

Uniform Policy

<p>Date established by governing body Spring Term 2026</p> <p>Date for full implementation Immediately</p> <p>Date for review Spring Term 2027</p>	<p>1. Aims: This policy aims to: Set out</p>
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- 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. Duties:

The Equality Act 2010 prohibits discrimination against an individual based on the protected characteristics, which include: age, sex, sexual orientation, 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
- 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 or if they are experiencing discomfort
- 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
- Allow for reasonable adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents/carers to contact our school office who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests. These will be considered on an individual, case by case basis.

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 need to have a school logo or be in a unique fabric/style) cannot be purchased from a wide range of retailers and that requiring many such items limits parents/carers' ability to 'shop around' for the best 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:

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- Following the statutory limits for compulsory branded items of uniform and PE kit to a maximum of 4 or fewer, including ties
- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary and limiting these items where possible
- Limiting compulsory branded items to low-cost and/or long lasting items
- Considering cheaper alternatives to compulsory branded items, as long as this doesn't compromise quality and durability
- Avoiding specific requirements for items such as coats and bags that pupils could also wear on non-school days
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- Avoiding requiring different branded items for particular times of the year
- Considering alternative methods for signaling differences in groups for interschool competitions, such as labels, wristbands, bibs or school provided clothing items
- Considering alternative approaches, including loaning branded items such as football strips for matches
- Making sure that opportunities to acquire second-hand items in a timely manner are accessible to parents and carers of both current and prospective pupils and publishing this information on our website
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications, and minimising the financial impact on parents/carers of any changes
- Consulting with parents/carers and pupils on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about uniform in line with the school's complaints policy
- Making sure generic items can be purchased from a range of retailers
- Continuing to review this policy, to ensure the cost of our uniform is reasonable and provides the best value for money
- Keeping the number of optional branded items to a minimum, so that the school's uniform can act as a social leveler

3. Expectations for school uniform:

3.1 Our school's uniform:

- Black or Grey trousers, shorts or skirt - *unbranded*
- White shirt or polo shirt - *unbranded*
- Black shoes - *unbranded*
- Grey round neck sweatshirt or cardigan (Engagement +, Junior Engagement, Junior Core, Junior Extended) – *unbranded or branded*
- Grey V-neck woolen jumper or cardigan (Senior Core, Senior Extended) – *unbranded or branded*

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- Blue and white striped clip on tie (optional – Senior Core, Senior Extended) - *unbranded*
- Blue and white gingham dress (optional) - *unbranded*
- Waterproof coat - *unbranded*

3.2 Our school's PE uniform:

- Black or Grey shorts or jogging pants - *unbranded*
- Heather Grey hoodie / sweatshirt – *unbranded or branded*
- Heather Grey t-shirt – *unbranded or branded*
- Trainers - *unbranded*
- Swimming costume and towel - *unbranded*

Where items are described as 'branded or unbranded', parents/carers may choose either option and no pupil will be treated less favourably for wearing an unbranded alternative.

All uniform items must be labelled, fit for purpose and meet standards of modesty.

Hair should be styled appropriately for school and tied back for physical activities.

Jewelry must be kept to a minimum (stud earrings and watch) for health and safety; these must be removed for physical activities.

4. Cost and Availability

Branded Cleaswell Hill School sweatshirts, hoodies, cardigans, ties, fleeces, bags and PE t-shirts are available via Emblematic online or at the Bedlington store. Non-branded polo shirts, shirts, jogging pants and shorts are also available via Emblematic online or at the Bedlington store. Cleaswell Hill School branded items can also be ordered via the school office. Parents/carers can purchase unbranded items from other suppliers including supermarkets and high street retailers.

Pre-loved school uniform is made available to all parents/carers on at least an annual basis at Cleaswell Hill School throughout free of charge fundraising and parents evening events. Requests regarding pre-loved school uniform availability may also be made at any time throughout the year via the school office in person, via telephone or email. Requests can also be made via the Cleaswell Hill pre-loved uniform link on the school Facebook page. Donations of unwanted pre-loved uniform may be made at the school office at any time.

5. Uniform Expectations

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

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- 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 the school office if they would like to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics.

5.2 Parents and carers

Parents/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/carers are also expected to contact the school office 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/carers are expected to lodge any complaints or objections relating to the school uniform in a timely and reasonable manner in accordance with the school's complaints policy.

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. Staff will work closely with parents and carers to ensure all children are appropriately dressed for their school day.

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. Pupils will not miss lessons due to issues with uniform.

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
- Takes into account the views of parents/carers 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.

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6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis. At every review, it will be approved by the governing body.

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

- Complaints Policy

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