PDET

School Uniform Policy

Date	Revision & Amendment Details	By Whom
September 2026	First Version	Central Executive Team

CONTENTS

1		Introduction	3
2		Aims	3
3		Legal Duties Under the Equality Act 2010	3
4		Limiting the Cost of School Uniform	3
5		Expectations for School Uniform	4
6		Expectations for the School Community	4
	6.1	Children	4
	6.2	Parents and Carers	4
	6.3	Staff	5
7		Monitoring Arrangements	5
8		Links to Other Policies	5

Appendix – School Specific Details: Expectations for School Uniform 6

1. Introduction

School uniform, as stated in the Department for Education's statutory guidance: *Cost of School Uniforms*, should:

'*help to build a sense of identity and community among children and with their school. To do this, it must be affordable. Affordability should never be a barrier to the schools for which parents apply or the activities in which children can participate*'.

A uniform, can play a key role in promoting the ethos of a school; providing a sense of belonging and identity; and setting an appropriate tone for education.

By creating a common identity among all children, regardless of background, a uniform can act as a social leveller. It can also act to reduce bullying and peer pressure to wear the latest fashions or other expensive clothes.

However, if the uniform is too expensive, it can place an unreasonable burden on families. If a distinction can be made between those who can afford it and those who cannot, this can reduce its benefits. This has the potential to negatively impact attendance, access and participation and has the potential to lead to bullying.

Parents / carers should not have to think about the cost of a school uniform when choosing which school(s) to apply for. No uniform should be so expensive as to leave children or their families feeling unable to apply to, or attend, a school of their preference. Nor should the cost of uniform be a barrier to children participating in sport and other school activities. Therefore, it is important to ensure their uniforms are affordable.

2. Aims

This policy aims to:

- Set out Peterborough Diocese Education Trust's (PDET / the Trust) approach for its schools (school / s) in relation to requiring a uniform that is of reasonable cost and offers the best value for money for all parents and carers
- Explain how the Trust will avoid discrimination in line with its legal duties under the Equality Act 2010
- Clarify the Trust's expectations for school uniform.

3. 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, sexual orientation, disability, race, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity, and gender reassignment. Schools should be mindful of their duties under the Equality Act and the Trust's Equality Statement.

4. Limiting the Cost of School Uniform

Schools have a duty to make sure that the uniform required is affordable, in line with statutory *guidance* from the Department for Education (DfE) on the cost of school uniforms.

The Trust understands that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that need to have a school logo attached or be in a unique fabric or style) cannot be purchased from a wide range of retailers, and that requiring many such items limits parents / carers' ability to shop around for the best price.

Therefore, each school will make sure their uniform:

- Is available at a reasonable cost
- Provides the best value for money for parents and carers.

They will do this by:

- Following the statutory limits for compulsory branded items of uniform and PE kit to a maximum of 3 or fewer
- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary, and limiting these items where possible
- Limiting compulsory branded items to low-cost and / or long-lasting items
- Avoiding single-supplier contracts, to make sure generic items can be purchased from a range of retailers
- Considering cheaper alternatives to compulsory branded items, such as logos that can be ironed on, as long as this doesn't compromise quality and durability
- Avoiding specific requirements for items such as coats, bags and shoes / trainers that children could also wear on non-school days
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities including (but not limited to) sport, music and drama
- Considering alternative approaches, including loaning compulsory branded items such as sports kit for competitions
- Avoiding requiring different branded items for particular times of the year, such as a branded dress in summer and a branded skirt in winter
- Making sure that opportunities to acquire second-hand items in a timely manner are accessible to parents and carers of both current and prospective children, and publishing this information on the school's website
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications, and minimising the financial impact on parents / carers of any changes
- Consulting with parents / carers and children on any proposed significant changes to the school uniform policy
- Continuing to review the school specific part of this policy, to ensure the cost of uniform is reasonable and provides the best value for money.

5. Expectations for School Uniform

Details of an individual school's expectations for school uniform are set out in the *Appendix.*

6. Expectations for the School Community

6.1 Children

Children 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).

6.2 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.

Any concerns or complaints parents / carers may have relating to the school uniform should be raised in a timely and reasonable manner in accordance with the school's complaints policy.

6.3 Staff

Staff will closely monitor children to make sure they are in correct uniform. They will give any children 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 the uniform policy will be dealt with by the headteacher.

In cases where it is suspected that financial hardship has resulted in a child not complying with this uniform policy, staff will take a mindful and considerate approach to resolving the situation and the child will not miss classroom teaching because of a sanction. This is in line with the statutory *guidance*.

7. Monitoring Arrangements

This policy will be reviewed every three years by the Trust's Central Executive Team.

8. Links to Other Policies

This policy is linked to our:

- Behaviour policy (which includes Anti-bullying policy)
- Equality information and objectives statement
- Complaints policy

APPENDIX - School Specific Details: Expectations for School Uniform

1. Limiting the Cost of School Uniform

- Following the statutory limits for compulsory branded items of uniform and PE kit (maximum of 3 or fewer), the school's uniform consists only optional branded items.

2. Details of Our School Uniform

As a school, we have very clear principles about how our school uniform can reflect our aspirations and exceptional standards. Our policy is based on the notion that a school uniform:

- Sets a tone for the high expectations of our school
- Creates uniformity and equality with all children
- Fosters a feeling of identity and belonging to the school
- Promotes pride amongst our children

Parents are also responsible for ensuring their child arrives at school in appropriate clothing for the seasonal weather conditions. In cold weather this includes a suitable coat and possibly hats and gloves. Hats or caps should be worn in hot sunny weather.

General Guidelines

- 'Extreme' haircuts are not permitted in school.
  'Extreme' being any haircut that is considered by the school to be significantly different so as to cause distraction to others and therefore their learning and so not in keeping with the school's ethos. Examples of haircuts not permitted include tram lines or equivalent, shaved sides with longer hair across the centre, use of hair products such as gel. This list is not exhaustive.
- Long hair should be tied back at all times and short hair in a suitable style for school. Plain hair bands are permitted.
- No jewellery, except small, plain studs for pierced ears and wrist watches – both of which must be removed for P.E. (ear studs can be covered with plasters for the first few weeks until earrings can be safely removed).
- No make-up or nail varnish to be worn in school.
- Children may wear caps or hats to protect themselves from the sun or adverse weather conditions. These items are not to be worn indoors.
- Any request to change uniform on religious grounds can be applied for. All requests should be made directly to the Headteacher.
- **PLEASE MAKE SURE ALL ITEMS OF CLOTHING ARE NAMED.**

Whole School Uniform

All logo items can be purchased from our uniform supplier.
Link here: Brigade

Daily Essentials

- Book bag / Small rucksacks
- (optional) Logo Book Bag and rucksack available from Brigade
- Labelled water bottle

Uniform

- Royal Blue sweatshirt / sweat cardigan

(School Logo preference but optional)

- White polo shirt – or shirt / blouse
- Grey trousers, shorts, pleated skirt, pinafore dress
- Plain Grey, Black or White socks
- Grey or Black tights
- Black shoes/ankle boots (no trainers unless for medical purposes)
- School logo fleece body-warmer (optional item)

Summer Alternative Uniform

- As above
- Blue Gingham dress
- White / Black sandals (with socks)

PE Kit

- Blue School logo t-shirt
- Black or Navy shorts
- Plain Grey, Black or White socks
- Plain Black or white Trainers (outdoor PE)

Outdoor

- As above
- Grey, black or navy plain tracksuit bottoms or leggings
- Grey, black or navy plain tracksuit top
- Gloves (not worn for sports activities involving hands such as netball, basketball, throwing and catching)

3. Additional Information

New Uniform
All non-logo items can be purchased from a range of high street shops (or online)
Logo items are purchased via our uniform supplier - Brigade

Preloved Uniform Shop
We offer pre-loved uniform to all of our families at heavily discounted prices. If you would like any further information on this, please do not hesitate to contact FoSS.

Footwear
All children are expected to wear appropriate black shoes whilst at school. Black/White Sandals (with socks) are also permitted during the summer months.
Children are permitted to wear alternative footwear for medical conditions.

PE Kits
Children are expected to wear their correct school PE kits for all PE lessons.
All children come to school in their PE kits on the days they have PE and stay in them all day.

All children need to wear a suitable plain (Black/Navy/Grey) tracksuit or logo hoodie for outdoor PE lessons during cold weather.