

Meadowside Primary School

Uniform Policy

Reviewed: September 2026

Next Review: September 2027

Contents

1. Aims 2
2. Our school's legal duties under the Equality Act 2010 2
3. Limiting the cost of school uniform 2
4. Expectations for school uniform 3
5. Expectations for our school community 4
6. Monitoring arrangements 5
7. Links to other policies 5

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 age, sex, disability, race, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity, 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 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 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 parents/carers to get in touch with Mrs Victoria Whitlock, who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis

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 (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 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
- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost
- Considering cheaper alternatives to school-branded items
- Avoiding specific requirements for items pupils could wear on non-school days, such as coats, bags and shoes
- 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
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- 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

4. Expectations for school uniform

4.1 Our school's uniform

- We recommend children wear 3 branded items. These are a polo shirt, cardigan/jumper and P.E T-shirt. (see appendix)
- A branded hat and book bag are optional (see appendix)
- We accept generic shoes, trousers, skirts, shorts, book bag, pinafore, skirt, P.E shorts, white socks, grey socks
- P.E Kit is compromised of a Meadowside T-shirt, dark shorts, socks and trainers
- No jewellery allowed except stud earrings and watches (smart watches are banned). Religious jewellery may be allowed. All must be removed or covered during PE
- Extreme hairstyles are not allowed, including: patterns shaved into hair, bright or unnatural hair colours, excessive use of styling products and false hair or extensions.
- Long hair should be tied back for safety and this is compulsory during PE.
- Children will need a book bag when they begin at Meadowside. This does not have to be branded but we request that it is green. A simple Google of 'Green book bag' will bring up lots of affordable options
- We require children to wear black school shoes
- For children to play on the field, they will need a change of footwear. We ask that these are either wellies or trainers.
- In the warmer months, children are allowed to wear grey shorts or summer dresses.

4.2 Where to purchase it

- Items with the school logo are available from Monkhouse in Gloucester. Meadowside P.E tops can also be purchased. You will then need to look under Primary Schools and M for Meadowside. The shop is located at 99 Northgate Street, Gloucester and their phone number is 01452 413339.
- We encourage parents and carers to shop around for additional uniform items and these can be found on the following websites or stores:
- Asda (nearest store is in Kingsway)
- Marks and Spencers (nearest store is in Gloucester)
- Matalan (nearest store is in Quedgeley)
- Tesco (nearest store is in Quedgeley)
- Second hand uniform is supplied by the amazing Friends of Meadowside and they hold uniform sales throughout the year. There is an opportunity for new reception children to have access to second hand uniform before they begin at Meadowside in September, as well as those children that join us mid-year.

Please pop into the office, call the school on 01452 721 767 or email admin@meadowsideprimary.co.uk if you would like to ask about second hand uniform.

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 Mrs Victoria Whitlock (Inclusion Lead) 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/carers are also expected to contact Mrs Victoria Whitlock 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/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.

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.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with by Mr Dan Port (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.

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/carers 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, location of the items and value for money. This will be done through the school secretary, who will compare prices of items across Cheltenham, Gloucester and Stroud.

6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed every year by Mr Dan Port (Headteacher). At every review, it will be approved by the full governing body.,

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

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

This policy will be updated annually with approval from staff and the governing body.

Appendix

Name	Image	Recommended
Branded School Polo Shirt		Yes (the same colour plain polo shirt is also acceptable)
Branded School Jumper/Cardigan		Yes (the same colour jumper/cardigan is also acceptable)
Branded School PE T-Shirt		Yes
Meadowside Cap		No
Meadowside Book Bag		No
Meadowside P.E Bag		No