



Uniform and Possessions Policy

November 2018

Approved by the Governing Body Strategy Group 15/11/18

**This Policy is due for renewal in Term 2
2020–21**

UNIFORM AND POSSESSIONS POLICY

OF

GODINTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

SECTION ONE – ETHOS

School uniform plays a valuable role in contributing to the ethos of a school and setting an appropriate tone. A high standard of personal appearance is expected of all the pupils at all times and the dress code is part of the image of the school. There is no legislation that deals specifically with school uniform or other aspects of appearance such as hair colour and style, the wearing of jewellery and make-up, nor how uniform should be sourced. However, the School Admissions Code places a statutory duty on all governing bodies to ensure that their policies and practices do not disadvantage any children.

SECTION TWO – SCHOOL UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

A full list of the school uniform requirements are outlined in Appendix A. Children are encouraged to wear a jumper, cardigan or fleece showing the school logo but this is not compulsory.

Appendix A also outlines the requirements for PE and swimming lessons. There will be occasions when plimsolls or trainers are suitable for indoor games and other occasions when bare feet give improved grip on gym equipment. Teachers will use their judgement as to the most appropriate footwear for a particular activity and will try to avoid situations where some children will be wearing shoes and others have bare feet. Children are not allowed to wear socks only for PE.

SECTION THREE – COST

The cost of uniform should not act as a barrier to parents when choosing a school. The school uniform is sufficiently broad to allow parents to satisfy the requirements within budgets.

The school regularly reviews of the costs of school uniform (showing the school logo) from a range of suppliers in order to identify best value for money and has selected KMAC Embroidery as the sole uniform supplier. Items of school uniform can be purchased from the online store at <https://kentschooluniform.com/choose-your-school/godinton-primary-school.html>.

SECTION FOUR – COMMUNICATING A UNIFORM POLICY

A copy of the policy is included in the information pack given to prospective parents and in

the induction pack given to new parents. Uniform requirements and policy can also be accessed by parents through the school website and a paper copy may be requested through the school office. Rules on wearing school uniform are included in the home school agreement.

SECTION FIVE – NON COMPLIANCE

Where a pupil is not adhering to school uniform policy, the school will try to establish the reason. If a pupil is not wearing the correct uniform because of financial difficulties, parents will be given time to purchase the required items or consideration will be given as to whether an alternative arrangements can be put in place following discussion with the Headteacher.

SECTION SIX – ENFORCEMENT

The Headteacher can discipline a pupil for breach of uniform policy. The Headteacher or a person authorised by the head teacher may ask a pupil to be taken home to remedy a breach of the school's rules on appearance or uniform. This should be for no longer than is necessary to remedy the breach. This is not an exclusion, but an authorised absence. However, if the pupil continues to breach uniform rules in such a way as to be sent home to avoid school, or takes longer than is strictly necessary to effect the change, the pupil's absence may be counted as unauthorised absence. If a pupil repeatedly infringes the school's rules on uniform or appearance, this may constitute a disciplinary offence and may be grounds for exclusion. The school will always seek to work with families to rectify these situations should they arise.

SECTION SEVEN – AMENDMENTS

The Headteacher may agree individual amendments to the uniform policy to accommodate the needs of any individual pupil according to their religion or belief, or temporary or permanent medical conditions.

The Human Rights Act 1998 protects the right to 'manifest one's religion or beliefs'. Various religions and beliefs require their adherents to conform to a particular dress code, or to otherwise outwardly manifest their belief. The school will act reasonably to accommodate religious requirements. However, a school uniform policy that has the effect of restricting the freedom of pupils to manifest their religion may still be lawful, so long as this interference with pupils' rights is justified on grounds specified in the Human Rights Act. These include health, safety and the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.

In fulfilling its obligations, the school will balance the rights of individual pupils against the best interests of the school community as a whole. The school may be justified in restricting an individual's rights to manifest their religion or belief in order to ensure the effective delivery of teaching and learning, the promotion of cohesion and good order in

the school, the prevention of bullying, or genuine health and safety or security considerations.

SECTION EIGHT – JEWELLERY

Children are not allowed to wear jewellery to school, save for stud earrings. In addition, staff are not allowed to remove earrings for children, so we ask that children do not have their ears pierced until they are of an age when they can remove and replace the jewellery independently. Children are not allowed to participate in any PE activity whilst wearing any form of jewellery. Earrings must be removed, before any activities begin. If the children are not able to remove ear rings, parents must do it for them, on the day that they have PE, before they come to school.

Children are not allowed to wear temporary tattoos or coloured nail varnish to school.

SECTION NINE – HAIRSTYLES

Children should have a suitable hairstyle for school – extreme styles (including colours) are not permitted.

Children are allowed to wear hair bows to school but these should be in the school colours and should be a suitable size. Large, bright hair bows (e.g. Jo-Jo bows) or extravagant hair bands are not permitted.

SECTION TEN – POSSESSIONS

The school will carry no responsibility for any personal items, which a child may lose at school. Every effort will be made to find lost items, but children must develop a responsible attitude towards their possessions and this should be fostered from a young age. Parents should not send their child to school with expensive or sentimental items.

Mobile phones are not routinely allowed in school, however in some cases, such as children who walk to school on their own, by agreement with the school, a mobile phone may be brought into school. This must however be left at the school office during the school day. Although every effort will be made to ensure that these phones are looked after, the school will carry no responsibility for mobile phones, which get lost.

Children are not allowed to bring toys to school, apart from when joining Year R, unless this has been identified by the school as being of benefit to the child during a particular period, such as the death of a family member, or a similar period of upset.

When going on school trips (including residential visits), the school will outline what possessions may be taken. Children are expected to adhere to this.

SECTION ELEVEN – CHILDREN IN CARE

As for all our pupils, Godinton Primary School is committed to helping every Child in Care achieve the highest standards they can. To this end staff will ensure that Children in Care are supported with all issues relating to behaviour and discipline.

SECTION TWELVE – REVIEW

The Governing Body reviews this policy every two years. The Governors may, however, review the policy earlier than this, if the government introduces new regulations, or if the governing body receives recommendations on how the policy might be improved. The policy is shared with parents on the school website.

SECTION THIRTEEN – EQUALITY STATEMENT (Refer also to specific policies for equal opportunities and racial equality)

At Godinton Primary School, we are committed to ensuring equality of opportunity for all members of our school community irrespective of race, gender, disability, belief, sexual orientation, age or socio-economic background. We are determined to develop a culture of inclusion and diversity in which all those connected to the school feel proud of their identity and ability to participate fully in school life.

We tackle discrimination through the positive promotion of equality by challenging stereotypes and by creating an environment that champions respect for all. At Godinton Primary School, we believe that diversity is a strength that should be respected and celebrated by all those who learn, teach and visit us.

All school policies have an explicit aim of promoting equality and will be reviewed in terms of their contribution and effectiveness in achieving this aim.

Appendix A

Uniform Requirements

School uniform must be worn at all times. All items are suitable for boys or girls.

- School Sweatshirt / Cardigan or plain royal blue sweatshirt or cardigan
- Grey skirt / grey trousers / pinafore dress
- Navy or black jogging bottoms (Reception classes only)
- White polo shirt
- Black school shoes (not trainers)
- Blue gingham dress (summer)
- Grey school shorts (summer)
- All children in the Reception classes are asked to have a pair of named wellies which can be left in school.

P.E Kit (not applicable to Reception children until summer terms)

- House t-shirt
- Black/navy blue shorts
- Plimsolls (“slip-ons” for indoor PE activities)
- Trainers for outdoor activities
- During the winter months, children should wear any outdoor clothing which will keep them warm during the activity, provided it does not constitute a safety hazard e.g. sweatshirt and tracksuit bottoms.
- Swimming kit for allocated swimming lesson: one piece swimming costume (no bikinis) or swimming trunks (not knee length boarding shorts). Goggles are permitted but these must only cover the eyes. Scuba masks are not permitted.

Appendix B

Religious clothing summary

Buddhism

In general there are no religious requirements for everyday dress for Buddhists.

Christianity

For the majority of Christians there are no particular dress requirements. In some Christian sects such as the Plymouth Brethren women and girls are expected to wear headscarves and modest clothing.

Hinduism

In general it is not considered acceptable for a Hindu woman to have uncovered legs.

Judaism

Dress requirements vary with orthodoxy. For more orthodox Jews women and girls are expected to keep the body covered and married women cover their hair. Boys and men often wear a skullcap.

Islam

The reason for young women beyond puberty wishing to wear full clothing is modesty; that is, not wishing to receive unnecessary attention.

Young women are appropriately modestly dressed if they are wearing salwar kameez or jilbaab with headscarf without the need to wear niqaab in school.

Men are expected to be covered from waist to knee in public places, many Muslim men may also choose to wear a cap but this is not a compulsory religious requirement.

Sikhism

In general covering the body is a requirement. All initiated Sikhs wear the five 'K' symbols as a sign of their initiation into the Sikh community. Male Sikhs wear a turban, the removal of this is unacceptable.

Rastafarian

Rastafarian women dress modestly. There is a taboo on wearing second hand clothing, and therefore children may be unwilling to wear borrowed clothing for PE, etc.