

THE STOKE POGES SCHOOL

Uniform Policy

Date Approved	September 2023
Recommended Review Period	Biannual
Date of Next Review	September 2025
Person Responsible for the Policy	Headteacher

1. Introduction

At The Stoke Poges School we wish to promote an atmosphere which encourages effort, enjoyment and a celebration of the achievements of all our pupils. The school has high standards and expectations and this is reflected in the pride we take in our school uniform and the feeling of belonging it creates. We also believe that school uniform prevents the inevitable loss of self-esteem caused to individual children should a family not be able or willing to provide the newest, most expensive or fashionable clothing and equipment.

2. Aims and objectives

Our policy on school uniform is based on the belief that school uniform:

- Promotes a sense of pride in our school
- Helps to create a sense of community and belonging towards the school
- Supports our commitment to inclusion
- Is practical, smart and designed with health and safety in mind
- Is considered reasonable cost and offers the best value for money for parents and carers

3. 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

4. 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 have to have 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 price

- Provide 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
- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost or long-lasting items, such as ties
- Considering cheaper alternatives to school-branded items, as long as this doesn't compromise quality or 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 extra-curricular activities
- 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

5. Expectations for school uniform

A complete list of the items needed for school uniform, including those for PE, can be obtained from the school office and is also available on our website.

Second-hand uniform

Our PTA hold regular second-hand uniform sales and these are advertised in the calendar and in the weekly newsletter.

Jewellery

In accordance with the Local Authority requirements on health and safety, we do not allow children to wear jewellery in our school.

The exceptions to this rule are small, simple studs in pierced ears, small objects of religious significance or wristwatches.

On days when children have PE lessons and/or sporting activities, they should not wear jewellery to school. If children do attend school with jewellery, they will be asked to remove objects before PE lessons or any other lessons where the wearing of such items constitutes a potential safety risk. Teachers and other members of staff do not take responsibility for the safe keeping of jewellery which has been removed.

Extreme haircuts / make-up

The school does not permit children to have haircuts / hair colourings that could serve as a distraction to other children.

Mid to long length hair (shoulder length or longer) should be tied up at all times. Hair accessories should be minimal and can purple or black.

The wearing of make-up, including nail varnish, is not permitted. Likewise, the wearing of temporary tattoos is not acceptable.

Footwear

All children are expected to wear plain black shoes without logos.

6. Where to purchase uniform

Uniform with the school logo on can be ordered online, or in store, at Different Class Schoolwear. School ties, swimming hats and the school jacket (optional) can be purchased through the school reception.

Different Class
Unit 9, Wessex Industrial Estate
Bourne End
Bucks, SL8 5DT

E-mail: enquiries@differentclassuk.com
Tel: 01628 531821

Items without the logo can be bought at very competitive prices from local shops including supermarkets.

7. Expectations for our school community

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 [insert designated staff member's name and contact details] if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics.

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 the headteacher 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.

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.

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 [insert appropriate reference to your school's behaviour policy].

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.

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 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.

8. Monitoring and review

The governing board monitors and reviews the school uniform policy through its committee work by:

- Considering with the headteacher any requests from parents for individual children to have special dispensation with regard to school uniform

9. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

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

Headteacher		Date	
Chair of Governing Board		Date	