



# Rotherhithe Primary School

## School Uniform Policy

**Last reviewed on:** January 2026

**Next review due by:** January 2027

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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:

- 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 Lisa Christiansen or Galiema Amien Cloete, 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 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. **Branded logo school uniform items are optional, not compulsory.**

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 where possible.
- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost or long-lasting items, such as ties
- 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 leveler.
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups
- Avoiding non branded uniform requirements 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 minimizing the financial impact on parents of any changes
- Consulting with pupils and or parents on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy

## 4. Expectations for school uniform

Please note that uniform expectations are as follows:

**Shirts:** Plain, white, cotton long/short sleeved shirt with collar or Polo T-shirts

**Sweatshirts**

**and Fleece:** Burgundy with the school logo

Fleece Burgundy with the school logo (available to purchase through parent pay and collected at school office)

**Caps:** Burgundy caps with the school logo is available to purchase

**Trousers:** Grey trousers

**Tracksuit bottoms will only be allowed for pupils in Nursery and Reception due to their increased outdoor learning.**

**Skirt:** Grey, plain approximately knee length.

**Dresses:** For summer girls may choose to wear burgundy summer dresses. These can be purchased from Asda (Old Kent Road)

**Headscarf:** Plain black (if worn).

**Shoes:** Must be completely black, flat shoes or completely black trainers with black laces or black velcro. No large brand logos or mixed colours.

**Please note:** no boots with heels, sling backs or sandals are allowed due to Health and Safety in the playground. It is not appropriate to purchase multi - colour shoes or trainers for school.

**Socks:** Plain grey or plain white ankle or knee length.

**Tights:** Grey only

**School Bag:** All children in Nursery – Year 3 will need a school infant school book bag. This is to ensure that the school reading journals and homework is kept neat and presentable. Parents are advised to check children's bags daily.

Children in Years 4, 5 and 6 can purchase a junior school backpack with mesh water bottle pocket via parent pay, OR they can have their own back packs if preferred.

**No handbags** will be allowed. (All bags are available to purchase through parent pay and collected at school).



### PE Kit

**For health and safety reasons we require ALL children to wear appropriate clothing for PE.** We recommend dark jogging bottoms (black) or black shorts in summer and white PE T-shirts. These can be purchased at local stores or via parent pay.



If your child cannot participate in the lesson due to illness or injury, then a letter from home is required to be given to the class teacher on the day. Your child should still bring his / her kit and change, as there are many other roles s/he can adopt, such as coach, umpire or score keeper.

### **Swimming KS2**

Caps can be purchased directly from parent pay and collected from the school office OR at any other stockists. There will be no change to our swimming caps.

**It is important that all items of clothing are clearly marked with your child's name, including coats and P.E. kits. This can be done with sew in tapes or with an indelible pen (waterproof).**

**Hair:** Shoulder length or longer hair **must be tied up** with black tidies

**Nails:** Should be kept clean and short enough to enable pupils to participate safely in practical activities.

**No coloured nail varnish is allowed at any time.**

**Jewellery:** Wrist watches may be worn if a child is able to tell the time. If desired one small sleeper or stud earring in each ear will be allowed. Smartwatches should not be worn to school. Should children arrive to school with a smartwatch, we will ask children to remove this and it will be returned to parents at the end of the day. This is to ensure that we remain GDPR compliant and to safeguard all our pupils.

## 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 contact Lisa Christiansen or Galiema Amien Cloete 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 will be contacted by staff if their child is not following the school uniform expectations. Parents are also expected to contact Lisa Christiansen or Galiema Amien - Cloete 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

Staff will closely monitor pupils to make sure they are in correct uniform. Staff may contact parents to find out the reason for non-compliance and try and resolve the issues. Staff will give any pupils and families breaching the uniform policy the opportunity to comply but will follow up with the head of school 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.

## **5.4 Local Committee**

The NEST Trust Local committee 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 Local Committee 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 two years by The Executive head Teacher, Galiema Amien Cloete. At every review, it will be approved by the NEST trust Local Committee.

## **7. Links to other policies**

This policy is linked to our:

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