



Strathmore School Uniform Policy

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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 the Headteacher or member of the SLT, 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 must 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
- Allowing items of similar style and colour to be worn by pupils if that is parents' preference
- Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics where possible
- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost or long-lasting items
- 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
- 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 different groups
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- Considering alternative methods for signalling 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

We recognise that some children find specific materials difficult to wear and can be significantly distracted if made to wear clothing other than of their choice

However, we do believe that a school uniform is important:

- It looks smart
- Wears well
- Contributes to a sense of belonging and community
- Makes children feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance
- Fosters a feeling of pride
- Is designed with health and safety in mind

We encourage children to wear the uniform and to maintain a good standard of clean and tidy dress in school.

The uniform is designed to be practical, maintainable and good value for money.

Hair accessories such as slides, ribbons bobbles, etc, should be fairly simple and if possible, in school colours.

Parents are asked to ensure that all items are labelled clearly with their child's name.

For safety reasons we ask that the children do not wear jewellery in school and when they do (e.g., for reasons of faith) they are as unobtrusive as possible and are worn so that they cannot accidentally scratch other children or staff.

For health reasons it is important that children are properly dressed for physical activity. PE kit should be kept in a named drawstring bag.

The branded uniform is available for parents to buy as it is designed to be worn and washed frequently – we recognise that pupils may get their clothes dirty during the normal course of the day due to the use of sensory materials.

Uniform available includes:

Logo branded t-shirts

Logo branded polo shirts

Logo branded sweatshirts

Logo branded cardigans

Logo branded fleece

Logo branded lightweight jackets and parkas

Pupils are also encouraged to bring:

- a named water bottle
- a bag (e.g., backpack, satchel, etc.)
- a waterproof coat of their own choice

Pupils should always wear appropriate shoes including any prescribed by medical/therapy professionals.

Spring and Summer/Autumn and Winter Changes to the uniform

Generally, our pupils wear a different uniform in the warmer and colder months but we recognise that some of our learners find it difficult to wear certain items of clothing.

Autumn/Winter months – Light blue polo shirt or t-shirt, blue cardigan or jumper, grey/black/blue trousers, skirt, pinafore plus comfortable shoes/trainers.

Spring/Summer months – as above with addition of blue and white striped/gingham pinafore/dress or shorts.

Outdoor Learning Kit

Strathmore pupils learn both inside and outside the classroom and take part in regular community trips. Pupils can wear their outdoor learning clothes instead of school uniform on the day they are due to participate in community outdoor learning, e.g., farm trip, 'forest school.' Your child's class will keep you informed of any trip that might require an outdoor learning kit, which should consist of:

- Old, comfortable clothing suitable for the weather conditions
- Warm, waterproof coat
- Wellington boots

4.2 Where to purchase it

➤ Badged School Uniform can be bought direct by parents from school trends:

<https://www.schooltrends.co.uk/uniform/StrathmoreSchoolTW107ED>

› Information about second-hand uniform:

- Friends of Strathmore School (FOSS) is our school and parent/carer association and regularly arranges second-hand uniform sales e.g., parent evenings, annual BBQ.
- FOSS can be contacted by email – FOSS@strathmore.org.uk

5. Expectations for our school community

5.1 Pupils

Pupils are encouraged to always wear the correct uniform (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 (unless they need to wear other specific clothing).

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 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.

5.3 Staff

School will note when pupils are not wearing school uniform. They will give families the opportunity to purchase uniform and find out any reasons for the child not wearing uniform.

In cases where it is suspected that financial hardship has resulted in a pupil not wearing uniform, school 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:

- › Is appropriate for our school's context

- Is implemented fairly across the school
- Considers 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.

6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed every three years. At every review, it will be approved by the Local Governing Body.

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

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

All these are found on our school and Trust websites.