



Highgate School Uniform Policy

2024-2025

POLICY	School Uniform Policy 2024-25
STATUS/DATE OF THIS VERSION	September 2024
APPROVED BY	Board of Trustees
RATIFIED BY	Trust Board
REVIEW	September 2025

This policy is operated by all the schools in Unity Education Trust (as listed below).

Any queries about the policy should be directed, in the first instance, to the Headteacher/Head of School:

- **Beeston Primary School**
- **Garvestone Primary School**
- **Grove House Infant and Nursery School**
- **King's Park Infant School**
- **Northgate High School and Dereham Sixth Form College**
- **The Pinetree School**
- **Unity Pathfinder Schools**
- **Unity Compass Schools**
- **Churchill Park Academy**
- **Greyfriars Academy**
- **Highgate Infant School**
- **King's Oak Infant School**
- **Wimbotsham and Stow Academy**
- **Magdalen Academy**
- **St German's Academy**
- **Great Dunham Primary School**

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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/carers to contact Mrs Kirby, 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 (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:

- Providing information on alternatives to any items with distinctive characteristics: for example when parents are given the leaflet showing the range and cost of items with the Highgate Logo they are also informed that school clothing without logos is permitted and can be purchased from local supermarkets.
- 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/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

4.1 Our school's uniform

- Branded items are optional and available from Stratfords
- We accept all generic items instead of branded ones
- PE kit requirements are – a plain white or red t shirt or polo shirt, black, grey or navy shorts or joggers and plimsoles.
- swimming kit comprising of a towel, costume and swimming hat is required in the autumn term for year 2, the spring term for year 1 and the summer term for year 2.
- Jewelry should only be worn for a cultural or religious reason, young children play in a physical way and become curious about each other, jewelry can be easily lost, broken and cause harm to the wearer if caught on fabric or pulled by a peer. Where children have their ears pierced they may wear simple studs but these should be removed for PE. Where children come to school with other jewelry staff will sensitively ask parents for the reason behind the wearing of jewelry and reinforce the schools rules and the reasons for these

- Long hair should be tied back for safety reasons, this is particularly important in Physical Education
- Shoes should be black and practical for the playground and school field.
- Bags and coats can be in any style or colour. Coats should be appropriate for the weather allowing children to be comfortable outdoors.
- Sun hats, gloves scarves and hats should all be worn as appropriate to protect children from the weather at certain times of the year

4.2 Where to purchase it

Add details including:

- Where parents and carers can obtain branded uniform from Stratfords, all items can be purchased without branding from local supermarkets and from high-street retailer
- The school office has a range of second hand items that are put out for parents to purchase by donation half termly. Between sales the school office may be able to locate appropriate second hand clothes from the schools storage.

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) 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/carers are also expected to contact Mrs Kirby 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/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 locally
- Dealt with in accordance with our school's complaints 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 Mrs Kirby.

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 Trust 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/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. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by Headteachers. At every review, it will be approved Trust Standards Committee on behalf of the Trust Board.

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

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