Norwood Green Junior School

Uniform Policy

Policy ratified by the GB: November 2022

Policy to be reviewed: November 2025

OVERVIEW

At Norwood Green Junior School we wish to promote an atmosphere which encourages effort, enjoyment and a celebration of the achievements of all our pupils. The school has high standards and expectations and this is reflected in the pride we take in our school uniform and the feeling of belonging it creates.

AIMS

- To maintain a strong sense of identity, pride and belonging within our school
- To promote consistently high standards of behaviour, attitude and dress.
- To respect variations to school uniform if they are directly related to established religious or cultural traditions.
- 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 to avoid unnecessary clothing expense for parents.
- We expect all pupils to follow the dress code. Parents should communicate with us if there is a specific reason why their child is unable to follow this policy.

OUR SCHOOL'S LEGAL DUTIES UNDER THE EQUALITY ACT 2010

The Equality Act 2010 prohibits discrimination against an individual based on the protected characteristics.

To avoid discrimination, our school will:

- Avoid listing uniform items based on gender, to give all pupils the opportunity to wear the uniform they feel most comfortable in.
- 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 Hijabs 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 Mrs Sehgal, who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests.

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 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 or long-lasting items
- Considering cheaper alternatives to school-branded items, such as logos that can be ironed on, as long as this does not 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 different 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 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

UNIFORM

Uniform consists of:

- teal sweatshirt, jumper or cardigan
- White blouse or polo shirts
- Grey trousers or shorts
- Grey skirt or tunic
- Black or White trainers
- Plain white, grey or black socks.
- Plain grey tights
- Plain white, grey black or turquoise Hijab
- Plain white, grey black or turquoise Patka
- In the summer term, green and white checked dresses are optional.

Generic school uniform can be purchased from any number of local stores, such as Tesco, Asda, Primark, Marks and Spencer or online.

If you wish to purchase a sweatshirt, jumper or cardigan with the school logo, these can be purchased through the school shop on the school website by selecting here.

Some children choose to wear shorts or leggings under their skirt or dress for modesty. These should be plain black or white, if worn under a summer dress.

Children will also require **PE kit for games and PE lessons**.

- White T-shirt
- Plain black shorts, black tracksuit bottoms or leggings
- Plain black sweatshirt
- Black or White trainers
- White socks
- Sweatbands to cover religious karas for relevant pupils

Children do not require large school bags or additional equipment, we recommend a small bag for your pupil's reading record and reading book. All basic equipment e.g. pencils, rulers, handwriting pens, colouring pencils is provided by school. Any additional equipment brought in is under families' own choice.

Lunchboxes should be named, stored on the year group lunchbox trolley and taken home every day. **Water bottles** should be named and they will be kept in the classroom other than when taken outside/to the hall for sports activities. Children are encouraged to drink water and should not bring other drinks into

school.

Nail varnish, make up and jewellery is not acceptable. Children may wear karas and small, plain stud earrings which must be removed for swimming and also preferably for PE lessons. If children cannot remove earrings they can be covered with a plaster, tape or a sweatband for the karas provided by home as a temporary measure during PE lessons.

Children may wear small, discreet **watches (no smart watches)** which must be removed for PE. Watches that also act as step counters can be worn during PE, if covered by a sweatband. Otherwise, children will be asked to remove them.

Children require an overall or old shirt to protect their uniform during art lessons.

STRATEGIES

- Children are expected to wear the correct uniform as described above (other than specified non-uniform days) whilst on the school premises; at out-of-school events or on trips that are organised by the school; or where they are representing the school (if required).
- All items of clothing and equipment should be clearly labelled with the child's name.
- Children will be asked to remove jewellery or accessories that do not form part of the uniform. These can be kept securely until the end of the day and then returned to the pupil.
- School does not take responsibility for lost watches or jewellery.
- Money should only be brought into school for a specific purpose.
- Children will not be excused from PE or swimming without a written request from parents.
- Children may bring in mobile phones. These should be locked in the teachers' drawer during the school day and not used on school premises.

Staff should:

- Set a good example in terms of professional dress.
- Remember that in our respective roles we serve the local community as a set of professionals.
- Informal clothes such as flip flops, blue/ripped/frayed jeans or revealing items are not suitable work attire. The appropriate footwear e.g. trainers, must be worn for all PE lessons for safety reasons. Similarly, tracksuits and sports clothing are recommended for these lessons.
- The Head Teacher will use his/her discretion to advise anyone who is unsure or needs further information regarding his/her code of dress.

ROLE OF THE GOVERNING BODY:

The governing body 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 Governing Body should be receptive to any reasonable complaint from parents or carers concerning uniform, handling it respectfully, and should consider fully the issues they raise. Governors should aim to work with parents to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.
The school will follow the DFE guidelines and not consider exclusion from the school where a pupil fails to comply with the school's rules on uniform.

The Governing Body 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 if possible and by re-tendering contracts at least every 5 years.

ROLE OF THE PARENTS/GUARDIANS:

- To ensure that their child / children adhere to the school's uniform policy and uphold the high standards of dress and appearance set by the school
- Ensure that they come to school in uniform everyday unless there are special circumstances such as special events or school visits or charity fundraising.
- Parents and carers should raise any complaints about the school uniform and dress codes with the Headteacher following the school's complaints' procedure.

Racial Equality & Equal Opportunities:

All children have equal access to wearing school uniform regardless of their culture, race, religion, gender, disability or ability. We ensure that the set uniform respects other policies and allows for individual sets of circumstances of all groups and individuals. Norwood Green Junior School is committed to creating a positive climate that will enable everyone to work free from racial intimidation and harassment and to achieve their full potential.