

School uniform policy

Dove Federation

Caston & Parkers Primary Academies

Approved by:	Mrs S Disney	Date: June 2023
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Last reviewed on:	June 2023
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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 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 to get in touch with the Executive Headteacher who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis

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 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' ability to 'shop around' for a low price.

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
- 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

- Keeping optional branded items to a minimum, so that the 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
- Considering alternative methods for signalling differences in groups for interschool competitions, such as creating posters or labels
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents to acquire second-hand uniform items
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents of any changes
- Consulting with parents and pupils on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy

4. Expectations for school uniform

4.1 Our school's uniform

Caston and Parkers each have a smart, comfortable uniform with optional summer term variations.

Birds of Dereham supply our branded uniform items (jumpers, book bags, PE shirts etc) and whilst we encourage children to have at least a branded jumper / cardigan, this is not mandatory and a generic equivalent of the correct colour is perfectly acceptable.

- Please make sure that ALL items are properly labelled, so lost items can easily be recognised and returned.
- We are grateful of parents' support to avoid bringing unnecessary jewelry, toys or items into school which may be lost or cause injury.
- Electronic devices (mobile phones, smartwatches etc that can transmit / take photos / capture recordings) are not permitted on site and will be kept safely in the School Office until the end of the day if found.
- Whilst we understand that some children may be allowed to dye their hair in the school holidays, during term time extremes of colour are not allowed.

CASTON	
Winter uniform (Sept – Easter)	Royal blue sweatshirt or cardigan <i>with school logo</i> (encouraged but not mandatory – a generic royal blue one is fine) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • white polo shirt • grey trousers, skirt or pinafore • grey or white socks or tights • plain black school shoes
Summer uniform (Easter to July)	Girls: royal blue and white checked dress, white socks, black shoes Boys: white polo shirt & grey shorts, grey socks, black shoes
PE / Sports kit	For PE and most games: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dark shorts • plain T-shirt in their House colour (or white) – <i>branded T-shirts can be purchased from Birds</i> • trainers / plimsolls

	<p>For indoor activities they should go bare-footed or wear clean trainers.</p> <p>During winter months children will be allowed to wear track suits and trainers outside. Outdoor footwear should come in a plastic bag.</p> <p>Swimming (1 term annually, Year 3-6):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • swimming costume, towel, hairbrush
Art / outside clothes	<p>For Art activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • old shirt (to be worn backwards) or plastic apron <p>For outdoor play and learning (to be kept at school):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • wellington boots • waterproof jacket (with hood)
Regular outerwear	Weather-appropriate coat and rucksack

PARKERS	
Winter uniform (Sept – Easter)	<p>Navy blue sweatshirt or cardigan <i>with school logo</i> (encouraged but not mandatory – a generic navy one is fine)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • white polo shirt • grey trousers, skirt or pinafore • grey or white socks or tights • plain black school shoes
Summer uniform (Easter to July)	<p>Girls: blue and white checked summer dress, white socks, black shoes</p> <p>Boys: white polo shirt & grey shorts, grey socks, black shoes</p>
PE / Sports kit	<p>For PE and most games:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dark shorts • plain T-shirt in their House colour (or white) – <i>branded T-shirts can be purchased from Birds</i> • trainers / plimsolls <p>For indoor activities they should go bare-footed or wear clean trainers.</p> <p>During winter months children will be allowed to wear track suits and trainers outside. Outdoor footwear should come in a plastic bag.</p> <p>Swimming (1 term annually, Year 3-6):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • swimming costume, towel, hairbrush
Art / outside clothes	<p>For Art activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • old shirt (to be worn backwards) or plastic apron <p>For outdoor play and learning (to be kept at school):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • wellington boots • waterproof jacket (with hood)
Regular outerwear	Weather-appropriate coat and rucksack

4.2 Where to purchase it

› New uniform

Can be ordered from **Birds of Dereham** by clicking on the QR code (right) or visiting their store in Dereham, Unit D, 13 Yaxham Rd, Dereham NR19 1HB. If you know your sizing, we recommend using their click and collect service during August as their shop can be very busy!

www.birdsofdereham.com

Non-branded items can be found in many supermarkets and online.

› Second hand uniform

Pre-loved items are available via the Friends groups at either school. This is an excellent and sustainable way to source uniform which is often nearly new, and raises funds for the schools as well. Either school office will give details of current arrangements.

If you are experiencing hardship in purchasing uniform, please speak to the Executive Headteacher or Business Manager as we may be able to help.



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 the Executive Headteacher 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 are also expected to contact the Executive Headteacher 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. They will give any pupils and families breaching the uniform policy the opportunity to comply, but will follow up with the Executive Headteacher / Head of School if the situation doesn't improve.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with by the Executive Headteacher and/or Head of School.

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 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 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.

6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed bi-annually by the Executive Headteacher. At every review, it will be approved by the Local Governing Body

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

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