



Abbots Ripton Church of England Primary School

School Uniform Policy

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Our church school creates a firm foundation where together, with God's help and with the help of others, we learn for life, achieve our best and grow in faith

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

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 will ask that this is 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 parents to contact the Headteacher at office@abbotsripton.cambs.sch.uk, to 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 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:

- › Using two uniform companies for our branded items as this enable us to be competitive with prices
- › Limiting the items which require our school logo to just the jumper/cardigan
- › Keeping the number of optional items with our school logo to a minimum, so that the school's uniform can act as a social leveller
- › Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year groups
- › Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents to regularly view and acquire nearly new second-hand uniform items through our PTA, STARS. These items are 'sold' for an anonymous donation which enables parents/carers to pay what they can afford.
- › 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

Add details of your school uniform to this section, including:

- › The only item which needs to have our school logo is a school jumper/cardigan.
- › Our uniform is a royal blue jumper and/or cardigan which has our logo on it. Grey school trousers, grey school shorts, grey skirts or a grey school dress may be worn. These items should be worn with a light blue polo top, black shoes and white or grey socks and/or tights. All of these items with the exception of the school jumper/cardigan may be purchased from any retailer.
- › In the warmer months, children may wear a light blue and white checked summer dress.
- › Our PE kit is a black tracksuit (bottoms and a top) with a plain white t-shirt. We ask that these are not branded e.g. they shouldn't contain sports logos e.g. football tops. For indoor PE we ask for black shorts and a plain white t-shirt. All of these items may be purchased from any retailer.
- › No jewellery should be worn to school with the exception of small stud earrings which can be removed and/or covered for PE. If there are religious and/or cultural reasons for wearing jewellery, (taking into account the requirement described above to avoid discrimination in line with the Equality Act 2010) please do let us know.
- › All children are expected to wear black shoes to school. These may be a trainer style if they are all black. In the summer, children should not wear open toed or flip-flop style shoes.
- › Hair longer than shoulder length must be tied back for school and we ask that hair accessories such as headbands and clips are plain and in line with the school uniform colours – blue, black or white.

- › Children in Reception and Key Stage 1 require a book bag. These can be purchased with a school logo but they do not need to be branded. However, they must be an appropriate size to fit in the classroom drawers. These children do not require any other bags.
- › Children in Key Stage 2 may bring a bag to school but we do not have any preference of colours/style but we do ask that this is not too large as space in our cloakrooms is limited.
- › Children in Reception will require an all in one waterproof and a pair of wellington boots. These do not need to be branded and can be purchased from any retailer.
- › All children require a coat for school and we do not have any preference with regards to colours/styles.
- › In wetter months, we will ask all children to have a pair of wellington boots or an old pair of trainers – this is so that we can continue to use the school field even when it is wet outside.

4.2 Where to purchase uniform

- › Our school branded items may be purchased from www.schooltrendsonline.com or www.YourSchoolUniform.com
- › Parents may purchase all uniform items (except jumpers/cardigans) from any high-street retailer or supermarket.
- › Our PTA (STARS) collects and washes nearly new second-hand uniform. This is available at all times, please do ask at the school office to view it. STARS will also have a uniform stall at least termly for example at Parent Consultations, the Christmas and Summer Fayres and any open sessions. STARS ask for a donation which is made into a box anonymously which enables parents to pay what they can afford for the items.

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 items are:

- › Clean
- › Clearly labelled with the child's name
- › In good condition

Parents are also expected to contact the Headteacher 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 of children who are eligible for Pupil Premium may speak to the Headteacher to request financial support with school 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 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 the Headteacher and 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 body 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 Governors 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 every 3 years or more frequently when a need arises.