



Highters Heath Community School Uniform Policy



Rights Respecting Schools' Article/s

Article 8 – I have the rights to an identity.

Article 15 – I have the right to meet friends and join groups.



Uniform Policy

Introduction

It is our school policy, and therefore our expectation, that all pupils wear the correct school uniform when attending school, or when participating in school-organised events outside normal school hours. As a school, we expect parents full support with this and for them to ensure that their children are dressed in our school uniform before leaving for school each day. We also expect parents to challenge their children accordingly, where this is not the case.

We ask our pupils to wear their polo-shirts/shirts tucked into their skirts, shorts or trousers and to take a pride in their personal appearance. School uniform is a way of showing that pupils are **READY, RESPECTFUL and SAFE**, in line with our whole-school ethos.

Some items of uniform can be bought with the Highters Heath Community School logo on from the school office, whilst alternative plain (non-logo) items are easily available, at very competitive prices, at local shops including supermarkets. **Parents should not have to think about the cost of a school uniform when choosing their school. As a school we are mindful of costs and we therefore allow our pupils to wear uniforms with or without school logos.** A complete list of the items needed for school uniform, including those for PE is included in this policy.

“We believe that the wearing of a school uniform enables pupils to identify with their school, gives a sense of belonging, is practical and smart, reinforces a positive work ethos, and reduces expenditure for parents/carers. It also helps to prepare pupils for wearing uniforms at their Secondary Schools.”

This policy has been created in consultation with parents and pupils.

Aims and objectives

The aims of this policy are to:

- ensure clarity of what can be worn or not worn at school;
- promote a sense of pride in our school;
- help to create a sense of community and belonging towards the school;
- ensure that our pupils can be clearly identified within our school;
- support our commitment to inclusion;
- prevent pupils from wearing ‘fashion clothes’ that could be distracting in class, or cause unnecessary competition and conflict with their peers;
- ensure pupils’ uniforms are practical, smart, affordable and are suitable, with health and safety in mind;
- ensure that pupils are dressed smartly.

Jewellery, Hair Ornaments, Make-up, Nail Varnish and Headscarves

For health and safety reasons we do not allow pupils to wear jewellery (including necklaces). The exception to this rule is stud earrings and small objects of religious significance. Pupils are required to remove any items (including earrings) for PE lessons to prevent them from causing injury. Your child’s class teacher will advise you when PE lessons are to take place so earrings can

be removed at home prior to these. Older pupils may remove earrings prior to PE lessons. Please note: Teachers are not permitted to remove earrings for pupils of any age.

Hair bands, ribbons/bows or 'scrunchies' should be plain, of a small size (in the case of bows) and either red, white, navy or black. Hair bands should not have objects attached to them such as flowers. Make up, false nails and nail varnish should not be worn to school, unless for a special function, for example a school disco. Children will be provided with baby wipes to remove makeup where necessary.

Pupils are free to wear a headscarf at Highters Heath if they wish to. These must however be plain and either white, navy or black. Headscarves of the type which drape to shoulder length or just below are acceptable. Longer headscarves are not permitted for safety reasons.

Footwear

For health and safety reasons, we do not allow pupils to wear shoes with platform soles, 'Heelys' or high heels. All pupils are required to wear flat, plain black shoes or trainers without logos. These should be closed in with no toes visible. If boots are worn these should also be flat and plain black. Sandals, Crocs and flip-flops are not permitted.

Pupils can bring trainers into school, to change into for break periods. Pupils must however change back into shoes before re-entering the school building at the end of break periods.

PE Days

On PE days, pupils are expected to bring their PE kits to school in a suitable bag and can leave them on their coat peg if they wish for the week or half term.

Adaptations for Weather

In the cold weather, particularly in the winter months, pupils are expected to wear coats and are permitted to wear a hat/ear-muffs, scarf and gloves. Please ensure that all items are clearly labelled with your child's name. Please consider the cost of such items before sending them to school as children may get wet / muddy in such weather.

On warm days, all pupils are still expected to wear full uniform (although not jumpers). Items such as polo-shirts / short-sleeved shirts, tailored shorts and summer dresses are all appropriate in the hot weather. Please note that PE kits should only be worn on PE days, unless permission has been given by the Headteacher to allow these due to very hot conditions.

The Role of Parents

We believe that one of the responsibilities of parents is to ensure that their child has the correct uniform and PE kit, and that it is clean, in good repair and that their child's name is written on all items. If a parent has difficulties for any reason with fulfilling this request, they are asked to speak confidentially to a senior member of staff to discuss the issues. Parents should be assured that we will do all we can to help.

Pupils who arrive at school wearing non-school uniform or PE clothing will be loaned an appropriate item from school where possible. Parents will be contacted to discuss the matter and may be requested to return to school with correct clothing.

The school welcomes pupils from all backgrounds and faith communities. If there are serious reasons, for example on religious grounds, why parents want their child to wear clothes that differ from our school uniform, the school will consider such requests sympathetically. If any parent would like to request a modification to the uniform policy they should, in the first instance, contact the Headteacher.

The Role of Staff

Staff should support the Leadership Team in maintaining high standards of uniform dress. They should ensure that they are role models in the wearing of appropriate clothing (including on trips – no jeans). **Where pupils fail to wear the correct uniform, staff should make discreet and sympathetic enquiries. A letter may also be sent home to parents regarding this or another form of contact may be made with parents.** Where pupils are wearing the correct uniform, staff should give positive encouragement. Staff should also be aware that sometimes a pupil's standard of dress may indicate care issues at home. If this is suspected, it should be referred to a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).

The Role of Governors

The governing body supports the Headteacher in implementing the school's uniform policy. It considers all representations from parents regarding the uniform policy and liaises with the Headteacher to ensure that the policy is implemented fairly and with sensitivity. It is the governors' responsibility to ensure that the school uniform meets all regulations concerning equal opportunities. Governors ensure that the school uniform policy enables pupils to dress sensibly, in clothing that is hardwearing, safe and practical.

Special Circumstances

Special dispensation can be requested for temporary or longer-term exemptions from the prescribed school uniform or elements of it. This will usually be on medical grounds or for other exceptional circumstances. The Headteacher will have the ultimate decision on granting or refusing this.

Sanctions

The Headteacher has the authority to sanction pupils for not wearing the correct school uniform. In extreme cases, a pupil could be suspended for persistently failing to follow the school uniform policy. It is our intention to explore all alternatives, through consultation and discussion with parents/carers, to avoid this sanction being taken.

If a pupil arrives at school not wearing the correct uniform, school will endeavour to find the cause and remedy the situation. Parents/Carers will be contacted. Should the problem persist, parents/carers may be invited into school to discuss the situation.

Lost Property

Any unidentified items of school uniform will be taken to the lost property box in the lower hall. Pupils are encouraged to look here to reclaim lost property, on the understanding that the found item will be clearly named.

Children can become upset as a result of lost clothing. Please help us to reunite lost items of clothing with their owners by labelling items with your child's name.

Help Providing Uniform

The Rubery Schools Community Swop Shop provides free 'preloved' items of school uniform (including shoes and trainers) to any families who request this. This is not means-tested and no donation (uniform or monetary) needs to be given in exchange. As well as uniforms, they can also provide PE kits, shoes, coats, winter essentials if required. Please visit <https://www.ruberyswopshop.co.uk> for further information.

Monitoring and Review

The governing body monitors and reviews the school uniform policy by:

- seeking the views of parents, to ensure that they agree with and support the policy;
- considering, with the Headteacher, any requests from parents for individual pupils to have special dispensation with regard to school uniform.

Policy Information

Updated – September 2025

To be reviewed – September 2028

School Uniform List

Our school uniform colour is a combination of red, white and grey/black. Most items can be bought from high street shops. Items marked with a * below can be bought with the school logo on if preferred. Uniform with logos on can be purchased from the school office.

Our school uniform is gender neutral and consists of the following:

All Pupils
White polo shirt, white shirt or blouse Grey or black skirt / pinafore dress / shorts / trousers (<i>not jogging bottoms</i>) Please note skirts and tailored shorts should be a <u>minimum of knee length</u> and of a style which allows pupils to sit comfortably on the floor. Three-quarter, calf-length and full-length leggings should not be worn. Cycling shorts are not permitted unless they are under a dress, skirt or shorts. Red & white checked or striped dresses Red sweatshirt* or cardigan*, <i>without a hood</i>, either plain or with the school logo Plain white / black socks Black, white or grey tights Shoes should be flat, black and appropriate for school. Your child should wear shoes which he or she can manage to do up independently Please do not send your child to school in shoes which prevent them from running in the playground. If boots are worn these also should be plain black. Head scarfs must be black, white or navy and plain (no patterns or sparkles) Red book bag (optional)
P.E.
All Pupils
Plain black shorts/tracksuit bottoms Plain white t-shirt (<i>no football shirts</i>) For PE, appropriate footwear is essential: trainers (Velcro fastening for EYFS and KS1) or plimsolls should be worn. During cooler months – a school jumper can be worn over their t-shirt. Hoodies are not permitted. Small pump bag

Visual shoe examples

Permitted	Not Permitted
	
	

(Please note that this is not an exhaustive list, if you have any specific questions please ask.)