



Uniform Policy

Updated: December 2025

Produced by: Mrs T Allen

Ratified by: Governing Board (11/12/2025)

Signed: 

Mrs C Gibson

Chair of Trustees

Review Date: Autumn Term 2027

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 (August 2024) 'Suspension and Permanent Exclusion from Maintained Schools, Academies and Pupil referral Units in England, Including Pupil Movement'
- DfE (October 2025) 'Cost of School Uniforms'
- DfE (November 2025) 'School Uniforms Guidance for Schools'
- DfE (November 2025) 'Procuring School Uniform Supplies'
- DfE (September 2021) School Admissions Code

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.
- Ensuring their child's school uniform and appearance conforms with the parameters set out in this policy.
- Informing the headteacher if their child requires a more relaxed uniform policy for a period of time, including reasons 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.

We strongly encourage any parent who wishes to have their child's ears pierced to do so during the summer holidays, leaving sufficient time for the child's ears to fully heal, prior to the school term commencing.

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

We trust that all parents and carers will support the Headteacher and Governing Body to uphold the standards and expectations set out in this policy.

Where there is a matter of non-compliance with the School Uniform Policy, the Head teacher, or a person authorised by the head teacher, will contact the parent/carer to request they remedy the breach. In most cases, we would ask that the breach is remedied by the start of the following school day however, remedying a breach may include options such as the parent coming into school or briefly taking the child home to address the matter the same day.

Where a parent chooses to take their child home to remedy a breach of the School Uniform Policy, school expect this to be addressed swiftly, minimising any time away from school and any disruption to learning. The period where a child is away from school will be classed as an authorised absence, not a suspension or exclusion. If the time away from school is longer than is necessary, this may result in an unauthorised absence being recorded. If this is the case, the parent/carer will be made aware of this.

If the school uniform policy is repeatedly breached, this could represent grounds for a suspension from school, in line with our Behaviour Policy. Such action will be a last resort, as we are aware of the impact lost learning opportunities have upon progress and attainment of children.

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.

The School Uniform and Dress Code Non-Compliance Procedures are outlined in Appendix 1.

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 September 2027.

Appendix 1 -

School Uniform and Dress Code – Non-Compliance Procedures.

The School Uniform Policy applies to all children on roll, and all parents and carers are expected to ensure their child is fully compliant with the policy, at all times, unless a prior exemption has been agreed with the Headteacher.

Where a child's uniform or appearance are found to contravene the dress code, the following action will be taken:

1. Staff should inform the Headteacher, or in their absence, Deputy Headteacher of the policy breach.
2. The Headteacher, or in their absence, Deputy Headteacher, will visit the class to observe the child and review the policy breach to determine whether or not the breach presents an immediate or possible health and safety risk to the child, or other children.
3. Where the breach presents no immediate or possible health and safety risk to the child, or other children, the child's parents or carers should be made aware of the policy breach, provided with a copy of the School Uniform Policy and asked to ensure the child is fully compliant with the School Uniform Policy, by the start of the following school day.
4. Where the breach poses an immediate or possible health and safety risk to the child, or other children, the Headteacher, or in their absence, Deputy Headteacher, should telephone the child's parent/carer to discuss the breach and make arrangements for this to be resolved as quickly as possible. This may include the following:
 - a. The parent/carer coming into school, to remedy the breach immediately, or as soon as possible, so as to minimise the risk to the child, or other children and prevent any prolonged disruption to learning.
 - b. The parent/carer coming into school, to briefly take the child home to remedy the breach, before promptly returning to school. In this scenario, the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher will agree how long the child will be away from school and this will be recorded as an authorised absence, not a suspension or exclusion.

If the parent/carer does not return the child to school within the agreed timeframe, this could result in re-classification of the authorised absence to an unauthorised absence.

The parent/carer should make every effort to ensure the child is returned to school within the agreed timeframe, so as to avoid a prolonged disruption to learning.

5. If the School Uniform Policy is repeatedly breached, this contravenes both the School Uniform Policy and Behaviour Policy and therefore, could represent grounds for a suspension to be sanctioned.

Such action will always be a last resort, as school are aware of the impact lost learning opportunities have upon progress and attainment of children.