



Uniform Policy 2024/2025

Signature of Headteacher:	<i>C Wood</i>
Adopted by the Governing Body:	May 2025
Next Review Date:	May 2026

At Southill Primary School, we believe that a school uniform promotes a sense of belonging and equality among our pupils. Our uniform policy is designed to be inclusive, affordable and practical, supporting a positive learning environment for all our pupils.

This policy outlines our expectations regarding schoolwear, ensuring that it is suitable for a range of activities, including classroom learning, physical education, and extracurricular activities. We aim to minimise costs for families while maintaining a standard of dress that reflects the values and ethos of our school community.

We are committed to regularly reviewing our uniform policy in consultation with parents, carers and pupils to ensure it continues to meet the needs of our diverse school community. We also encourage feedback and suggestions to improve the policy further.

This policy aims to:

- Explain how we will avoid discrimination in line with our legal duties under the Equality Act 2010
- Set out our approach to requiring a uniform that is of reasonable cost and offers the best value for money for families
- 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 age, sex, disability, race, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity and gender reassignment.

To avoid discrimination, our school will:

- Offer gender-neutral uniform options, allowing pupils the flexibility to choose attire that best suits their comfort and identity
- Make sure that our uniform costs the same for all pupils
- Allow all pupils to have long hair (though we ask for this to be tied back)
- Allow all pupils to style their hair in a way that is appropriate for school and makes them feel most comfortable
- Allow pupils to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons or if they are experiencing discomfort related to their sex, gender or gender reassignment
- Allow pupils to wear headscarves and/or other religious garments
- Allow pupils with sensory or physical needs associated with neurodiversity to make reasonable adaptations to their uniform depending on their specific needs
- Allow for reasonable adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their families to get in touch with the Headteacher, who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

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 (DfE) on the cost of school uniform.

We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that need 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/carers' 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 families

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
- Keeping the number of optional branded items to a minimum, so that the school's uniform can act as a social leveller
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents/carers to acquire second-hand uniform items
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents/carers of any changes
- Consulting with parents/carers and pupils on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy

We are committed to ensuring that all pupils have access to the required school uniform, regardless of their family's financial situation. We understand that purchasing school uniforms can be a significant expense, and we are here to support our families in need.

- We organise regular second-hand uniform sales in collaboration with our Parent-Teacher Association (FOSS). These sales offer gently-used uniforms at reduced prices, helping families manage costs.
- Families experiencing financial difficulties can apply for our Uniform Assistance Programme. This provides eligible families with vouchers or direct support to help cover the cost of new uniforms. Please contact the school office for more information on how to apply.
- We believe that every child should feel comfortable and confident in their school uniform, and we are dedicated to providing the necessary support to make this possible.

Expectations for school uniform

Our school uniform

- Branded Southill Primary jumper, cardigan or fleece
- White polo shirt
- Black or grey trousers, skirt, shorts or skorts
- Black, grey or white socks
- Black or grey tights
- Black or grey pinafore dress or blue gingham in summer
- Black shoes or boots (no trainers, canvas, open-toed sandals or high heels)

On PE Days (come to school in PE kit)

- T Shirt in house team colours

- Plain hoodie in house team colours OR usual school jumper
- Black shorts
- Black, grey or white socks
- Trainers

N.B Jewellery of any kind is prohibited during PE lessons.

Where to purchase

- Dorset Embroidery and Printwear. 4 McKay Close, Lynch Lane, Weymouth DT4 9DN
- Dorset Schoolwear. Caroline Place Weymouth DT4 8NW
- FOSS have second hand school uniform sales during the year.

Prohibited Items in School Uniform

To maintain a cohesive and professional school environment, we ask that pupils adhere to the following guidelines regarding prohibited items:

- Only small stud earrings and watches are permitted. Other forms of jewellery, including necklaces, bracelets and large earrings, are not allowed.
- Pupils are not permitted to wear nail varnish or false nails while in school.
- Tattoos, whether permanent or temporary, are not permitted.
- Make-up is not allowed during school hours.
- Hair should be kept neat and tidy. Hair braids, unless part of a cultural or religious expression, should be kept to a minimum and not include beads or other embellishments.
- Hair accessories should be minimal and in school uniform colours.
- Extreme hairstyles or unnatural hair colours are not permitted.
- Tights are not to be worn during PE lessons. Pupils should wear appropriate PE shorts or trousers.

These guidelines ensure that all pupils maintain a uniform appearance and focus on their learning without distractions.

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 expected to contact the Headteacher if they wish to request an adaptation of the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics.

Families

Families 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/carers are expected to contact the Headteacher if they wish to request an adaptation of the uniform policy in relation to:

- Their child's protected characteristics, sensory or physical needs associated with neurodiversity
- The cost of the uniform

Parents/carers 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/carers to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

Staff

Staff will closely monitor pupils to make sure they are in the correct uniform. They will give any pupils and their families who are 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 Headteacher.

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.

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 pupils and families
- 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 annually by the Headteacher. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.