Somerset Bridge Primary School

Aspire - Brave - Care - Collaborate

Uniform Policy

Adopted	Sept 26
Review date	June 27
Head Teacher signature	Mark Braund
Chair of Governors	Dan Grant

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 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
- Allow for reasonable adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents/carers to contact the School Office, who can refer requests to the appropriate member of staff. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis

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 (DfE) 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 a unique fabric/colour/design) cannot be purchased from a wide range of retailers and that requiring many such items limits parents/carers' 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
- Limiting any specifically coloured and branded items to three
- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to long-lasting items and quality items
- 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
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents/carers to acquire second-hand uniform items
- 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 the policy

4. Expectations for school uniform

4.1 Our school's uniform

In order to maintain a strong sense of identity and belonging within our school, we require all pupils to wear school uniform which is clean and presentable. The uniform consists of:

- Jade green sweatshirt/cardigan (a branded item)
- White polo shirt tucked into trousers / skirt
- Standard black school trousers or shorts – no leggings, flares or fashion trousers OR black skirt or pinafore – knee length
- Black or white tights (plain) or socks
- Black, flat school shoes – heels no higher than 2 cm inclusive of the sole – no open-toed shoes or sling backs. Black training shoes of any description are not acceptable.

Boots are not appropriate footwear for school. If it is a wet or cold day and your child needs to wear wellies or warm boots to travel to school, please make sure they have normal school shoes to change into

In the summer

- Optional green and white checked or striped dress (knee length)
- Sun hat

PE kit

- House colour P.E. t-shirt (a branded item)
- Black shorts
- Black school hooded sweatshirt and jogging bottoms for outdoor P.E. in cold weather
- Daps for indoor PE and trainers for outdoor PE/games and events. Trainers with non-marking soles can be worn for indoor PE

For swimming:

- a one-piece costume for the girls and swimming trunks for the boys (not shorts)

Hair

- Hair should be neat and tidy and worn with no extremes of style or colour
- Long hair should be tied back with a plain elasticated band which has no decoration
- Hair should be neat and tidy and appropriate for school
- Any hair accessories such as clips, slides or headbands should be plain single coloured and minimal in size

Accessories

- Jewellery - No jewellery other than plain stud earrings may be worn (should a pupil have pierced ears). In accordance with health and safety guidance for schools, parents/carers are asked to remove earrings before their child attends school on days when their child will be taking part in PE or sporting activities such as sports competitions, events or extra-curricular sports clubs. If a child is wearing earrings they will be asked to remove them before being allowed to take part in any PE or sporting activities. Staff cannot remove earrings for children. Schools cannot accept disclaimers or waivers relating to jewellery injuries. If a child cannot remove their own earrings parents will be asked to attend to remove them; if this is not possible then the child will be given a suitable non-physical role in the activity. Please think carefully about this if your child asks to have their ears pierced.
- Bags – Book bags are available from our uniform provider, alternatively an appropriately sized bag with a handle or strap can be used.

Please note that the school will be unable to take any responsibility for any jewellery that is lost.

- No make-up or nail varnish should be worn.
- No tattoos (temporary or permanent).

All clothing and footwear should be clearly labelled with the child's name.

4.2 Where to purchase it

Items such as trousers, pinafores and polo shirts are all readily available in the high street – if parents find it difficult to obtain any items, please contact school.

Branded items can be purchased from our uniform provider, details can be found on our website under 'Admissions & Starting School'.

Second-hand uniform can be purchased from our PTA – Friends of Somerset Bridge.

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 speak to their class teacher 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/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.

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/carers 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.

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 and signpost to support from our Family Support Worker.

Un-named uniform will be retained for one half term outside our School Office where parents/carers can reclaim lost property. Following this, unclaimed uniform will either be held by the school as spare uniform, held by our Family Support Worker or donated to our PTA for re-sale as second hand uniform.

5.4 Governors

The Governing Body 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 Governing Body will also make sure that the school's uniform supplier arrangements give the highest priority to cost and value for money.

6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years or as required.

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

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