b) The diversity and needs of our pupils, including religious and cultural requirements, SEND, sensory needs and physical comfort.

(c) Uniform arrangements in neighbouring schools and across SDBE MAT, taking account of affordability, availability and ease of purchase

(d) The views of parents, carers, pupils and staff, particularly when considering changes to uniform requirements.

3.2 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.

3.3 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.

3.4 We will make sure our uniform:

(a) Is available at a reasonable cost

(b) Provides the best value for money for parents/carers

3.5 We will do this by:

(a) Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary

(b) Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics where possible - only the jumper, features the school logo

(c) Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost and/or long-lasting items, such as ties

(d) 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

(e) Avoiding specific requirements for items pupils could wear on non-school days, such as coats, bags and shoes

(f) Keeping the number of optional branded items to a minimum, so that the school's uniform can act as a social leveller

(g) Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups

(h) Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities

(i) Considering alternative methods for signalling differences in groups for interschool competitions, such as creating posters or labels

(j) Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents/carers to acquire second-hand uniform items

(k) Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents/carers of any changes

(l) 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

Our uniform promotes a sense of belonging while keeping costs affordable for families. Most items are unbranded and can be purchased from any retailer.

Required uniform

- Plain white shirt, with short or long sleeves.
- School tie.
- School jumper or cardigan with the school logo.
- Grey trousers, shorts, skirt or pinafore dress.
- Grey socks or grey tights.

- Plain black school shoes, without coloured laces. Suede shoes, fabric shoes, open-toed sandals, trainers and boots, including Kicker boots, are not part of the standard uniform.

- Plain black or grey coat or anorak.

The school jumper or cardigan and school tie are the only compulsory branded items. These are available from School Wear United, 3 Crown Dale, Norwood, London SE19 3PB, telephone 0844 740 1983, or at www.schoolwearunited.co.uk . Ties are also available from the school office. All other required items can be purchased from any retailer.

Nursery and Reception

Children in Nursery and Reception may wear the school PE kit as their everyday uniform if families prefer. Alternatively, they may wear the standard school uniform.

PE and swimming

Children should wear their PE kit to school on their allocated PE days. The kit consists of:

- A plain white short-sleeved T-shirt or polo shirt.

- Plain black shorts, leggings or jogging bottoms.

- Trainers.

- A plain black tracksuit or additional plain black layers for outdoor PE in cold weather.

Swimming kit is required only when a child's class attends swimming lessons. Families will receive details of the kit required, including suitable swimwear, a towel and any swimming cap requirements, before lessons begin.

Optional items

The following items are optional and are not required for attendance or participation in school activities:

- Black blazer with the school badge.

- School book bag or PE bag.

- School scarf.

- Plain black or grey hat.

- School sun cap.

Children may use a suitable, practical alternative to a branded school bag.

Jewellery hair and personal appearance

(a) Children may wear a watch and small, plain stud earrings. Other jewellery should not be worn because of the risk of injury or loss. Jewellery must be removed or made safe for PE and swimming in accordance with the activity's safety requirements. The school cannot accept responsibility for jewellery brought into school.

(b) Hair should be kept clear of the eyes and tied back when necessary for safety, including during PE. We respect natural hair textures and hairstyles associated with a child's race, culture or religion. Children may wear a plain black, grey or white hijab.

Nail varnish and temporary decorative tattoos should not be worn. Patterned socks, jeans, cords and cargo trousers are not part of the uniform. Leggings and jogging bottoms may be worn as part of the PE kit, including where Nursery and Reception children choose this as their everyday uniform.

We will consider individual adjustments to uniform and appearance requirements to meet a child's disability, sensory, medical, religious or cultural needs. Families should contact the school to discuss any adjustments or support needed.

Seasonal uniform

Red and white checked dresses, worn with white socks or white tights, may be worn as summer uniform. Our summer uniform period runs from February half term until October half term; winter uniform is worn from October half term until February half term. Families should choose clothing suitable for the weather within these arrangements.

Labelling and support

All clothing and bags should be clearly labelled with the child's name.

The school holds a stock of good-quality second-hand uniform. Families can contact the office to arrange to view it or to discuss any help they need with uniform costs or availability.

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:

(a) On the school premises

(b) Travelling to and from school

(c) At out-of-school events or on trips that are organised by the school, or where they are representing the school (if required)

(d) Pupils are also expected to contact Charlotte Purcell if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics.

5.2 Parents and carers

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

  (i) Clean

  (ii) Clearly labelled with the child's name

  (iii) In good condition

(b) Parents/carers are also expected to contact Charlotte Purcell if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to:

  (i) Their child's protected characteristics

  (ii) The cost of the uniform

(c) Parents/carers are expected to lodge any complaints or objections relating to the school uniform in a timely and reasonable manner.

(d) Disputes about the cost of the school uniform will be:

  (i) Resolved locally

  (ii) Dealt with in accordance with our school's complaints policy

  (iii) The school will work closely with parents/carers to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

5.3 Staff

(a) 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 headteacher if the situation doesn't improve.

(b) Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with by Charlotte Purcell

(c) 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:

(a) Is appropriate for our school's context

(b) Is implemented fairly across the school

(c) Takes into account the views of parents/carers and pupils

(d) Offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all pupils

(e) 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

6.1 This policy will be reviewed very two years by Headteacher At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

7. LINKS TO OTHER POLICIES

7.1 This policy is linked to our:

(a) Behaviour policy

(b) Equality information and objectives statement

(c) Anti-bullying policy

(d) Complaints policy