Bridge Farm Primary School

# School Uniform Policy

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| Policy Owner | Headteacher |
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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 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 our Pastoral Learning Mentor, who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests

## 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
- Considering cheaper alternatives to school-branded items, such as all school branded items are optional
- 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 different year/class/house groups
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- Considering alternative methods for signaling differences in groups for interschool competitions, such as creating posters or labels
- 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

All uniform branded with Bridge Farm logo is optional

Standard uniform

- School royal blue sweatshirt with or without school logo
- School royal blue cardigan with or without school logo
- School white polo shirt with or without school logo or (white cotton shirt / blouse)
- School royal blue fleece with school logo
- School royal blue book bag with school logo (optional) if not using a bookbag then a small sized rucksack is to be used as an alternative.
- Grey/black trousers (not combat trousers / denim or skinny design) or plain grey/black shorts
- Grey/black skirt, grey/black trousers (no leggings/skinny denim) or grey/black pinafore dress
- Grey/black culottes
- Blue gingham dresses may be worn in the summer term
- Socks – white/grey/black
- School tights should be grey or black.

PE kit

- School plain white or blue t-shirt with or without school logo
- School gym bag
- School black or blue PE shorts
- A pair of trainers and a tracksuit (optional) for outdoor PE.

Expectations for shoes

- Black shoes with flat heel or plain black trainers. **(Trainers are only acceptable when plain and black)**.

In the winter months, children may wear plain black leather boots with flat heel.

Swimming kit

- small bag to contain:
- swimming costume/trunks (please email the school if you need adjustments in line with the Equalities Act)
- towel
- swim hat (optional)

Jewelry

- Children must not wear jewelry to school for Health and Safety reasons. If earrings are worn, they should be of the stud type and one only worn in each ear.
- Earrings must be removed or covered with tape on days children will be undertaking PE lessons.

Hairstyles and make up

- Sensible haircuts and hairstyles for school. Natural hair colours only. Please contact school if you are unsure if a hairstyle is sensible for school.
- Long hair should be tied back for health and safety reasons.
- Make-up and cosmetics are not considered appropriate or consistent with our school uniform. The school does not permit such products to be worn by any children, unless there is a specific event for which the Head has given permission.

### 4.2 Where to purchase it

- All items of clothing are available from a variety of shops and chain stores at a variety of prices
- Optional items with a school logo are available from Michael Hope All school uniform can be purchased from the Official School Uniform Provider, Michael Hope, and most non-logo items are freely available to purchase.
- Second-hand uniform is available by contacting the school office. Our PTA have items of uniform that you may be able to purchase.
- If parents are finding it difficult to afford any school uniform, they are encouraged to inform Mrs Trotman

## 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 our Learning Mentor if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics.

### 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 our Learning Mentor 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. If your child is unable to wear their uniform for any reason, we expect an email to be sent in notifying us of the reason and when the correct uniform will be available. Please send to the school office FAO: learning mentor.

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 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 our Learning Mentor.

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 LGC 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 LGC 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 bi-annually by the headteacher. At every review, it will be approved by the LGC

## 7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

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