



Uniform Policy

Updated: September 2025

Produced by: Mrs T Allen

Ratified by: Mrs C Gibson

Signed:

Chair of Trustees

Review Date: September 2027

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Statement of Intent

Ryhope Infant School Academy believes that a consistent school uniform policy is vital to promote the ethos of the school and provide a sense of belonging and identity for all pupils, regardless of their protected characteristics or socio-economic circumstances.

This policy lays out the measures the school has taken to ensure a consistent, fair and inclusive uniform policy, and to implement a uniform that reflects the needs of all pupils, and is affordable and the best value for money for the school and pupils' families.

We believe that pupils learn most effectively and achieve their best outcomes when they are comfortable and dressed in such a way that sets an appropriate tone for education.

Our mission, vision and aims show that we hold high expectations of ourselves and each other. Our uniform policy is designed to convey these high expectations and enable all children to feel proud of their appearance and proud to be a part of Ryhope Infant School Academy.

- Uniform unites us as a community.
- Uniform reduces distractions: we are focused on our learning.
- Uniform makes us all equal: we come to school looking the same way; no one has to feel awkward about the clothes they have or don't have.
- Uniform gives us all an identity to be part of and proud of.
- Uniforms are professional. Pupils look smart and ready to learn.
- Supports positive behaviour management.

We recognise that school uniform represents a cost to families. The school will always aim to provide uniforms for families who require these through the donations of pre-loved uniforms we receive. We must stress that branded clothing is NOT essential.

Legal Framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Education Act 2011
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Equality Act 2010
- The UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)
- Data Protection Act 2018

This policy has due regard to all relevant guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- DfE (2021) 'Cost of school uniforms'
- DfE (2021) 'School Admissions Code'
- DfE (2021) 'School uniforms'

Roles and Responsibilities

The governing body is responsible for:

- Establishing, in consultation with the headteacher and school community, a practical and smart school uniform that accurately reflects the school's vision and values.
- Ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible and inclusive, and does not disadvantage any pupil by virtue of their protected characteristics or socio-economic status.
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of parents, pupils and the wider school community regarding changes to the school's uniform.
- Ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible and affordable.
- Demonstrating how best value for money has been achieved in the uniform policy.
- Ensuring compliance with the DfE's 'Cost of school uniforms' guidance.

The headteacher is responsible for:

- Enforcing the school's uniform on a day-to-day basis.
- Ensuring that teachers understand this policy and what to do if a pupil is in breach of the policy.
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of the school community in regard to the school's uniform and making appropriate recommendations to the governing body.

Staff members are responsible for:

- Ensuring that pupils dress in accordance with this policy at all times.
- Supporting pupils who are in breach of this policy.
- Ensuring that pupils understand why having a consistent and practical school uniform is important, e.g. school identity.

Parents are responsible for:

- Providing their children with the correct school uniform as detailed in this policy.
- Informing the headteacher if their child requires a more relaxed uniform policy for a period of time, including why.
- Ensuring that their child's uniform is clean, presentable and the correct size.

Cost Principles

The school is committed to ensuring that its school uniform is affordable and accessible to all pupils, and does not place an unreasonable financial burden on parents. The school will assess the overall cost implications of its uniform policy regularly, including prior to making any changes to the school uniform.

Equality Principles

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.

Ryhope Infant School Academy 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.

The school takes its legal obligation to avoid discriminating against any protected characteristic unlawfully very seriously, and aims to ensure that the uniform policy is as inclusive as possible so that all

pupils are supported to access a school uniform which is comfortable, suitable for their needs, and reflects who they are.

The school will ensure that parents and pupils are consulted over any changes to school uniform, and that views and advice are sought specifically from pupils, and parents of pupils, who have additional needs, religious or cultural requirements or gender requirements. The school implements a gender-neutral uniform.

Uniform

- Navy or grey skirt or pinafore dress, navy, grey or black trousers,
- Summer dresses (summer term) - Royal blue and white or navy and white,
- Royal blue sweatshirt or cardigan,
- Light blue or white polo shirt.
- Book Bag (available from school office)

Shoes - These should be black school shoes, no brightly coloured laces/logos are allowed. Footwear should be suitable for children to play outside in, no open toes/high heels.

Outdoor/Indoor PE kit – Please ensure that you provide your child with a PE kit.

This should consist of:

- Navy shorts, blue or white t-shirt,
- black or navy joggers
- suitable PE footwear.

All children are provided with a PE bag which remains the property of Ryhope Infant School Academy.

Outdoor play

Our pupils have access to outdoor spaces throughout the school year and, unless weather conditions are extreme, will be able to go out and play IF they have suitable clothing and footwear.

At different times of year, your child may need:

- Waterproof coat
- Hat / gloves / cap
- Sun cream
- Wellies

Accessories, hair and make-up

For health and safety reasons we do not allow children to wear jewellery at all, this includes watches and earrings. Staff will not remove earrings for pupils – parents will be telephoned to come to school and remove earrings before children can take part in continuous provision in EYFS, play times and any active lessons.

Hair bands, ribbons/bows or 'scrunchies' should be plain. Hair bands should not have large flowers/cat ears for example, attached. Hair accessories such as hair extensions or coloured hair pieces are not permitted.

Make up and nail varnish must not be worn to school. False nails must not be worn.

Extreme hairstyles are not appropriate for school. The use of styling products should be kept to a minimum and children should not have decorative patterns or 'tram lines' cut into their hair or have their hair coloured or dyed. For health and safety reasons and to ensure it does not distract from learning, long hair should be tied back.

Non-compliance with uniform policy

The head teacher, or a person authorised by the head teacher, may contact a parent to take their child home briefly to remedy a breach of the school rules on uniform. This will not be for longer than is necessary to remedy the breach. This is not an exclusion but an authorised absence. If the absence is longer than is necessary, the absence may be recorded as unauthorised. The parent will be made aware of this. If the school uniform policy is repeatedly breached then this may be grounds for exclusion.

If a child is not wearing the correct uniform because their parents are in financial difficulties we will be sensitive to individual needs of the family. The child will not be made to feel uncomfortable, nor discriminated against. In this circumstance, the school will work closely with the family.

There will be occasions when the school decides that school uniform is not appropriate e.g. when taking part in a physical activity day or wearing different clothes as a part of a fundraising event. Parents and carers will be notified in advance of what is the revised dress code on these days.

Lost property

Naming clothing and property is VERY IMPORTANT – Please ensure all clothing and property is clearly marked so that lost articles may be easily traced and returned. The school cannot accept responsibility for loss or damage of pupils' property and valuables. All mislaid items are collected in classrooms. Please ask the school office if you wish to look through the lost property collected.

We endeavour to return all named property.

Complaints

The school endeavours to resolve all uniform complaints and challenges locally and informally, in accordance with the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.

To make a complaint, parents should refer to the Complaints Procedures Policy and follow the stipulations outlined.

Monitoring and reviewing

This policy is reviewed every two years by the chair of governors and the headteacher. The scheduled review date for this policy is October 2027.