



Uniform Policy

February 2023

Next review due February 2024

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Statement of intent

Markeaton 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 children, regardless of their protected characteristics or socio-economic circumstances.

For the purposes of this policy, **“uniform”** includes the following elements of children’s 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 children, is affordable, and provides the best value for money for both the school and children’s families.

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

Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and guidance 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](#)
- [Equality Policy](#)

Roles and responsibilities

The governing board 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, inclusive, and does not disadvantage any child because of their protected characteristics or socio-economic status.
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of Parents/Carers/carers, children and the wider school community regarding changes to the school's uniform.
- Ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible and affordable.
- Demonstrating in this policy how best value for money has been achieved.
- Ensuring compliance with the DfE's '[Cost of school uniforms](#)' guidance.

The Headteacher is responsible for:

- Enforcing the school's uniform rules on a day-to-day basis.
- Ensuring that teachers understand this policy and know how to implement it.
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of the school community in regard to the school's uniform and making appropriate recommendations to the governing board.
- Providing children with an exemption as appropriate, e.g. for a child who has a broken arm and requires a loose-fitting shirt.

Staff are responsible for:

- Ensuring that children dress in accordance with this policy at all times.
- Where appropriate to their role and the circumstances, applying the school's behaviour policy.
- Ensuring that children understand why having a consistent and practical school uniform is important, e.g. school identity.

Parents/Carers are responsible for:

- Providing their children with the correct school uniform as detailed in this policy.
- Informing the Headteacher if their child requires an exemption to the uniform rules for a period of time, with a reason why.
- Ensuring that their child's uniform is clean, presentable and the correct size.

Children 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.

Cost principles

The school will ensure that its school uniform is affordable and accessible to all children, and does not place an unreasonable financial burden on Parents/Carers.

In accordance with the '[Local Authority Admissions Code](#)', the Headteacher will ensure that the school's uniform requirements do not discourage Parents/Carers 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 consider the opinions and situations of:

- Economically disadvantaged Parents/Carers.
- Parents/Carers with multiple children who are, or will be in the future, children at the school.
- Parents/Carers of children with protected characteristics that may impact their ability to access the uniform.
- Looked After Children and Post Looked After Children.

The school will evaluate the cost of its uniform based on the overall collection of uniform items that Parents/Carers would need to purchase for a child, rather than on the cost effectiveness of individual items. This will include consideration of the fact that Parents/Carers 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 will keep variations in school uniform for different groups of children, e.g. year group-specific items or house colours, to a minimum to ensure that children can get the most wear out

of their uniform and that Parents/Carers can pass some items down to younger siblings (where applicable).

The school will keep branded uniform items to a minimal level that is reasonable for all members of the school community. The school defines a branded uniform item as any item of clothing that cannot be purchased at a range of retailers, e.g. supermarkets, due to the item's logo, colour, design, fabric or other unique element. Where the school requires an item of branded clothing, it will assess how prices can be kept as low as possible and put measures in place to facilitate this. This may include:

- Ensuring branded items are longer-lasting and unlikely to be grown out of quickly, e.g. ties.
- Making donated second-hand uniform available for purchase at a lower price (or free of charge).

The school will meet the DfE's requirements and recommendations on costs and value for money. Care will be taken to ensure that school uniform is affordable for all current and prospective children, and that the best value for money is secured through reputable suppliers.

The school will work with multiple suppliers to obtain the best value for money possible. Any savings negotiated will be passed to Parents/Carers where possible. The school will 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 make frequent changes to uniform requirements and will, if required, take the views of Parents/Carers and children into account when considering any changes.

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 children 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 ensure, where possible, that Parents/Carers and children are consulted over any changes to school uniform, and that, where appropriate and with children's consent, views and advice are sought specifically from children, and Parents/Carers of children, 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'/Carers' 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 children with specific protected characteristics is outlined below.

Gender

To avoid disproportionately impacting children 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 children to buy additional uniform, e.g. by requiring female children to buy both trousers and skirts.
- Not holding children of different genders to different uniform standards, e.g. by banning certain hairstyles for only one gender.

The school will implement a gender-neutral uniform, meaning that children will not be 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 children are supported to access the uniform that best reflects their gender expression in line with the Equality Policy.

Religion and belief

To avoid disproportionately impacting children of a certain religion, belief or culture, the school will ensure that there is flexibility to allow children 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 children will be weighed against any health and safety concerns appropriate to the circumstances, e.g. if safety headgear needs to be worn.

Ethnicity

To avoid disproportionately impacting children of a certain ethnicity, 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 child's ethnic origin.
- Not banning hairstyles worn because of cultural, family and social customs.
- Not banning head coverings related to a child's culture or ethnic origin.

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 children with SEND or medical conditions, the school will ensure its uniform policy considers the needs of these children. This may include:

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

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

Complaints and challenges

The school will endeavour to resolve all uniform complaints and challenges locally and informally, in accordance with the school's [Complaints Policy](#).

The school will refer individuals who wish to complain to the [Complaints Policy](#) and request that they follow the procedures outlined therein.

When a complaint is received, the school will work with the complainant to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

School uniform supplier

The school's current school uniform supplier is:

- **Schoolwear Solutions**
- **Morley's**
446 Nottingham Road
Chaddesden
DE54 9PE
- Tel: **01332 281311**
- Email: **chaddesdenmorleys@gmail.com**
- Website: www.schoolwearsolutions.com/our-schools/markeaton-primary-school/

Uniform assistance

Parents/Carers will be invited to donate their child's uniform when they no longer need it. Donated, branded uniform is collected by our [school uniform supplier](#) and displayed in-store on a 'pre-loved' rail available to purchase at a discounted price.

All new starters at Markeaton Primary School are provided with a branded school bookbag free of charge (this is currently funded by Markeaton PTFA).

Starting in Autumn 2023, all new starters in Foundation Stage 2 will be provided with a PE kit (shorts and T shirt) in their House Colour free of charge.

Non-compliance

Where there are ongoing breaches to the school uniform, the Headteacher, or a person authorised by the Headteacher, will contact the parents/carers to discuss a solution.

School uniform

Clothing

The school uniform is as follows:

Item	Optional or required	Branding	How to acquire	Cost per item from school supplier
Regular School Uniform				
<u>Bottle Green sweatshirt or cardigan</u>	<u>Required</u>	<u>School logo optional</u>	<u>Branded sweatshirt and cardigan available from school supplier</u> <u>Bottle Green sweatshirt or cardigan can be bought from regular retailers.</u>	<u>£10.99/£11.99</u>
<u>Gold or White polo shirt</u>	<u>Required</u>	<u>School logo optional</u>	<u>Branded Gold polo shirt available from school supplier</u> <u>Gold or White polo shirt can be bought from regular retailers.</u>	<u>£7.99</u>

<u>Bottle Green school fleece (only to be worn as outer garment)</u>	<u>Optional</u>	<u>School logo optional</u>	<u>Branded Bottle Green fleece available from school supplier.</u> <u>Bottle Green fleece can be bought from regular retailers.</u>	<u>£16.99</u>
<u>Grey or Black trousers, pinafore dress or knee-length skirt</u>	<u>Required</u>	<u>No branding</u>	<u>Available from regular retailers</u>	<u>N/A</u>
<u>Grey, Black or Bottle Green tights, or, White, Grey or Black socks</u>	<u>Required</u>	<u>No branding</u>	<u>Available from regular retailers</u>	<u>N/A</u>
<u>Sensible, flat Black or Brown shoes (trainers not acceptable)</u>	<u>Required</u>	<u>No branding</u>	<u>Available from regular retailers</u>	<u>N/A</u>
<u>Optional Summer School Uniform</u>				
<u>Bottle Green or Yellow checked dress with white socks</u>	<u>Optional</u>	<u>No branding</u>	<u>Available from regular retailers</u>	<u>N/A</u>
<u>Black or Grey school trousers (short)</u>	<u>Optional</u>	<u>No branding</u>	<u>Available from regular retailers</u>	<u>N/A</u>
<u>Sensible, flat Black or Brown sandals with socks</u>	<u>Optional</u>	<u>No branding</u>	<u>Available from regular retailers</u>	<u>N/A</u>
<u>PE Kit</u>				
<u>Round-neck, plain, T shirt in your child's House Colour (please note:</u>	<u>Required</u>	<u>No branding</u>	<u>Available from school supplier or regular retailers</u>	<u>£2.99</u>

<u>Foundation Stage children are not given a House Colour until the beginning of October. Please use a plain t shirt (any colour) until your child is allocated a House)</u>				
<u>Plain Black shorts</u>	<u>Required</u>	<u>No branding</u>	<u>Available from school supplier or regular retailers</u>	<u>£4.99 - £6.99</u>
<u>Plain Black or Dark Navy sweat top and jogging bottoms (can be worn over top of t shirt and shorts in Autumn/Winter months)</u>	<u>Optional</u>	<u>No branding</u>	<u>Available from regular retailers</u>	<u>N/A</u>
<u>Plain trainers</u>	<u>Required</u>	<u>No branding</u>	<u>Available from regular retailers</u>	<u>N/A</u>
Accessories				
<u>Bottle Green school book bag</u>	<u>Optional</u>	<u>School logo</u>	<u>Free to all new starters (replacements available from School Office)</u>	<u>£6.00</u>

The school will not consider trainers or high heels suitable school shoes.

Parents/Carers are responsible for ensuring their child wears their PE kit to school on their designated PE days. If a child is not wearing the correct PE Kit then they may not be able to take part.

Jewellery

The school rules on jewellery are as follows:

- **One pair of stud earrings may be worn – no other piercings are permitted.**
- **A smart and sensible wrist watch may be worn.**

Children 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 or earrings taped over during PE lessons.

Bags

Children must use an appropriately-sized waterproof bag to carry their books and equipment. It must hold A4-sized workbooks comfortably without causing any damage. All new starters are provided with a free, branded bookbag when starting Markeaton Primary School. Replacements can be purchased from the school office at a cost.

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

The school will discourage children 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 child'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 child by virtue of their protected characteristics.

Each individual child's scenario will be considered where any judgements on appropriateness are to be made, and Parents/Carers will always have the freedom to complain via the school's [Complaints Policy](#).

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

The following hairstyles, hair colours and headwear are not considered appropriate for school:

- **Brightly-coloured dyed hair**
- **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**
- **Only clear nail varnish may be worn**
- **Temporary tattoos are not permitted**

Children wearing makeup will be required to remove it and this may include a phonecall home.

Adverse weather

All children will be advised to wear weather-appropriate clothing.
For hot temperatures, this includes wearing:

- **Tops that cover the shoulder area.**
- **Sunglasses with UV protection when outside.**
- **Sunhats with wide brim or legionnaire's cap.**

Children will be advised not to wear any jumpers or blazers during heatwaves. If outside during break times, children not wearing sun-safe clothing will be advised to stay in an area protected from the sun.

For cold temperatures, this includes wearing:

- **Scarves, gloves, coats and hats when outside.**
- **Warm jumpers.**
- **Trousers, or skirts and thick tights.**

These messages are reinforced in school e.g. during assemblies.

Labelling and lost property

Parents/Carers will be advised to ensure that all children's clothing and footwear is clearly labelled with their name and year group.

Any lost clothing will be taken to the lost property box located under the Bike Shelter in the playground. All lost property will be retained for **one month** and will be disposed of or donated if it is not collected within this timeframe.