



Oak View School, Whitehills Road, Loughton, Essex, IG10 1TS

Tel: 020 8508 4293 Fax: 020 8502 1864 Email: tina.kearney@efspt.org

Website: www.oakviewschool.org Head Teacher: Mrs Tina Kearney

School Uniform Policy

Written	September 2022
Last Reviewed	September 2022
Review Due	September 2024

Statement of intent

Oak View 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. However, the school recognises the sensory challenges that many of our pupils face in wearing specific items of clothing and therefore although extremely encouraged, a set uniform is not compulsory at the school.

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, able to be themselves, and dressed in such a way that sets an appropriate tone for education.

1. 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
- Education (Guidance about Costs of School Uniforms) Act 2021

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'

2. 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 keeps branded uniform items to a minimal level that is reasonable for all members of the school community. The school defines a branded uniform item as any item of clothing that cannot be purchased at a range of retailers, including by virtue of logos, colours, design and fabrics.

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

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

3. 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.

With this taken in to consideration, although uniform with the school logo is available to purchase, reasonable adaptations are taken in to consideration to ensure that pupils are comfortable to learn. This includes allowing school 'coloured' clothing instead of logo specific uniform and in some cases allowing non-uniform that is practical and appropriate. Non-uniform is allowed in Years 12, 13 and 14, although the school recognises that some pupils will wish to continue to wear school specific uniform as it may support transition to and from school.

4. School uniform supplier

Our current school uniform supplier is:

- www.macpac.com
- MAPAC GROUP LTD. 6 Mowat Estate, Sandown Road, Watford, Herts, WD24 7UZ. U.K. Tel:+44 (0)1923 255525

The school will retender the uniform contract every five years, whether changes to the uniform are made or not, in line with the Tendering and Procurement Policy. The governing board will be able to demonstrate how uniform is procured at the best value for money. The headteacher will work to ensure that the items are procured as cheaply as possible without compromising on the quality, e.g. by requesting standard-style items from the supplier rather than more intricate and unique designs.

5. School uniform

School colours

Our school colour is blue.

Clothing

The school uniform is as follows:

All Pupils

- Suitable grey bottoms; trousers, joggers, shorts pr skirt.
- A white or blue polo shirt – school branded is available.
- A blue sweatshirt or cardigan – school branded is available.

Trainers are considered suitable footwear as are typical school shoes. High heels are not permitted.

Jeans are strongly discouraged unless in Years 12,13 or 14.

A PE kit of appropriate shorts/joggers, a t-shirt and plimsols or trainers in a separate bag is encouraged.

Pupils who attend hydrotherapy sessions will require a suitable swim suit and towel.

Pupils, particularly in Lower School are also encouraged to have a pair of wellington boots that can remain in school.

6. Adverse weather

All pupils are required to wear weather-appropriate clothing that covers as much of their skin as possible during adverse weather.

For hot temperatures, this includes wearing:

- Loose-fitting and lightweight clothing.
- Shorts
- Tops that cover the shoulder area.
- Sunglasses with UV protection when outside, where possible.

Pupils are advised not to wear any jumpers or coats during heatwaves.

For cold temperatures, this includes wearing:

- Scarfs, gloves, coats and hats when they are outside.
- Warm jumpers that conform to the school's uniform policy.
- Trousers, or thick tights with skirts.

7. Labelling

All pupils' clothing and footwear should be clearly labelled with their name.

Any lost clothing is to be taken to the lost property box in the school office. All lost property is retained for a half term and is disposed of if it is not collected within this time or moved to the spare clothing facility.