

Yorkswood Primary School uniform policy

Yorkswood Primary 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 all 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, sexual orientation, 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
- Make sure that our uniform costs the same for all pupils
- Allow all pupils to have long hair, although we reserve the right to ask that long hair 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
- 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 Mr Ryan Lawrence via enquiries@yorkswoodprimary.co.uk, 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 uniforms.

We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items or items featuring a school logo) can limit parents' and carers' ability to shop around for the best price. To support our primary school community and ensure our uniform is accessible to all families, no branded items are compulsory.

Our uniform is designed around simple, standard colors to ensure everything can be easily bought from high street stores or supermarkets. The everyday uniform consists of white t-shirts (or polo shirts), red jumpers, dark grey or black trousers, and black shoes. For PE days, pupils wear red PE t-shirts and trainers. While we offer optional branded red jumpers and red PE t-shirts for purchase, parents and carers are fully entitled to purchase plain, generic equivalents.

Furthermore, to remove financial barriers for our families, the school operates a free clothing bank stocked with donated uniform items (including red jumpers, white t-shirts, and trousers), as well as black shoes and trainers.

We ensure our uniform is available at a reasonable cost and provides the best value for money by:

- Zero compulsory branded items: Setting our compulsory branded item limit to zero—well within the DfE statutory cap of 3 or fewer items for primary schools—ensuring families are never required to buy logoed clothing.
- Relying on generic, widely available colors: Designing our uniform around basic colors (white t-shirts, red jumpers/PE shirts, dark grey/black trousers) so parents can buy plain, generic alternatives from a wide range of affordable retailers.
- Operating a free clothing bank: Providing an on-site clothing bank stocked with free, donated pre-loved primary uniform items, as well as shoes and trainers, available to all parents and carers of both current and prospective pupils.
- Publishing clothing bank access details: Clearly publishing information on our website about how families can access the clothing bank or donate items in a discreet, timely, and convenient manner.
- Practical and versatile footwear: Avoiding expensive or specialized shoe requirements by simply asking for standard black shoes for everyday wear, and allowing pupils to wear their own trainers on PE days.
- Avoiding restrictive everyday requirements: Refraining from specifying mandatory styles or brands for general items such as winter coats and school bags.
- Maintaining consistency across year groups: Keeping uniform and PE kit expectations consistent from Early Years through Key Stage 2, eliminating the need for parents to purchase new styles as pupils progress through the primary school phases.
- Avoiding frequent specification changes: Minimizing financial impact on parents/carers and maximizing opportunities for hand-me-downs between siblings or donations to our clothing bank.
- Consulting our community: Engaging with parents, carers, and pupils on any proposed future uniform adjustments, and handling any concerns in line with the school's complaints policy.
- Regular cost reviews: Periodically reviewing uniform costs and support provisions to ensure our expectations remain inclusive, fair, and budget-friendly.

4. Expectations for school uniform

4.1 Our school's uniform

Branded Items We are committed to keeping uniform costs affordable for all families. Therefore, there are no compulsory branded items required at our school.

Parents and carers may choose to purchase optional branded items featuring the school logo, but plain, generic alternatives in our school colors are fully permitted and equally welcomed.

- Optional branded items: Red jumper/cardigan, red PE t-shirt.

Everyday Uniform Expectations (Generic items permitted) Our everyday school uniform is designed to be practical, comfortable, and widely accessible from supermarkets and high street retailers.

- Tops: Plain white t-shirt or polo shirt.
- Jumpers / Cardigans: Plain red jumper or cardigan (or optional branded version).
- Bottoms: Dark grey or black trousers, skirts, pinafores, or tailored shorts.
- Summer Wear: Red gingham summer dresses or dark grey/black tailored shorts may be worn during warmer months.
- Footwear: Plain black shoes.

PE Kit Expectations Pupils should wear practical clothing suitable for physical activity. On PE days, pupils wear their PE kit to school.

- Top: Plain red t-shirt (or optional branded version).
- Bottoms: Plain dark trousers, shorts, leggings, or tracksuit bottoms (preferably black).
- Footwear: Black shoes or trainers suitable for sports.

Swimming Kit Expectations (Year 5) When Year 5 pupils participate in swimming lessons as part of the curriculum, they require:

- A one-piece swimsuit or fitted swim trunks/shorts (fit for purpose and modesty).
- A towel and waterproof bag.

Coats, Bags, and Outerwear We do not specify a required brand, style, or color for coats or school bags so that items can also be used on non-school days. We only ask that coats are weather-appropriate and bags are sized appropriately to carry a reading book and water bottle.

Jewellery and Hair In line with the Equality Act 2010, our uniform policy ensures pupils are not discriminated against based on protected characteristics.

- Hair: Hairstyles should be neat and practical. For health and safety reasons, long hair must be tied back during PE and practical sessions. Hair accessories should be minimal and preferably in school colors. Hairstyles worn for cultural or religious reasons are welcomed.
- Jewellery: For health and safety, jewellery must be kept to a minimum. Pupils may wear one pair of small, plain stud earrings and a standard watch. Smart watches (including those with cameras or cellular capabilities) are strictly not permitted. All jewellery must be removed or safely taped during PE.

4.2 Where to purchase or acquire it

New Items

- Generic Items: All everyday unbranded uniform items (white t-shirts, red jumpers, dark grey or black bottoms, black shoes, black PE bottoms, and trainers) can be purchased widely from high street retailers, supermarkets, and online stores.
- Optional Branded Items: If parents/carers wish to purchase optional branded red jumpers or red PE t-shirts, these can be ordered and bought directly from the school office, which holds stock on-site.

Second-Hand Uniform and Our Free Clothing Bank We believe that uniform should never be a barrier to learning or a financial strain for families. We operate a fully stocked, free Clothing Bank providing donated pre-loved uniform items (including red jumpers, white t-shirts, and dark bottoms), as well as shoes and trainers.

- Availability: The clothing bank is accessible to parents and carers of both current and prospective pupils throughout the year, ensuring families have timely access to uniform well ahead of new terms.
- How to Access Discreetly: We respect our families' privacy and ensure uniform can be requested quickly and confidentially. You can access the clothing bank by emailing familysupport@yorkwoodprimary.co.uk or by speaking directly to the main school office.
- Donations: We welcome donations of clean, good-quality pre-loved uniform, shoes, and trainers that your child has outgrown. Donations can be dropped off directly at the school office.

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)

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 Mr Lawrence 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 in accordance with the school's complaints policy.

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.

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 and the pupil will not miss classroom teaching because of a sanction. This is in line with the statutory guidance.

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 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 the headteacher. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.