

Athersley South Primary School

School Uniform Policy

Date policy last reviewed: Spring 2024

Signed by:

_____ Headteacher Date: _____

_____ Chair of Governors Date: _____

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Statement of intent

Athersley South Primary School believes that a consistent school uniform policy is vital to promote the ethos of the school and provide a sense of belonging and identity for all pupils, regardless of their protected characteristics or socio-economic circumstances.

For the purposes of this policy, “**uniform**” includes the following elements of pupils’ appearance:

- Clothing, including the school uniform itself, variations of the school uniform such as PE kits, and other clothing worn at school, e.g. non-uniform.
- Hairstyles and headwear.
- Jewellery and other accessories.
- Cosmetics such as makeup and nail polish.

This policy lays out the measures the school has taken to ensure a consistent, fair and inclusive uniform policy, and to implement a uniform that reflects the needs of all pupils, and is affordable and the best value for money for the school and pupils’ families.

We believe that pupils learn most effectively and achieve their best outcomes when they are comfortable, able to be themselves, and dressed in such a way that sets an appropriate tone for education.

1. Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

- Human Rights Act 1998
- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Equality Act 2010
- Education Act 2011
- The UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)
- Data Protection Act 2018
- Education (Guidance about Costs of School Uniforms) Act 2021
- DfE (2021) 'Cost of school uniforms'
- DfE (2021) 'School Admissions Code'
- DfE (2021) 'School uniforms'
- Equality and Human Rights Commission (2022) 'Preventing hair discrimination in schools'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Complaints Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Procurement Strategy

2. Roles and responsibilities

The governing body is responsible for:

- Establishing, in consultation with the headteacher and school community, a practical and smart school uniform that accurately reflects the school's vision and values.
- Ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible and inclusive, and does not disadvantage any pupil by virtue of their protected characteristics or socio-economic status.
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of parents, pupils and the wider school community regarding changes to the school's uniform.
- Ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible and affordable.
- Demonstrating how best value for money has been achieved in the uniform policy.
- Ensuring compliance with the DfE's ['Cost of school uniforms'](#) guidance.
- Processing and approving all eligible School Uniform Assistance Application Forms.

The headteacher is responsible for:

- Enforcing the school's uniform on a day-to-day basis.
- Ensuring that teachers understand this policy and what to do if a pupil is in breach of the policy.
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of the school community in regard to the school's uniform and making appropriate recommendations to the governing body.

Staff members are responsible for:

- Ensuring that pupils dress in accordance with this policy at all times.
- Ensuring that pupils understand why having a consistent and practical school uniform is important, e.g. school identity.

Parents are responsible for:

- Providing their children with the correct school uniform as detailed in this policy.
- Informing the headteacher if their child requires a more relaxed uniform policy for a period of time, including why.
- Ensuring that their child's uniform is clean, presentable and the correct size.

Pupils are responsible for:

- Wearing the correct uniform at all times, unless the headteacher has granted an exemption.
- Looking after their uniform as appropriate.
- Understanding and respecting why a school uniform is important to the school, e.g. school identity and community.

3. Cost principles

The school is committed to ensuring that its school uniform is affordable and accessible to all pupils, and does not place an unreasonable financial burden on parents.

In accordance with the 'School Admissions Code', the headteacher will ensure that the school's uniform policy does not discourage parents from applying for a place for their child.

The school will assess the overall cost implications of its uniform policy regularly, including prior to making any changes to the school uniform. When evaluating whether costs are reasonable and proportionate, the school will take into account the opinions and situations of:

- Economically disadvantaged parents.
- Parents with multiple children who are, or will be in the future, pupils at the school.
- Parents of younger children, as they are likely to grow quickly and require new sets of uniform more frequently.
- Parents of pupils with protected characteristics that may impact their ability to access the uniform due to costs.
- LAC and PLAC.

The school will evaluate the cost of its uniform based on the overall collection of uniform items that parents would need to purchase for a pupil, rather than on the cost effectiveness of individual items; this will include consideration of the fact that parents will need to purchase multiples of certain items, e.g. shirts and socks, to ensure their child can come to school in clean uniform every day.

The school does not implement variations in school uniform for different groups of pupils, e.g. year group-specific items or house colours, to ensure that pupils can get the most wear out of their uniform possible and that parents can pass some items down to younger siblings.

The school does not insist on the wearing of branded uniform items. The wearing of branded items is optional. The school defines a branded uniform item as any item of clothing that cannot be purchased at a range of retailers, including by virtue of logos, colours, design and fabrics. Where the school decides to require an item of branded clothing, it will conduct an assessment to ensure prices are kept as low as possible, e.g. by offering sew- or iron-on logo badges for jumpers that can be bought at retailers instead of requiring special branded jumpers.

The school is committed to meeting the DfE's recommendations on costs and value for money. Every care is taken to ensure that our uniforms are affordable for all current and prospective pupils, and that the best value for money is secured through reputable suppliers.

All required uniform items may be unbranded and can be obtained from multiple high street retailers to enable parents to obtain the best value for money possible. The school does not enter into exclusive single supplier contracts or cash-back arrangements. More information on supplier processes can be found in the 'School uniform supplier' section of this policy.

The school will not amend uniform requirements regularly and will take the views of parents and pupils into account when considering any changes to school uniforms.

4. Equality principles

The school takes its legal obligation to avoid unlawfully discriminating against any protected characteristic very seriously. In line with this, the school will aim to ensure that its uniform policy is as inclusive as possible so that all pupils can access a school uniform which is comfortable, suitable for their needs, and reflects who they are, while avoiding any direct or indirect discrimination on the basis of protected characteristics or socio-economic status.

The school will work to ensure that school uniform's cost does not disproportionately affect any pupils by ensuring that uniforms for all genders are as equal in price as possible and by adhering to the cost principles laid out in section 3.

The school will ensure that parents and pupils are consulted over any changes to school uniform, and that, where appropriate and with pupils' consent, views and advice are sought specifically from pupils, and parents of pupils, who:

- Are transgender or non-binary.
- Are of a religious or cultural background that has specific dress requirements.
- Have SEND and/or sensory needs.

Parents' concerns and requests regarding school uniform and amendments to it are handled on a case-by-case basis by the headteacher and governing board, and always in accordance with the school's Complaints Policy.

Information on how the school ensures its uniform policy does not discriminate against pupils with specific protected characteristics is outlined below.

Gender

To avoid disproportionately impacting pupils of a certain gender, the school will ensure that the cost of uniform is as equal in price as possible across items for all genders.

This includes:

- Adhering to the procedures laid out in the [‘Cost principles’](#) section of this policy.
- Not directly requiring pupils of a certain gender to buy additional uniform, e.g. by requiring female pupils to buy both trousers and skirts.
- Not indirectly requiring pupils of a certain gender to buy additional uniform, e.g. by offering football in PE to only male pupils and requiring they buy football boots to participate.

Not holding pupils of different genders to different uniform standards, e.g. by banning certain hairstyles for only one gender.

The school implements a gender-neutral uniform, meaning that pupils are not required to wear specific items based on their gender, and may wear any of the uniform items listed in the ‘School uniform’ section of this policy regardless of the legal sex recorded on the school’s records. Transgender pupils are supported to access the uniform that best reflects their gender expression.

Religion and belief

To avoid disproportionately impacting pupils of a certain religion, belief or culture, the school will ensure that there is flexibility to allow pupils to present themselves in a way that adheres to their dress requirements as far as possible, within the school’s uniform policy.

The school will endeavour to meet all requests for amendments to the uniform for these purposes; however, the needs and rights of individual pupils will be weighed against any health and safety concerns appropriate to the circumstances, e.g. if safety headgear needs to be worn.

Race

To avoid disproportionately impacting pupils of a certain race, the school will ensure that its uniform policy does not constitute unlawful indirect discrimination through blanket rules. This includes:

- Not banning hairstyles related to a pupil’s ethnic origin, e.g. natural Afro hairstyles.
- Not banning hairstyles worn because of cultural, family and social customs, e.g. cornrows.
- Not banning head coverings related to a pupil’s culture or ethnic origin, e.g. African heritage head wraps.

The school will follow the good practice guidance provided by the Equality and Human Rights Commission on [‘Preventing hair discrimination in schools’](#).

SEND and medical conditions

To avoid disproportionately impacting pupils with SEND or medical conditions, the school will ensure its uniform policy takes into account the needs of these pupils. This includes:

- Ensuring the school uniform uses soft, stretchy fabrics and avoids intricate buttons or hard seams.
- Allowing variations to the standard uniform for pupils whose medical conditions may impact how they dress, e.g. pupils with casts who require loose-fitting clothing or pupils with hair loss-related conditions who wish to wear head coverings.

Where the needs of these pupils cannot be met in the standard uniform policy, individual adaptations to the uniform will be considered and permitted wherever possible.

5. Complaints and challenges

The school endeavours to resolve all uniform complaints and challenges locally and informally, in accordance with the school's Complaints Policy.

To make a complaint, parents should refer to the Complaints Policy and follow the stipulations outlined.

When a complaint is received, the school works with parents to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

Governors are willing to consider reasonable requests for flexibility to allow a pupil to accommodate particular social and cultural circumstances.

6. School uniform supplier

Our current school uniform supplier is:

- **My Clothing Ltd**
- Address: Old Heath Road, Wolverhampton, West Midlands WV1 2BF
- Website: myclothing.com
- Tel: 0800 059 0594

The governing body will ensure that a written contract is in place with the supplier for branded items.

The school will retender the uniform contract every five years, whether changes to the uniform are made or not, in line with the Procurement Strategy. The governing body will be able to demonstrate how uniform is procured at the best value for money. The headteacher will work to ensure that the items are procured as cheaply as possible without compromising on the quality, e.g. by requesting standard-style items from the supplier rather than more intricate and unique designs.

The school does not sign contracts with suppliers before requesting visualisations of proposed uniform, as well as fabric samples.

7. Uniform assistance

The school holds second-hand school uniform items for parents to access. Items are priced at 50 pence each; access to these uniforms is available upon request.

Parents are invited to donate their child's uniform when they no longer need it.

8. Non-compliance

Staff will be permitted to discipline pupils for breaching this policy, where relevant to their role, in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy.

The wearing of school uniform is a requirement of attendance at Athersley South Primary School and is not optional (with the exception of pupils in Nursery, where parents may opt for their child to wear non-uniform).

The school will work with any parent or child who is experiencing difficulty in adhering to this policy. The school should be contacted if this is the case.

Parents will be notified of breaches in all cases.

9. School uniform

School colours

Our school colours are as follows:

- Royal Blue

Clothing

The school uniform is as follows:

Item	Optional or required	Branding	How to acquire	Cost per item from school supplier (as at November 2023)
Regular school uniform				
Royal blue sweatshirt or royal blue cardigan	Required	Branding is optional (School logo on right-hand side)	Branded sweatshirt and cardigan available from school supplier and second hand from school office. Plain sweatshirt or cardigan can be bought from regular high street retailers.	£10.30

White or royal blue polo shirt	Required	Branding is optional (School logo on right-hand side)	Branded item available from school supplier, second hand from school office. Plain polo shirt available from regular high street retailers.	£6.80
Blue school fleece	Optional	School logo on right-hand side	Available from school supplier.	£13.50
Grey trousers, grey skirt or grey pinafore dress	Required	No branding	Available from school supplier, second hand from school office and available from regular high street retailers.	£9.50 - skirt
Sensible, plain black shoes	Required	No branding	Available from regular high street retailers.	N/A
PE kit				
Plain white t-shirt	Required	No branding	Available from regular high street retailers.	N/A
Plain shorts (royal blue/black being the recommended colour)	Required	No branding	Available from regular high street retailers.	N/A
Elasticated pumps/training shoes	Required	No branding	Available from school supplier, second hand from school office and available from regular high street retailers.	£6.20
PE bag	Optional	Branding optional (School logo on front of bag)	Branded item available from school supplier. Non branded available from regular high street retailers.	£5.00
Plain/dark tracksuit or jogging trousers and sweatshirt for outdoor PE	Required	No branding	Available from regular high street retailers.	N/A
Accessories				
School book bag	Optional	School logo	Available from school office.	£4.00

High heels are not permitted; however, block heels of no more than 3cm can be worn.

Skirts must be knee-length. Black jeans and leggings are not permitted.

Parents are responsible for ensuring their child brings their PE kit to school when needed.

Jewellery

Permitted jewellery that may be worn is:

- One pair of stud earrings – no other piercings are permitted.
- A sensible wrist watch. Please be aware that 'SMART' watches are not permitted.

Pupils will be advised that jewellery is their personal responsibility and not that of the school. Lost or damaged items will not be refunded. All jewellery must be removed during practical lessons, including PE lessons.

School bag

Pupils must use an appropriately sized bag to carry their books and equipment. It should hold A4-sized work books comfortably without causing any damage.

School bags featuring inappropriate images, slogans or phrases are not permitted.

The school will discourage pupils from bringing valuable bags to school. The school will not be liable for lost or damaged school bags.

Hairstyles and headwear

The school reserves the right to make a judgement on whether a pupil's hairstyle, hair colour or headwear is inappropriate for the school environment; however, the school will ensure that any such judgements do not discriminate against any pupil by virtue of their protected characteristics. Each individual pupil's scenario will be taken into account where any judgements on appropriateness are to be made, and parents will always have the freedom to complain via the school's Complaints Policy.

Pupils with long hair must ensure that this does not impede their vision, cover their face or provide a health and safety risk. Long hair must be tied up during practical lessons, e.g. during PE.

The following hairstyles are not considered appropriate for school:

- Brightly-coloured, dyed hair.
- Headwear with bold patterns or colours.
- Excessive hair accessories.
- Headwear featuring inappropriate words or images

Makeup and cosmetics

The school rules on makeup and cosmetics are as follows:

- Makeup is not permitted.
- False nails and nail extensions are not permitted.
- Temporary tattoos are not permitted.

10. Adverse weather

All pupils are required to wear weather-appropriate clothing that covers as much of their skin as possible during adverse weather.

For hot temperatures, this includes wearing:

- Loose-fitting and lightweight shirts and dresses with sleeves and collars or covered necklines.
- Over the knee skirts, shorts or trousers.
- Tops that cover the shoulder area.
- Sunglasses with UV protection when outside, where possible.

Pupils are advised not to wear any jumpers during heatwaves.

For cold temperatures, this includes wearing:

- Scarfs, gloves, coats and hats when they are outside.
- Warm jumpers that conform to the school's uniform policy.
- Trousers, or thick tights with skirts.

11. Labelling

All pupils' clothing and footwear should be clearly labelled with their name.

Any lost clothing is taken to the lost property box outside the sports hall. If this is not claimed, at the end of each term it will be added to the school's second-hand uniform stock or donated to charity as appropriate.

12. Monitoring and review

This policy is reviewed annually by the chair of governors and the headteacher. The next scheduled review date for this policy is Spring 2025.

Any changes to this policy will be communicated to all staff, pupils, parents and other relevant stakeholders.