

Policy: School Uniform

A uniform develops a sense of belonging, prevents competition and saves money. Wearing school colours supports us in maintaining our high standards of behaviour. Contact us if you need help with the cost or if you've questions, comments or concerns.



Uniform

item	description	additional notes
top	red sweatshirt, cardigan or jumper	- tops with logo are available (not essential)
shirt	white, grey, black or red short sleeved polo shirt or white shirt	- polo-shirts with logos are available (not essential)
trousers / skirt / dress	grey / black trousers / shorts; or grey / black knee-length skirt or pinafore dress; or red / white checked / striped dress	- no black jeans, cords or leggings
socks / tights	plain white / grey / red / black socks; or plain white / grey / red / black tights	- should be a plain, block colour - white / grey / black / red leggings worn instead of tights are acceptable
footwear	black / white / grey / brown footwear (these should be plain, flat)	- avoid expensive brands - choose shoes that are safe to run around for healthy, active playtimes
	<i>PE pumps (see below) are sometimes needed in times of very bad weather</i>	
	no additional layers should be clearly visible eg polo necks under uniform	

PE kit, which should be worn on PE days

item	description	additional notes
t-shirt	indoor: plain white t-shirt (long or short sleeved) outdoor: as above, plus the school uniform top	- this can be a t-shirt or polo-shirt (shirts with logos are available, but not essential)
shorts	grey / black shorts / PE skirt	
tracksuit bottoms	grey / black tracksuit bottoms / leggings	ideal for outdoor use
footwear	indoor: pumps / trainers outdoor: trainers	- trainers could be the same as those worn to school

For more detail, check out the guide to PE kit – next page.

Supplier: School uniform can be purchased from various suppliers – ask at the school office if you're unsure.

Additional notes

Pupils should dress appropriately and respectfully for school.

All clothing should be clearly labelled. We gather lots of lost property – please help us to reduce this amount!

Other items: Other items of school equipment are available. These include a book bag, PE bag and a separate bag for packed lunch. Water bottles should be plastic/metal, labelled, and regularly cleaned.

Hair: Long hair should be tied back (this is so that it does not distract from learning and for hygiene reasons). Hairstyles should not be attention seeking eg extreme styles such as sculptured names / symbols, mohicans or dyed hair are neither appropriate or acceptable for children of primary school age. This includes eyebrows. Hair accessories should be minimal: as small as possible and not too bright.

Jewellery, watches and other accessories: Regarding jewellery, only plain stud earrings (no more than 4mm wide) and items that are absolutely required by a religion are allowed. Advisors recommend no earrings are worn for PE; therefore, we will ask your child to remove earrings before the lesson and put them back in after the lesson. This will be carried out by the child. If they are unable to remove or put their earrings back in by themselves, they must not wear them on the day they have PE. A watch or step counter is allowed. Any device that connects to the internet (eg a smart watch) or that can record (including taking photos) is not allowed for safeguarding reasons; such items can be handed over at the start of each day. Refer to the Positive Relationships Policy for more details of items not allowed.

Make-up: No make-up, including nail varnish, and no temporary tattoos.

Bags: For reasons of space, please restrict bags to small backpacks / shoulder bags; handbags aren't appropriate.

Religious requirements and race equality: We follow local authority advice in such matters (eg *Valuing Diversity; Awareness Raising for Schools* document). Sikhs are traditionally required to wear a bangle and boys to cover their hair, which is left uncut, secured in a top-knot or turban. Where safety is an issue, pupils will be asked to tape them to the skin or wear a sweatband.

Non-uniform days: Pupils should dress appropriately and respectfully for school, even on non-uniform days. Clothes are inappropriate if they, for example, glorify violence, feature bad language, are very short (eg crop tops), or relate to age-inappropriate topics (eg computer games). When consulted (18.03.21), junior leaders described this as 'setting-appropriate' clothing and clothing that is 'well-judged'. Make-up (other than face paints as part of a specific costume) is not allowed. Flip-flops or high-heeled shoes are not allowed, even on non-uniform days, because they're dangerous when running.

A quick guide: PE kit



✓ plain white



✓ white polo



✓ school logo



✗ no stripes



✗ no bands



✗ no lettering



✓ plain
grey or black



✓ plain
grey or black



✓ plain
grey or black bottoms



✓ school top
(sweatshirt/cardigan/jumper;
plain or logo)



✗ no brand logos



✗ no hoods

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Date: May 2022

1. Principles

The [Department for Education 19.11.21](#) sets out important benefits of school uniform:

We strongly encourage schools to have a uniform as it can play a key role in:

- promoting the ethos of a school
- providing a sense of belonging and identity
- setting an appropriate tone for education

By creating a common identity amongst all pupils, regardless of background, a school uniform can act as a social leveller. It can reduce bullying and peer pressure to wear the latest fashions or other expensive clothes.

Sphere Federation schools aim to ensure:

- the cost of school uniform is affordable
- our suppliers give high priority to cost and value for money (including the quality and durability of garments)

Our pupils are clear about the benefits of school uniform. Junior Leadership Teams (JLTs) have been consulted:

- *'It saves time because we don't have to choose new clothes every day'; 'It prevents peer pressure to look cool.'* (JLT, Moortown Primary, 25.05.22)
- *'It shows which school we go to – it's a sense of community; 'When we go on school trips it helps the teachers identify use among other people.'* (JLT, Scholes (Elmet) Primary, 07.06.22)

2. Key points

The following are **key points for parents / carers** to be aware of / act on:

- wearing a school uniform brings with it many benefits (see above)
- everyone following the policy brings a sense of fairness: *'I think [school uniform's] really important because when you go to school everyone is wearing the same.'* (JLT, St James' CE Primary, 23.05.22)
- branded items are available (including for PE), but optional
- school uniform details are set out on the following page
- parents / carers are able to purchase generic items of uniform from a range of retailers giving them choice and value for money
- for branded items as well as non-branded items, at least three suppliers are listed on each Sphere Federation school website (with different price ranges enabling choice with regards value for money and personal preferences)
- second hand items can benefit all parents and, by extending the life of items, are more sustainable; items may be available in school (lost property that has not been claimed) or at [Leeds School Uniform Exchange](#)
- Sphere Federation supports ethically sourced school uniforms; further information regarding ethics and sustainability can be found either on our suppliers' websites or by contacting them directly

The following are **key points for Sphere Federation schools**:

- we avoid single supplier contracts
- we ensure second-hand uniforms are available for parents/carers
- we periodically engage with parents and pupils, including when this policy is reviewed (parent/carer annual survey, 2022; Junior Leadership Team meetings, summer 2022)
- we think about the total cost of school uniform, including PE kit and not just everyday classroom wear, and avoiding the requirement for unnecessary additional items for extra-curricular activities
- we consider how the cost of uniform might affect each group represented at the school, including children who belong to groups with a particular protected characteristic
- in order to ensure compliance with our policy, we're happy to meet with parents / carers to explore reasons why and seek a solution
- periodically, and when prompted by parent / carer feedback, we review our suppliers, and always provide at least three options for uniform
- we typically have spare, clean items of uniform, including PE kit, for children to change into if they're not wearing the items set out in this policy