

Policy: School Uniform

A uniform helps to develop a sense of belonging to the school and prevents competition and additional costs. We have found that wearing school colours supports us in maintaining our high standards of behaviour. We encourage Foundation 1 (Nursery) children to also wear the uniform, as set out below. Please contact the Head of School if you need help to fund the uniform or if you have any questions, comments or concerns.



Uniform

item	description	additional notes
top	navy sweatshirt, cardigan or jumper (each year, Year 6 choose a different colour)	- tops with logo are available (not essential)
shirt	white short sleeved polo shirt or white shirt	- polo-shirts with logos are available (not essential)
trousers / skirt / dress	grey trousers/shorts; or knee-length skirt or pinafore dress; or blue and white checked / striped dress	- no jeans, cords or leggings (Foundation 1: jogging bottoms / leggings are allowed)
socks / tights	plain white / grey / navy / black socks; or plain white / grey / navy / black tights	- should be a plain, block colour
footwear	black / white / grey / brown plain and flat footwear	- avoid expensive brands - choose shoes that are safe to run around for healthy playtimes (avoid open-toes / straps)
	<i>PE pumps (see below) are sometimes needed in times of very bad weather. For Early Years, wellies are encouraged when it's wet for use in all the outdoor areas of provision.</i>	

PE kit, which should be worn on PE days

item	description	additional notes
t-shirt	indoor: plain white t-shirt (long or short sleeved) outdoor: as above, plus the school sweatshirt	- this can be a t-shirt or polo-shirt (shirts with logos are available, but not essential)
shorts	grey / black / navy shorts or PE skirt	
tracksuit bottoms	grey / black / navy tracksuit bottoms / leggings	ideal for outdoor use
footwear	trainers	- bare feet for most indoor PE - KS1: trainers from Summer term

Supplier: School uniform can be purchased from various suppliers – ask at the school office if you're unsure.

Additional notes

All clothing should be clearly labelled. We gather lots of lost property – please help us to reduce this amount!

Other items: Other items of school equipment are available. These include a book bag, PE bag and a separate bag for packed lunch. Water bottles should be plastic/metal, labelled, and regularly cleaned.

Hair: Long hair should be tied back (this is so that it does not distract from learning and for hygiene reasons). Hairstyles should not be attention seeking eg extreme styles such as sculptured names / symbols, mohicans or dyed hair are neither appropriate or acceptable for children of primary school age. This includes eyebrows. Hair accessories should be minimal: as small as possible and not too bright.

Jewellery, watches and other accessories: Regarding jewellery, only plain stud earrings (no more than 4mm wide) and items that are absolutely required by a religion are allowed. Advisors recommend no earrings are worn for PE; therefore, we will ask your child to remove earrings before the lesson and put them back in after the lesson. This will be carried out by the child. If they are unable to remove or put their earrings back in by themselves, they must not wear them on the day they have PE. A watch or step counter is allowed. Any device that connects to the internet (eg a smart watch) is not allowed for safeguarding reasons; such items can be handed over at the start of each day.

Make-up: No make-up, including nail varnish, and no temporary tattoos.

Bags: For reasons of space, please restrict bags to small backpacks / shoulder bags; handbags aren't appropriate.

Religious requirements and race equality: We follow local authority advice in such matters (eg *Valuing Diversity; Awareness Raising for Schools* document). Sikhs are traditionally required to wear a bangle and boys to cover their hair, which is left uncut, secured in a top-knot or turban. Where safety is an issue, pupils will be asked to tape them to the skin or wear a sweatband.

Non-uniform days: Pupils should dress appropriately and respectfully for school, even on non-uniform days. Clothes are inappropriate if they, for example, glorify violence, feature bad language, are very short (eg crop tops), or relate to age-inappropriate topics (eg computer games). When consulted (18.03.21), some junior leaders described this as 'setting-appropriate' clothing and clothing that is 'well-judged'.

Make-up (other than face paints as part of a specific costume) is not allowed.

Flip-flops or high-heeled shoes are not allowed, even on non-uniform days, because they're dangerous when running.

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Date: May 2022

1. Principles

The [Department for Education 19.11.21](#) sets out important benefits of school uniform:

We strongly encourage schools to have a uniform as it can play a key role in:

- promoting the ethos of a school
- providing a sense of belonging and identity
- setting an appropriate tone for education

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

Sphere Federation schools aim to ensure:

- the cost of school uniform is affordable
- our suppliers give high priority to cost and value for money (including the quality and durability of garments)

Our pupils are clear about the benefits of school uniform. Junior Leadership Teams (JLTs) have been consulted:

- *'It saves time because we don't have to choose new clothes every day'; 'It prevents peer pressure to look cool.'* (JLT, Moortown Primary, 25.05.22)
- *'It shows which school we go to – it's a sense of community; 'When we go on school trips it helps the teachers identify use among other people..'* (JLT, Scholes (Elmet) Primary, 07.06.22)

2. Key points

The following are **key points for parents / carers** to be aware of / act on:

- wearing a school uniform brings with it many benefits (see above)
- everyone following the policy brings a sense of fairness: *'I think [school uniform's] really important because when you go to school everyone is wearing the same.'* (JLT, St James' CE Primary, 23.05.22)
- branded items are available (including for PE), but optional
- school uniform details are set out on the following page
- parents / carers are able to purchase generic items of uniform from a range of retailers giving them choice and value for money
- for branded items as well as non-branded items, at least three suppliers are listed on each Sphere Federation school website (with different price ranges enabling choice with regards value for money and personal preferences)
- second hand items can benefit all parents and, by extending the life of items, are more sustainable; items may be available in school (lost property that has not been claimed) or at [Leeds School Uniform Exchange](#)
- Sphere Federation supports ethically sourced school uniforms; further information regarding ethics and sustainability can be found either on our suppliers' websites or by contacting them directly

The following are **key points for Sphere Federation schools**:

- we avoid single supplier contracts
- we ensure second-hand uniforms are available for parents/carers
- we periodically engage with parents and pupils, including when this policy is reviewed (parent/carer annual survey, 2022; Junior Leadership Team meetings, summer 2022)
- we think about the total cost of school uniform, including PE kit and not just everyday classroom wear, and avoiding the requirement for unnecessary additional items for extra-curricular activities
- we consider how the cost of uniform might affect each group represented at the school, including children who belong to groups with a particular protected characteristic
- in order to ensure compliance with our policy, we're happy to meet with parents / carers to explore reasons why and seek a solution
- periodically, and when prompted by parent / carer feedback, we review our suppliers, and always provide at least three options for uniform
- we typically have spare, clean items of uniform, including PE kit, for children to change into if they're not wearing the items set out in this policy