

# School Uniform Policy



**RIVERSIDE BRIDGE SCHOOL**  
**INSPIRE, EMPOWER, ACHIEVE**



Partnership Learning

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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 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 reserve the right to ask for this to 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 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 pupils or their parents/carers to get in touch with our school administration team who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis and directed to the Senior Leadership Team as and when required.

## 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 uniform.

We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that need 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/carers' 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:**

- carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary;
- limiting any items with distinctive characteristics where possible;
- limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost and/or long-lasting items, such as ties;
- considering cheaper alternatives to school-branded items, such as logos that can be ironed on, as long as this doesn't compromise quality and durability;

- avoiding specific requirements for items pupils could wear on non-school days, such as coats, bags and shoes;
- keeping the number of optional branded items to a minimum, so that the school's uniform can act as a social leveller;
- avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups;
- avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities;
- considering alternative methods for signaling differences in groups for interschool competitions, such as creating posters or labels;
- making sure that arrangements are in place for parents/carers to acquire second-hand uniform items;
- avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents/carers of any changes;
- consulting with parents/carers 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

- required branded items required – school polo shirt, school jumper/cardigan, school PE top.
- optional branded items – school logo PE shorts/ PE outdoor jumper
- expectations for PE and swimming kit -
- shoes should be black and suitable for school, bags and coats have no stipulations.

The school acknowledges the need to be flexible given the needs of pupils attending the school and can and will accept adaptations.

### 4.2 Where to purchase it

Parents can buy the logo-based items from <https://www.schooluniformdirect.org.uk/schools/product-category/riverside-bridge-school/>

All other items can be sourced from local shops or supermarkets.

## 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 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/carers to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

### 5.3 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
- considers 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 yearly by the senior leadership team.

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

## 7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

- Behaviour policy
- Anti-bullying policy
- Complaints policy