

Southwold Primary School & Early Years' Centre

School Uniform Policy



Approved by:	Governing Board	Date: 25.11.25
Last reviewed on:	November 2025	
Next review due by:	November 2026	

The School Uniform Policy aims to:

- Set out Southwold Primary School's approach to requiring a uniform or dress code 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 or dress code.

1. 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 get in touch with Mrs Salmeron, who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

2. 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 competitive prices.

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 and/or long-lasting items, such as ties.
- Considering cheaper alternatives to school-branded items, such as logos that can be sewn or ironed on.
- 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 leveller.
- 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, minimising the financial impact on parents/carers.
- Consulting with parents/carers and pupils on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy.

3. Expectations for school uniform

3.1 Our school uniform

Everyday Uniform – outdoor coats (suitable for all weathers and conditions dependent upon the time of year)

- Royal blue sweatshirt or cardigan (branded optional).
- Plain white polo shirt or shirt.
- Grey or black trousers, shorts, pinafore or skirt.
- Blue gingham checked summer dress (optional during warmer months).
- Plain black, grey or royal blue hijab.
- Plain sensible closed black shoes (no trainers), suitable for daily activity and outdoor play.

PE Kit

- Plain white or light blue T-shirt.
- Black or blue shorts.
- Black or blue jogging bottoms for colder weather.
- Black trainers or plimsolls (no logos).
- Plain blue sweater (no logos) for colder weather.

Swimming Kit

(For all pupils when swimming lessons take place)

- Girls: A one-piece swimming costume (no bikinis).
- Boys: Swimming trunks (no loose-fitting swim shorts or pockets).
- All in ones can be considered on religious grounds.
- All pupils:
 - A towel.
 - A suitable swim bag (branded optional).
 - Hair tied back if long.
 - No jewellery.
 - Goggles are optional but must have written permissions from parents.

These requirements ensure safety, hygiene and ease of movement during lessons.

. Optional Items

- School-branded book bags or PE bags – available from the school office.

Optional items are not required for participation in learning or school events.

3.2 Where to purchase school uniform

- Branded jumpers and cardigans are available at the school office
- Unbranded products can be purchased from most supermarkets and online retailers
- A selection of good quality, second-hand uniform is also available at the school office

4. Expectations for our school community

4.1 Pupils

Pupils are expected to wear the correct uniform or adhere to the dress code 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.
- Pupils are also expected to contact Mrs Salmeron if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics.

4.2 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 Mrs Salmeron 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.

4.3 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 does not improve.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with by a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

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.

4.4 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, for example by avoiding single supplier contracts and by re-tendering contracts at least every 5 years.

5. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed as appropriate and manageable by Mrs Salmeron.
At every review, it will be approved by the Governing Board.

6. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

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