Worth Valley Primary School

Achieve Believe Create Dreams

School Uniform Policy

Adopted by the Governing Body:
Chair of Local Governing Body: Rob Laughlin
Headteacher: Miss C Lodge
To be reviewed: February 2025

Approved: 1.2.2023

Introduction

Our school uniform is important to us. It is one way in which we identify ourselves as a school family and it promotes a strong, cohesive school identity which supports high standards and expectations in all areas of school life. It promotes harmony between different groups represented in the school and it enhances security, assisting the school to identify individual pupils both in school and on our frequent educational visits.

1. 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

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 Miss Lodge (Headteacher) or Mrs Page (Deputy Headteacher) who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests

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 form the Department for Education on the cost of school uniform.

We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, those with a school logo or a unique design) cannot be purchased from a wide range of retailers and that requiring too 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 features the school logo
- Avoiding specific requirements for items pupils could wear on non-school days, such as coats and bags
- 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 groups or classes
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- 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

4. Expectations for school uniform

In order to maintain a strong sense of identity and belonging within our school, the school uniform consists of:

• Navy blue sweatshirt/cardigan with logo*
• Royal blue polo shirt
• Grey tailored trousers – no jeans or leggings please
• Grey skirt or pinafore (modest length)
• Black, flat, sensible, safe 'school' shoes (not canvas or 'ballet' style) or plain black trainers
• Plain black, grey or white tights, knee or ankle socks

In warmer weather:
• Grey or black tailored shorts (modest length)
• Blue gingham dresses
• Cap or sunhat to protect from the sun

PE Kit
• White polo shirt
• Plain navy blue shorts
• Plain navy blue joggers
• Trainers for outdoor PE

*available to purchase from the school office

All the items above are readily available from most supermarkets or school uniform providers on the high street. If parents and carers find it difficult to obtain any item, please contact school. Our uniform has been kept simple and cost effective to avoid unnecessary expense. We expect all pupils to follow the dress code as written above.

If parents are unsure about any items of school uniform, they should contact the school for clarification.

Jewellery
Items of jewellery are not permitted at school. Should a pupil have pierced ears, only **plain studs** should only be worn and in order to comply with health and safety regulations, must be covered with a plaster during all PE activities. Sleepers, diamante and 'fashion' earrings are **not** permitted. Other body piercings are not allowed.

Please note that the school will be unable to take any responsibility for any jewellery that is lost. Watches may be worn to school. However, they must be removed and collected by the class teacher before any PE lessons.
Please note that the school will be unable to take any responsibility for any watches that are lost.

Make-Up
No make-up, nail varnish or permanent or temporary tattoos are to be worn.

Hair
We recommend that hair should be neat and tidy and worn with no extremes of style or colour. Tramlines, mohicans, large spikes, shaved sides with longer middle strip, tails etc are not permitted.
Should the Headteacher deem that the hairstyle does not fit in with our policy and ethos, parents will be contacted to discuss this.
Long hair should be tied back for safety when possible and at all times for PE lessons.

5. Expectations for our school community

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 Miss Lodge (Headteacher) or Mrs Page (Deputy Headteacher) if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics.

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 Miss Lodge (Headteacher) or Mrs Page (Deputy 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.

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.
Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with by the Senior Leadership Team.
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.

We recognise the importance staff and visitors play in providing a positive role model for dress. We expect all adults in school to:

- Set a good example in terms of dress
- Remember that in our respective roles we serve the local community as a set of professionals
- Not wear track suits or jogging bottoms unless during a morning or afternoon session where PE is being taught
- Not wear leggings, jeans, jeans-style trousers or denim
- Dress modestly (not short skirts, strappy tops and inappropriate logos)

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.

School Uniform Assistance/Hardship
Worth Valley Primary School supports vulnerable families in meeting the costs of uniforms.
School Uniform Assistance is an allowance of £26.00 per pupil

Uniform assistance will be given to those parents of children in Nursery to Year 6 who are in receipt of the following benefits:

- Income support
- Income based job seekers allowance
- Pension credit (Guarantee credit)
- Employment and support allowance (income based)
- Child tax credit (but not working tax credit)
- Universal credit

Further details

The budget for the School Uniform Assistance scheme will come from Pupil Premium Funding; all pupils in receipt of Pupil Premium Funding are eligible for the School Uniform Assistance.

This policy was reviewed and formally adopted by the Governing Body of Worth Valley Primary School on

Signed: *Ceinwen Lodge* **Headteacher**

Date: 1 February 2023

Signed: *Rob Laughlin* **Chair of Governors**

Date: 1 February 2023