MARLFIELDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY

Part of the

The School Uniform Policy in respect of Marlfields Primary School has been discussed and adopted by the Local Advisory Board in October 2026
Chair of Board: *Mr Gary Provis*
Responsible Officer: *Mrs C Sleath*
Agreed and ratified by the Local Advisory Board on: 21.10.26
To be reviewed: Autumn 2029

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1. Aims

This policy aims to:

- Ensure compliance with the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026 and associated statutory guidance regarding school uniform affordability and limits on compulsory branded items.
- Promote pupil wellbeing, inclusion, equality and a sense of belonging whilst minimising financial pressures on families.
- 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 sex, race, religion or belief, 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 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 headscarves 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 the Headteacher, who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests
- Allow reasonable adjustments to uniform requirements for pupils with disabilities, medical conditions or sensory needs.

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 for example, by only asking that the jumper or cardigan features the school logo
- Considering cheaper alternatives to school-branded items
- Avoiding specific requirements for items pupils could wear on non-school days, such as coats, bags and footwear for PE.
- 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
- Considering alternative methods for signaling differences in groups for interschool competitions, such as creating labels or wearing tabards.
- 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

Section 3.1 Child Wellbeing and Affordability

Marlfields Primary School recognises that school uniform should support pupils' wellbeing, self-esteem and sense of belonging without placing unnecessary financial pressure on families.

The school will:

- Ensure that uniform expectations are reasonable, inclusive and affordable.
- Avoid practices that may disadvantage pupils due to financial circumstances.
- Support families experiencing financial hardship through access to second-hand uniform and other available assistance.
- Consider the impact of uniform requirements on attendance, participation and wellbeing.

- The school will not introduce new compulsory branded items unless there is a clear educational, safety or safeguarding justification and consultation has taken place with parents and carers.
- Work with parents and carers to resolve uniform issues sensitively and without stigma.

4. Expectations for school uniform

Section 4.1: Statutory Limit on Branded Items

In accordance with the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026, the school will not require pupils to have more than three branded uniform items during any school year.

At Marlfields Primary School School the compulsory branded items are:

1. School jumper or cardigan
2. PE hoody or black PE T-shirt

All other uniform and PE items may be purchased from parents' preferred retailers provided they meet the school's colour and appearance expectations. The school will not require additional branded clothing or equipment for PE, clubs, trips or other school-facilitated activities.

Section 4.2: Uniform Expectations

Compulsory branded items

- School jumper or cardigan
- PE hoody or black PE T-Shirt

Optional branded items

- School polo shirt
- School PE T-shirt
- School PE hoodie
- School fleece
- School book bag
- School PE bag

Non-branded items

- White polo shirt
- Grey or black trousers, shorts, skirts or pinafore dress
- Red and white gingham summer dress
- Plain black school shoes or plain black trainers
- Plain black PE shorts or joggers
- Plain black/red PE T-shirt
- Plain black sweatshirt or hoodie for outdoor PE

Parents may purchase non-branded items from any retailer.

4.3: Expectations for PE and swimming kit:-

- Black PE shorts, black/red t-shirt & pumps/trainers on warm days and black joggers, black/red T-shirt, black hoodie or school jumper in cooler weather.
- **Swimming** – one piece costume or trunks (not shorts) and a swimming cap.
- Jewellery such as earrings, bracelets, necklaces are to be removed. Long hair is to be tied back. Exceptions will be considered for religious reasons.
- Shoes – flat black shoes/trainers.

Section 4.4: Where to purchase it

- Our branded uniform items can be purchased from:

DP Sportswear, 50 Bromley Road, Congleton, Cheshire, CW12 1PT

EMAIL sales@dpsportswear.co.uk

Section 4.5: Information about second-hand uniform:

The school has a Uniform Recycling Area in the school entrance hall which offers all types of uniform free of charge. This includes PE Kit, coats, uniform items and shoes. Parents can drop in any unwanted items as well as gather new items for their children.

5. Expectations for our school community

Section 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 Headteacher if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics.

Section 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 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.

Section 5.3: Staff

Staff will promote high standards of dress while taking a supportive and proportionate approach to uniform concerns.

No child will be excluded from learning, enrichment activities or educational opportunities solely because of difficulties accessing uniform. Where families experience financial hardship, staff will work with parents and carers to provide practical support, including access to the school's uniform recycling scheme.

Section 5.4: Local Advisory Board

The local advisory 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 pupils, parents and carers before making any significant changes to the school's uniform requirements
- Offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all pupils
- The Local Advisory Board will annually review the school's compliance with the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026, including the statutory limit on compulsory branded items and the affordability of uniform arrangements.

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 every 2 years or more frequently if the need arises or statutory requirements change. This will be done by the Local Advisory Board after consultation with our pupils and parents.

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

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