



Uniform and Possessions Policy

November 2022

Approved by the Governing Body Strategy Group 17/11/22

**This Policy is due for renewal in Term 2
2024–25**

UNIFORM AND POSSESSIONS POLICY

OF

GODINTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

SECTION ONE – GUIDANCE

This policy takes into consideration the Gov.uk guidance on School Uniforms updated in November 2021. This is non-statutory guidance, designed to support schools in developing and implementing their uniform policy.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-uniform/school-uniforms>

This policy also takes into consideration the statutory guidance on the cost of school uniforms .

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cost-of-school-uniforms/cost-of-school-uniforms>

This guidance is considered in order to ensure compliance with our obligations under the Human Rights Act 1998 and the Equality Act 2010.

The School Admissions Code places a statutory duty on all Governing Bodies to ensure that their policies and practices do not disadvantage any children. Our aim is for our uniform policy to be as inclusive as possible.

Throughout this policy, the term parents should be taken to include all those with parental responsibility, including guardians and carers.

SECTION TWO – ETHOS

School uniform plays a valuable role in contributing to the ethos of our school and setting an appropriate tone for education. A high standard of personal appearance is expected of all the children at all times and our dress code forms part of the image of our school. Our school uniform expectations provide all pupils with a sense of belonging and identify and instil a sense of pride of being part of the Godinton Primary School family.

By creating a common identity amongst all pupils, regardless of background, our school uniform can act as a social leveller. It can reduce bullying and peer pressure to wear the latest fashions or other expensive clothes. If, however, the uniform is too expensive it can place an unreasonable burden on families. Furthermore, if a distinction can be made between those who can afford it and those who cannot, this can reduce the benefits of a uniform and has the potential to negatively impact attendance, access and participation, and lead to bullying.

Parents should not have to think about the cost of a school uniform when choosing which school to apply for. No school uniform should be so expensive as to leave pupils or their families feeling unable to apply to, or attend, a school of their choice. Therefore, schools need to ensure that their uniforms are affordable. This is an important aspect of our school uniform policy.

SECTION THREE – SCHOOL UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

Our school uniform requirements ensure that uniform is fully accessible to all children and that no unnecessary financial burdens are placed on parents in meeting this requirement. Children are able to wear a complete uniform of unbranded items. Generic items which are widely available (including from low-cost outlets) give parents choice and allows them to control the cost of school uniforms.

Some branded items, bearing the school logo are available from our uniform supplier, and many families choose to acquire these however they are optional. This includes school jumpers, cardigans and fleeces and house t-shirts for PE. To ensure that school uniform acts as a social leveller, these branded items are kept to a minimum and alternatives are encouraged.

Children should wear sensible footwear to school. This should be plain black (including plain black trainers without a logo). High heeled shoes or boots are not permitted and neither are open toed sandals.

A full list of the school uniform requirements are outlined in Appendix A.

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.

Parents do not need to purchase additional items in order for their children to participate in sports matches or competitions, these items (such as high-five bibs or football kits) will be provided by the school.

No other items are required for participation in any other extra-curricular activities.

Appendix A also lists the items of clothing that should be worn for Forest School sessions.

All items of uniform worn to school should be named. A lost property box can be found in the school foyer. Lost items will be placed here if we are unable to return them to their owner.

SECTION FOUR – COST

4.1 Cost of new uniform items

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 branded items of school uniform (bearing the school logo) through a tendering process from a range of suppliers in order to identify best value for money and has recently selected Emporia Uniform as the sole uniform supplier. In deciding upon our supplier, feedback was also gained from parents. A contract is in place with our supplier which is reviewed regularly and retendered every 5 years. In the event that the school felt that the supplier no longer provided value for money or there was a deterioration in service alternative suppliers considered to tender for the contract.

Items of school uniform can be purchased from the store in County Square Mall Ashford or from the online store at <https://www.emporia-uniform.co.uk/>

To reduce costs to parents, items of uniform purchased can be collected from the school at no charge.

4.2 ‘Pre-loved’ uniform items

Second-hand uniforms can benefit all parents, particularly those on low incomes. In addition, by extending the life of garments, it is more sustainable.

Our PTFA regularly runs sales of second hand uniform items throughout the year (once a term). This includes both branded and generic items of uniform. These items are sold at low costs to parents. The dates of forthcoming uniform sales are advertised in advance to parents e.g. on the school website and in the school newsletter.

The school encourages parents to make donations of uniform items that are no longer wanted to these sales.

SECTION FIVE – 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 SIX – NON COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCMENT

6.1 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.

6.2 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 or for particular needs e.g. sensory needs.

All items of school uniform can be worn by children of any gender.

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. Our school is sensitive to the

needs of different cultures, races and religions and acts reasonably in accommodating these needs without compromising policies such as school safety or discipline. 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. We would always endeavour to work with parents to ensure that needs can be met.

SECTION EIGHT – COMPLAINTS

Disputes about the cost of school uniforms should be resolved locally and should be pursued in accordance with the school's complaints policy.

The contract with our supplier includes an agreed procedure to deal with complaints about the supply and quality of uniforms.

SECTION NINE – JEWELLERY, WATCHES AND OTHER ITEMS OF ADORNMENT

Parents are asked not to send children to school wearing jewellery. If you do wish your child to wear earrings, only small stud earrings are permitted. These should be flat to the ear and not consist of anything that dangles. Children should remove earrings for PE sessions. If they can't do this themselves, then please remove earrings at home before the children come to school. We would always recommend that ears are pierced at the start of the summer holiday so earrings can be removed by the start of the school year. However, if your child is unable to remove their earrings, they can be covered with micropore tape (not plasters) at home. The tape should then be removed once they get home. Staff are unable to assist with this.

No other jewellery should be worn in school, unless there is a very specific reason which has been agreed with Miss Talbot, In this event, any other items of jewellery must, in all circumstances, be removed for PE.

Any items of jewellery worn to school are done so in the knowledge that parents are acting against the advice of the school and therefore parents take responsibility for any injury that may result.

Children are allowed to wear watches to school –these should be simple and non-expensive. Simple smart watches and fitness / activity trackers are also permitted providing they are set to 'school mode' during the day and have internet access and phone / text / email access disabled. These items are brought to school at the owners risk. The school reserves the right to ask for these items to be removed if they cause disruption or are used inappropriately e.g. to access the internet unsupervised.

Children are not allowed to wear temporary tattoos or nail varnish to school. Children are not allowed to wear false or acrylic nails to school.

SECTION NINE – HAIRSTYLES AND HAIR ACCESSORIES

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. Any items brought to school should be named.

10.1 Mobile Phones

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.

10.2 Toys

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 or because of a special educational need (e.g a particular fidget toy). There may be occasions when children are allowed to bring things into school such as sticker albums or collecting cards. The sensible use of these is monitored by the school.

10.3 Items to take on school trips

When going on school trips (including residential visits), the school will outline what possessions and items of clothing may be taken. Children are expected to adhere to this and are responsible for any items they bring.

10.4 School Bags

All children are given a school book bag when they join the Reception class. This should be brought to school in Years R to 2 to bring their reading book and other small items to school every day. Additional book bags can also be purchased from our school uniform supplier at any time but generic book bags can also be used and do not have to have the school logo on.

From Year 3 onwards, children must use an appropriately sized waterproof bag to carry their books and equipment. It should hold children's reading books comfortably without causing any damage

Large bags / large rucksacks are discouraged for day-to-day lessons due to space on children's pegs. Likewise small handbags (smaller than A4 size) are not appropriate. School bags featuring inappropriate images, slogans or phrases are not permitted.

10.5 Pencil Cases

From Year 4 upwards, children may bring their own small pencil case to school to house pens and pencils. Only one pencil case per child is permitted and this should be small enough to fit comfortably on their desk or in their tray.

10.6 Bicycles and Scooters

Bicycles and scooters may be brought to school but should be secured in the bike stands available. The school makes all attempts to ensure a safe and secure site however all items are left on site at the owner's risk and the school will not take responsibility for them.

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 uniform and possessions.

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, religion or belief, gender, gender reassignment, disability, sexual orientation, age, pregnancy or maternity, marriage and civil partnership 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

General School Uniform Requirements

| Picture Example (exact style not required) | All items are suitable for boys or girls. |
|---|---|
|  | School sweatshirt or cardigan (bearing the school logo) or a plain royal blue sweatshirt or cardigan |
|  | Grey skirt / grey trousers / grey pinafore dress |
|  | White polo shirt |
|  | Blue gingham summer dress (in warmer weather) |
|  | Grey school shorts (in warmer weather) |
|  | Black school shoes (or plain black trainers with no logos). No high heels. Flat black ankle boots are permitted but not boots with high heels or thick cleated soles. Open toed sandals are not permitted. |
|  | Grey, black or white socks or grey tights |

Additional general items:

- Sensible, warm, waterproof coat of any colour.
- A school fleece (with the school logo) may also be worn.
- All children in the Reception classes are asked to have a pair of named wellies which can be left in school as well as a 'puddle suit' (waterproof jacket and trousers). They may also wear navy or black jogging bottoms,

- **P.E Kit (not applicable to Reception children until summer terms)**
- House t-shirt (this can be a t-shirt bearing the school logo or a plain t-shirt in the house colour – red, blue, green or yellow)
- 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). Googles are permitted but these must only cover the eyes. Scuba masks are not permitted.

Clothing for Forest School sessions (parents are advised as to when their children’s Forest School sessions will take place).

No particular items have to be bought for Forest School sessions. Clothing should be sensible and can be any colour.

Forest School clothing is as follows:

- Waterproof coat (or waterproof jacket in warmer weather)
- Comfortable tracksuit bottoms, trousers or leggings (not shorts)
- Long-sleeved top
- Wellington boots or old trainers
- Appropriate hat for the weather
- Scarf and gloves (in colder weather)
- Arms and legs must be covered to avoid scratches and/or stings.

Additional, optional, items you may wish to provide for your child's Forest School sessions, include:

- Waterproof trousers
- Spare socks
- Spare underwear

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.