

School Uniform Policy

Sutton Valence Primary School



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Policy Statement

All children attending Sutton Valence Primary School are required to wear the agreed uniform and we encourage them to maintain a high standard of tidy dress in school.

Sutton Valence Primary School believes that a consistent school uniform policy is vital in promoting the ethos of the school and providing 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, 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 policy on school uniform is based on the notion that school uniform:

- Promotes a sense of pride in the school
- Creates a sense of community and belonging towards the school
- Identifies the pupil with the school
- Is practical and smart

Legal Framework

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

- Human Rights Act 1998
- Equality Act 2010
- Education Act 2021

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

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

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Complaints Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Equality Policy

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. When evaluating whether costs are reasonable and proportionate, the school will take into account the opinions and situations of:

- Economically disadvantaged parents.
- Parents with multiple children who are, or will be in the future, pupils at the school.
- Parents of younger children, as they are likely to grow quickly and require new sets of uniform more frequently.
- Parents of pupils with protected characteristics that may impact their ability to access the uniform due to costs.
- LAC and PLAC.

The school will evaluate the cost of its uniform based on the overall collection of uniform items that parents would need to purchase for a pupil, rather than on the cost effectiveness of individual items; this will include consideration of the fact that parents will need to purchase multiples of certain items, e.g. shirts and socks, to ensure their child can come to school in clean uniform every day.

The school is committed to meeting the DfE's recommendations on costs and value for money. Every care is taken to ensure that our uniform is affordable for all current and prospective pupils, and that the best value for money is secured through reputable suppliers.

Much of our school uniform is non-branded and is readily available from many supermarkets and high street / online stores.

The school will not frequently amend uniform requirements and will take the views of parents and pupils into account when considering any changes to school uniforms.

Equality Principles

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 work to ensure that school uniform's cost does not disproportionately affect any pupils by ensuring that uniforms for all genders are as equal in price as possible and by adhering to the cost principles laid out in this policy.

The school will ensure that parents and pupils are consulted over any changes to school uniform, and that views and advice is sought specifically from pupils, and parents of pupils, who:

- Are transgender, including non-binary pupils.
- Have SEND and/or sensory needs.
- Are of a religious or cultural background that has dress requirements.

The school implements a gender-neutral uniform, meaning that pupils are not required to wear specific items based on their gender, and may wear any of the uniform items listed in the 'School uniform' section of this policy, regardless of the legal sex recorded on the school's records.

The school ensures that pupils who are required to follow certain dress requirements, e.g. by virtue of their membership of a particular religious or cultural group, are afforded flexibility to allow them to wear a uniform that adheres to their requirements as far as possible.

The school endeavours to meet all requests for amendments to the uniform for these purposes; however, will ensure that the needs and rights of individual pupils are weighed against any health and safety concerns for the entire school community.

Parents' concerns and requests regarding religious clothing are dealt with on a case-by-case basis by the headteacher, and always in accordance with the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.

The school ensures that the needs of pupils with SEND and/or sensory difficulties are considered in the uniform policy, e.g. ensuring soft, stretchy fabrics and avoiding intricate buttons or hard seams; however, where the needs of these pupils cannot be met in the standard uniform policy, individual adaptations to the uniform will be considered and permitted wherever possible

Roles and Responsibilities

The headteacher is responsible for:

- Establishing, in consultation with the 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, affordable and inclusive, and does not disadvantage any pupil by virtue of their protected characteristics or socio-economic status.
- Demonstrating how best value for money has been achieved in the uniform policy.
- Ensuring compliance with the DfE's 'Cost of school uniforms' guidance.
- 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.

Staff members are responsible for:

- Ensuring that pupils dress in accordance with this policy at all times.
- Managing any breaches of this policy according to the school's Behaviour 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.

Pupils are responsible for:

- Wearing the correct uniform at all times, unless the headteacher has granted an exemption.
- Looking after their uniform as appropriate.
- Understanding and respecting why a school uniform is important to the school, e.g. school identity and community.

Our School Uniform Clothing Requirements

- White polo shirt - either plain or with the Sutton Valence Primary school logo
- Forest green school jumper or cardigan - either plain or with the Sutton Valence Primary school logo (jumpers with brand logos are not permitted)
- Black or grey trousers or skirts for winter
- Black or grey shorts or green checked dress for summer
- White, grey or black plain socks or tights
- A peaked cap for summer protection (sunglasses are not permitted)

Our School Uniform Footwear Requirements

- Black flat sensible, safe shoes with good grip on the sole. Alternatively, smart, black trainers with no white or coloured flashes or patterns. Bright coloured laces are not permitted. Shoes with open toes are not permitted in the summer.

Make-up and jewellery

- No make-up is to be worn to school (this includes nail polish)
- It is encouraged that pupils do not wear jewellery to school, especially as individuals become very upset if a treasured piece of jewellery goes missing or is damaged. The only acceptable items of jewellery permitted are small studs for pierced ears and sensible watches. Please note that school will be unable to take any responsibility for any jewellery/ watches lost or damaged.

Hair

- Hair longer than shoulder length must be tied up neatly at all times using plain hair accessories.
- No decorative or brightly coloured hair accessories are permitted.
- Hair should be clean, tidy, and off the face.
- Extreme hairstyles, such as shaved patterns or unnatural colours, are not allowed.

Our School PE Uniform Requirements

- White or house colour T-shirt
- Black or grey tracksuit bottoms or shorts
- Trainers/ black plimsolls
- School jumper/hoodie or black/grey jumper/hoodie
- Swimming: swimming costume/ trunks/ towel/ swimming hat for long hair.

Earth Class

Pupils should wear clothes that they don't mind getting dirty and are appropriate for the weather. Wellies should be brought to school for every session so that pupils have footwear to change into when outside. During the winter, pupils should bring coats and warm clothing and during the summer, pupils should wear tops that cover their shoulders to protect against the sun.

Ordering Uniform

Please label all school clothes with your child's name. We do our best to re-unite pupils with clothes, but it is very difficult for this to happen without a name. Uniform is available online from Your School Uniform: <https://www.yourschooluniform.com/schools/index/sutton-valence-primary-school-1669>

Uniform Labels

You can purchase name labels from Stikins for your child's uniform, bags, shoes, water bottle and anything else that they may bring into school. These labels are easy to apply, they simply stick in a stay in. Order from: <https://www.stikins.co.uk/> and quote our fundraising code 22702 when ordering your labels. Labels are dispatched to your home address on the same day as your order is placed if ordered before 3p

