



Uniform Policy



Approved by Governors on: 17/9/25

Signed by Chair of Governors:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. P. Hill', is written over the text 'Signed by Chair of Governors:'.

Head Teacher: Elizabeth Hopewell

Date of Review: September 2028

Vision Statement

We aim to create a safe, happy, and nurturing environment for all our children

Mission Statement

The Orchard School strives to provide the best quality teaching and learning with an inclusive and personalised curriculum, where all achievements are celebrated

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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
- Identify support available

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 our family liaison officer, 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 have 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' 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 items with distinctive characteristics
- 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 sewn or ironed on, as long as this doesn't compromise quality and durability. (This is currently in process)
- 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 leveler
- Having no requirement for different uniform requirements for different year/class groups
- Having no requirement for different uniform 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 families 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

At the Orchard School, uniform is not compulsory, however we do encourage pupils to wear uniform as this supports the sense of identity and routine for pupils and families. **Please label every item of clothing clearly.**

A jade green jumper or sweatshirt is the key item of clothing which identifies our pupils. Plain jade green jumpers can be purchased in high street stores such as Asda and Argos. See section 4.2 for further information.

Whilst a school logo is usual on uniform tops it is not compulsory; we do supply iron-on school badges. These cost £1 each and are available from the school office.

A commercially produced school logo jumper is also available through our uniform suppliers. Please see section 4.2 for more information

Logo polo tops, fleece jackets, coats and bags are also available but are not a requirement.

Practical bottoms such as elasticated waist dark coloured joggers, trousers or skirts are encouraged – Black or grey are acceptable.

Shoes

Sturdy well fitted shoes, boots or trainers are acceptable.

Flip flops and croc-style shoes are not suitable as they do not firmly fit the foot.

PE kit

Any T-shirt & shorts - **Please label every item of clothing clearly.**

Swimming kit

A suitable, well-fitting full swimming costume or trunks plus large towel (2 for hydro or water movement) - **Please label every item of clothing and towels clearly.**

Jewellery

We discourage the wearing of jewellery for health and safety reasons but also respect the cultural and religious practices of families.

4.2 Where to purchase it

Parents and carers can obtain logo uniform by either visiting a CC Uniform store or placing an online order through the My Clothing website ;

- CC Uniform, Kings Square, West Bromwich
- Online supplier My Clothing [MYC Parents e-version](#)
- Links to further information can be found on the school website; [Th Orchard School - Uniform](#)

High Street stores also sell suitable jade green polo shirts, jumpers or cardigans items;

- [Jade Green Cotton Rich School Sweatshirts 2 Pack | School | George at ASDA](#)
- [Jade Green Cotton Rich V Neck School Jumper 2 Pack | School | George at ASDA](#)
- [Jade Green Short Sleeve School Polo Shirts 2 Pack | School | George at ASDA](#)
- [Jade Green School Polo Shirt 5 Pack | School | George at ASDA](#)
- [Buy 2 Pack Jade Crew Neck Sweatshirts 4 years | School jumpers | Argos](#)

4.3 Second-hand uniform,

We have a stock of second-hand uniform items which are available to those in need. Please contact the Parent Liaison office for further information by calling the school phone number 0121 569 7040.

5. Our school community

5.1 Pupils

Pupils are encouraged to wear 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)

5.2 Parents and carers

- Parents and carers are encouraged 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 and carers are to ensure that pupils do not attend school wearing clothing or other items which promotes partisan political views as per the [DfE guidance](#).
- Parents are also encouraged to contact The Head Teacher 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

In cases where it is suspected that financial hardship has resulted in a pupil not having school uniform, staff will take a mindful and considerate approach to resolving the situation.

5.4 How you can help

If you have outgrown, unwanted Orchard school uniform, coats, shoes and boots, please donate them to school and we can ensure that other families can continue to benefit.

6. Monitoring arrangements

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 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.

This policy will be reviewed every three years or sooner should circumstances require by the senior management team.

At every review, it will be approved by the governing body.

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

- Equality Policy
- Home-school agreement