

School uniform policy

Thrapston Primary School



Approved by: Mrs Pauline Turner (Head Teacher) **Date:** September 2022

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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 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, 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](#) from the Department for Education on the cost of school uniform.

We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that have 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' 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:

- › Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics where possible: for example, by only asking that the school jumper features the school logo and not the polo shirt
- › Providing one book bag (with the school logo on) free of charge when a child joins the school
- › Avoiding specific requirements for items pupils could wear on non-school days, such as coats
- › 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/class/house groups
- › 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

4.1 Our school's uniform

We believe that the wearing of a school uniform enables children to identify with their school, gives a sense of belonging, is practical and smart, reinforces a positive work ethos and reduces expenditure for parents and carers.

› Branded items which are required

- › Red school logo branded sweatshirt or cardigan

› Generic items instead of branded ones

- › Plain white polo shirt/regular shirt/blouse
- › Black trousers or black skirt/pinafore
- › White/black/grey socks or white/black/red tights
- › Red/white checked dress or black shorts can be worn in the summer.

› Footwear

- › We have seen a wide variety of shoes and boots beginning to be worn into school, many of which are quite unsuitable for school life that involves a lot of walking or running. Therefore, the school uniform is simply black shoes (not trainers or sandals and no other colours) of a 'sensible' style. This ensures uniformity, practicality and above all, safety for the children.

› Branded items which are optional

- › Optional items available include a school gym bag and a replacement book bag

› Expectations for PE and swimming kit

- › For PE, a white round neck T shirt, black shadow stripe shorts and black plimsolls. A plain, black tracksuit is also useful for outdoor activities in the winter.
- › For swimming, children will need a one-piece costume/shorts and a towel. They can bring goggles and a swimming hat if they choose to.

4.2 Where to purchase it

- Please follow www.earthuniform.com
- School Logo items can only be purchased through the Earth Uniform website. The rest of the uniform can also be purchased through Earth Uniform (and the school gets commission for EVERY piece of uniform purchased, either with or without the school logo on) but can obviously be purchased through other stores as well.

Second-hand uniform

- The Facebook Group - Thrapston Primary Uniform Swap is a great site for sourcing and making donations of school essentials. You can also contact cgolding@thrapston.net if you need any support with uniform as we have a bank of supplies in the HUB and we may be able to help

4.2 Expectations for jewellery/accessories

In the interest of safety, we encourage children not to wear jewellery in school. Jewellery can present a risk of injury to the wearer and to others, and our aim is to keep children safe from harm at school.

In general:

- Children may wear a plain watch to school, but must take it off for physical activities, including PE.
- Children may wear one pair of earrings (small studs ONLY) to school, but must take these out for physical activities. If children cannot remove their jewellery themselves (for example: small studs), **it** would be useful if children did not wear their small studs on PE days, or on days when they are taking part in a sporting activity.
- No other jewellery should be worn by children at school, including bands around wrists.
- No jewellery should be worn for swimming.
- Any hair accessories, such as headbands, must be small and sensible. Appropriate hair style/cut with natural hair colours only.

5. Expectations for our school community

5.1 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 pturner@thrapston.net if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics.

5.2 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

Parents are also expected to contact pturner@thrapston.net 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.

5.3 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.

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.

5.4 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.

6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by pturner@thrapston.net. At every review, it will be approved by [the full governing board].

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

- › Behaviour policy
- › Equality information and objectives statement
- › Anti-bullying policy
- › Complaints policy