

THE STOKE POGES SCHOOL

Uniform Policy

Governors Committee Responsible for the Policy	Teaching and Learning Committee
Date Approved	September 2021
Recommended Review Period	Biennial
Date for Review	September 2023
Person Responsible for the Policy	Headteacher

Overview

At The Stoke Poges School we wish to promote an atmosphere which encourages effort, enjoyment and a celebration of the achievements of all of 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.

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

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.

All children have equal access to wearing school uniform regardless of their culture, race, religion, gender, disability or ability. We ensure that the set uniform respects other policies and allow for individual sets of circumstances of all groups and individuals. The Stoke Poges School is committed to creating a positive climate that will enable everyone to work free from racial intimidation and harassment and to achieve their full potential.

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 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
- 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
- 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 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

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.

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 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.

Jewellery, hair ornaments, make-up and nail varnish

For health and safety reasons we do not allow children to wear jewellery. The exceptions to this rule are ear-ring studs in pierced ears, and small items of religious significance. Children are required to remove any items during PE lessons to prevent them from causing injury. Please note: Teachers are not permitted to remove earrings. Hair bands, ribbons/bows or 'scrunchies' should be plain and either purple or black. Hair bands should not have large flowers attached. Make up and nail varnish should not be worn to school unless for an out of school function, for example a school disco. Extreme hairstyles are not appropriate for school. The use of styling products should be kept to a minimum and children should not have decorative patterns cut in to their hair or have hair coloured or dyed. Pupils with long hair must wear it tied back.

Any jewellery or accessories that do not form part of the uniform and will be kept securely until the end of the day and then returned to the pupil.

Footwear

For health and safety reasons we do not allow children to wear shoes with platform soles or high heels. All children are required to wear plain black shoes without logos as stated in the uniform list. If boots are worn these should also be plain black. If boots are large and prevent children from sitting comfortably on the floor they may be asked to change into PE shoes whilst inside the school building. Trainers are not allowed to be worn at any time other than for PE lessons and clubs.

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 expected to contact Ms Astley 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 Ms Astley if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy.

Staff

Staff will closely monitor pupils to make sure that they are in correct uniform. They will give the 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 phase leaders.

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 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 re-tendering contracts at least every 5 years.

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.

Headteacher		Date	
Chair of Governing Committee		Date	