

School Uniform Policy

The Federation of Abbey Infant and Junior School



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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 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 (or other head covering) and other religious or cultural symbols

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:

- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary
- Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics where possible for example features the school logo on our jumper, cardigan and P.E t-shirt.
- **All parents can choose to buy unbranded versions, without a logo, from a supermarket or the like, as long as it's the same colour.**

See our website for an example of our school uniform and where you can purchase it:

<https://www.abbeyfederation.co.uk/page/?title=School+Uniform&pid=51>

- Limit the specific requirements for items pupils could wear on non-school days, such as coats, bags and shoes, for example world book day/school performances/WOW days. No pupil would ever be disadvantaged by not taking part e.g. wearing school uniform on a dress-up day. We also encourage children to reuse, make or wear pre-loved clothing/costumes.
- 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 or class.
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents to acquire second-hand, pre-loved uniform items. Friends of Abbey (our PTA) are regularly organising uniform, sharing availability with our families
- 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

At Abbey we want a school uniform that is inclusive and which:

- Promotes the ethos of the school
- Provides a sense of belonging and identity
- Sets an appropriate tone for education

Our school uniform consists of:

- A royal blue jumper or cardigan.
- Grey or black trousers, shorts, skirt or pinafore dress
- A blue, gingham summer dress
- White or light blue shirt or polo t-shirt
- P.E kit – white round neck t-shirt and royal blue shorts / jogging bottoms with black PE pumps
- Swimming kit – swimming costume or shorts, swimming hat and towel
- Some children may choose to wear a head scarf (or other head covering) for religious reasons - this should be black or royal blue in colour, where possible
- Earrings should only be studs and removed for P.E and swimming
- Black shoes or trainers – please avoid branded trainers
- Grey, white, navy or black tights and socks

Items with logos are available from Ace Embroidery Ltd <https://ais.ace-online.co.uk/catalogue> but are not mandatory.

4.2 Where to purchase it

You can purchase our uniform:

- By accessing the link from the home page of our website - <https://ais.ace-online.co.uk/catalogue>
- Most high street supermarkets will stock the royal blue school jumper and cardigan, school trousers / shorts / dresses / skirts / PE Pumps/white PE t-shirt
- We will have periodic pre-loved uniform sales throughout the year. These are organised in conjunction with our Friends of Abbey (PTA). Parents will be notified of these events via school comms and via our school website. Please contact the school office if you require our pre-loved uniform at other points in the year. We believe in extending the life of garments as this is more sustainable.

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 the headteacher 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

The school will always make reasonable adjustments against the Equalities Policy and Protected Characteristics. 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 Phase leaders in the first instance, if the situation doesn't improve.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with discussion with parents and pupils to identify the reasons why.

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. Parents will also be offered pre-loved uniform as and when available.

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 following any updates to the DFE guidance or where changes to uniform are considered.

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

- Behaviour and Anti Bullying Policy
- Single Equalities Policy and Accessibility Plan
- Complaints Policy
- Charging and Remission Policy

[Policies | The Federation of Abbey Infant and Abbey Junior Schools \(abbeyfederation.co.uk\)](http://abbeyfederation.co.uk)

Change Log

Date	Change	By who
July 22	Updated following FGB to headscarf or other covering to broaden acknowledgement all religions.	R Kentish
Nov 25	Updated website links. Updated following government guidance about limiting branded items. Included more information about pre-loved uniform. Added clarity throughout to uniform expectations – branded items aren't mandatory.	J Yale

