



# Middlewich Primary School

## School Uniform Policy



At Middlewich Primary School, all children are required to wear the school uniform during school hours and at school-organised events outside normal school hours, where applicable. The school uniform is a key aspect of our school ethos and by enrolling their children, parents/carers agree to support this policy.

This policy is based on the belief that wearing a school uniform:

- Promotes a sense of pride in the school.
- Gives a sense of community and belonging to the school
- Is practical and smart
- Makes children feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance
- Is regarded as suitable wear for school and good value for money by most parents/carers

### **Structure of the Policy**

This document is divided into the following sections:

1. Aims
2. Our school's duties under the Equality Act 2010
3. Limiting the cost of school uniform
4. Expectations for school uniform
5. Expectations for our school community
6. Links to other policies
7. Monitoring arrangements

### **1. Aims**

Through this policy, we aim 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 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 when necessary.
- Allow all pupils to style their hair in a way that is appropriate for school and makes them feel most comfortable, though we reserve the right to ask that hair is not to dyed.
- 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 the senior leadership team, 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 our 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 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.
- 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 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.
- 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/carers to acquire second-hand uniform items.
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents/carers of any changes.
- Consulting with parents/carers and pupils on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy.

#### **4. Expectations for school uniform**

At Middlewich Primary School, our school colour is red. Children do not have to wear branded school uniform.

##### **4.1 School uniform**

All children must come into school wearing the school uniform listed below:

- Red sweatshirt or cardigan.
- Grey or black trousers; pinafore dress or skirt.
- Red and white gingham dress or grey shorts (summer wear).
- Black shoes (not trainers).

##### **Optional uniform**

A branded school fleece. (These are to be worn outside on the playground. Fleeces are not to be worn as uniform in the classroom.)

##### **4.2 PE Kit**

Pe kits are essential for PE lessons. All children's PE kits should be in a fabric drawstring bag in order to limit the space taken in the cloakrooms.

- Red T-shirt.
- Navy blue or black shorts, leggings or tracksuit bottoms.
- Black pumps (slip-on or Velcro type) for pupils in EYFS or KS1.
- Trainers for pupils in KS2.

For safety reasons, longer hair must be tied back in a bobble for all PE lessons.

##### **4.3 Jewellery**

It is encouraged that pupils do not wear jewellery to school, especially as individuals become very upset if a treasured piece of jewellery goes missing. The only acceptable items of jewellery to be worn are a wristwatch and stud earrings. Should a pupil have pierced ears, plain studs should only be worn and in order to comply with health and safety regulations, must be removed or covered with a plaster during all PE activities. Please note that the school will be unable to take any responsibility for jewellery that is lost.

##### **4.4 Nails and Makeup**

False nails/nail polish and make up are not permitted to be worn with school uniform. If your child comes to school wearing false nails or nail polish, you may be contacted to come to school with a suitable solution to remove them. If your child comes to school wearing makeup, they will be asked to remove this.

##### **4.5 Hairstyles**

Hairstyles should be appropriate for school and hair dye is not permitted.

##### **4.6 Where to purchase uniform**

Branded uniform such as school fleeces, jumpers/cardigans, PE T-shirts and book bags can be purchased from Clever Cloggs, Wheelock Street, Middlewich.

Many of the school uniform items above are readily available from local supermarkets. There is no obligation to purchase school branded uniform only the school colours as outlined above. Our uniform has been kept simple to avoid unnecessary expense. We expect all pupils to follow the dress code as written above.

Every term, the PTFA at Middlewich Primary School sell pre-loved uniform at a minimal price for all parents/carers to purchase. Details about these sales are sent out to all parents/carers by letter and/or email.

## **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).

### **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/carers are also expected to contact the headteacher if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their child's protected characteristics or 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 logically and dealt with in accordance with our school's complaint policy. The school will work closely with parents/carers 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 headteacher if the situation doesn't improve.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with by 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.

### **5.4 Governors**

The governing board will review this policy and make sure that it is as follows:

- Appropriate for our school's context.

- Implemented fairly across the school.
- Take 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.

#### **6. Links to other policies**

This policy is linked to the following:

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

#### **7. Monitoring arrangements**

This policy will be reviewed every two years with the full governing board.

**Date:** June 2024

**Review Date:** June 2026