

# School Uniform Policy



*Aim high and shine*

## **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

## **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 Mrs. Bennett (Headteacher), 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 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 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 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 extra-curricular activities
- Considering alternative methods for signaling 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

## **Expectations for school uniform**

### **4.1 Our school's uniform**

Children at John T. Rice Infant and Nursery School are encouraged to wear school uniform upon entry to the Foundation Stage 1 through to the end of Year 2. The school uniform consists of:

- \* Black or grey trousers, skirt or pinafore dress
- \* White, green or navy blue polo shirt
- \* Green or Navy sweatshirt or cardigan
- \* Appropriate black shoes (no open toes or sandals)
- \* PE kit consisting of blue/black shorts, white T-shirt and/or navy blue/ black jogging bottoms.

We would prefer it if children had at least one school sweatshirt or cardigan with the school logo on so children can be identified easily during school trips, but this is not compulsory. A wide range of pre-loved items of uniform are available from the school office free of charge.

## **4.2 Where to purchase school uniform**

Items of uniform can be purchased from most high street retailers. Items with the school logo are available to purchase from <https://uniformshoponline.co.uk/collections/school-order-john-t-rice>

The school stocks items of donated uniform and aims to hold at least one uniform 'swap shop' per term. All items are free of charge and good quality – there is no limit to the amount of items parents/ carers can request at any one time. If parents/ carers would like any item free of charge then need only to ask in the reception and someone in the office will assist to find the correct size.

## **Expectations for our school community**

### **5.1 Pupils**

Pupils are expected to always wear the correct uniform (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 Mrs. Bennett (Headteacher) if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics. School is also flexible if a child has an additional need and may be sensory to certain fabrics. Please discuss this with your child's class teacher to reach a mutual agreement.

### **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 Mrs. Bennett (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 headteacher if the situation doesn't improve.

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.

### **Monitoring arrangements**

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years by S Bennett (Headteacher). At every review, it will be approved by the Strategic Development & Pupils Committee.

### **Links to other policies**

This policy is linked to our:

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