



*Working together, we succeed*

## School Uniform Policy

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| Date   | September 2026 |
| Review | September 2029 |

At Crookhill Primary School, it is our policy that all children should wear school uniform when attending school, or when participating in a school organised event within or outside normal school hours. We provide a complete list of the items needed for school uniform within this policy. The policy specifies exactly what choices there are and what we recommend that pupils should wear. We respectfully request that before purchasing any item that is not specifically listed that you check with the school office to ensure suitability. It is our aim to keep our uniform consistent.

### Aims and Objectives

Crookhill Primary School supports the wearing of a school uniform as it is important in:

- ✓ setting an appropriate tone for education
- ✓ promoting a sense of pride in the school;
- ✓ providing a sense of community, identity and belonging;
- ✓ supporting positive behaviour and discipline;
- ✓ making children feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance;
- ✓ preventing children coming to school in fashion or 'designer' label clothes that could be distracting in class or create a sense of competition;

### Aims

This policy aims to:

- o Set out our approach to requiring a uniform that is of reasonable cost and offers the best value for money for parents and carers
- o Explain how we will avoid discrimination in line with our legal duties under the Equality Act 2010
- o Clarify our expectations for school uniform

### 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:

- o 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 for some subjects e.g. PE)
- Where uniform items present sensory or physical difficulties (e.g., seams, labels, materials), the school will provide reasonable adjustments in consultation with parents, SENDCo and medical professionals where appropriate. Adjustments will be recorded on the pupil's file and shared with staff
- Requests for exceptions on grounds of religion, culture, gender identity or disability should be made in writing to the Headteacher. Decisions and agreed adjustments will be recorded and reviewed termly where necessary.

### **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 the number of uniform items with distinctive logos and not specifying that children have to wear school-branded items
- Considering cheaper alternatives to school-branded items, such as items without a logo but that are the correct colour
- 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 groups or classes
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents/carers to acquire second-hand uniform items (e.g. Gateshead West Uniform Scheme)
- 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

### **The Role of Parents**

We ask all parents who send their children to our school to support the School Uniform Policy. The school welcomes children from all backgrounds and faith communities. If there are strong reasons, e.g. on religious or cultural grounds, why parents want their child to wear clothes that differ from school uniform, the school will consider such requests. Similarly, should an item of school uniform prove problematic for a pupil with disabilities then parents are invited to draw this to the attention of the Headteacher.

### **The Role of Governors**

The Governing Body supports the Headteacher in implementing the School 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 the school uniform meets all national regulations concerning equal opportunities, and that our School Uniform Policy is consistent with our policy on equal opportunities. Governors ensure that the School Uniform Policy helps children to dress sensibly, in clothing that is hardwearing, safe and practical.

### **Uniform**

- ✓ grey skirt/trousers (not leggings)
- ✓ grey school shorts
- ✓ white or red polo shirt/white blouse (with or without logo)
- ✓ red cardigan, jumper or sweatshirt (with or without the school logo)
- ✓ sensible black school shoes or all black trainers
- ✓ red-check summer dresses

### **PE Kit**

- ✓ PE kit should be worn to school on PE days and should consist of:
- ✓ school PE t-shirt in house colours
- ✓ dark plain shorts
- ✓ black gym shoes or trainers
- ✓ jogging bottoms
- ✓ hoodie in house colour

Crookhill Primary School uniform can be ordered through the school office or purchased from the school supplier - details can be found on the school website. However, uniform can be purchased from other suppliers, as long as they reflect the appropriate school colours as identified within our School Uniform Policy. All articles of clothing should be clearly marked with the child's name.

### **Jewellery**

On health and safety grounds we do not allow children to wear jewellery (other than watches) in our school. Piercings are not permitted as they may cause injury to your child or another child, for example, during PE lessons, playtimes and swimming lessons. Earrings are not allowed apart from the small plastic micro plugs/hole keepers.

Smartwatches or devices with internet/messaging/photography features must not be worn. Basic analogue or non-connected basic digital watches are permitted but must be removed for PE. The school accepts no liability for any personal devices that are brought to school in contravention of this policy. No responsibility can be accepted by the school for any jewellery lost on the premises.

### **General Appearance**

The school does not permit children to wear temporary tattoos. Nail extensions/acrylic nails are not permitted for health & safety reasons; plain nail varnish must be removed before school. Hair styles must be appropriate for a primary school setting; Hair should be of a 'natural' colour. Long hair should be tied up and ribbons, bobbles, hair bands and slides should be small and simple in style.

### **Footwear**

Children should wear black shoes or plain black trainers with their school uniform. We believe that it is dangerous for children to wear shoes with platform soles, open toed sandals, or high heels in school, so we do not allow this. Black boots are only acceptable in the winter months, where they are both practical and necessary. Our school promotes the use of practical shoes that are well

maintained and reflect our commitment to smart appearance and pride in school identity. When wearing PE uniform, the children should wear trainers or plimsols.

### **Swimming Kit (Year 5)**

Pupils in Year 5 have swimming as part of their PE curriculum. Your child will need:

- ✓ Above the knee swimming trunks/shorts OR
- ✓ One-piece swimming costume (no bikinis)
- ✓ Towel
- ✓ Swimming cap for long hair.

### **School Bags**

On entry to our school, all pupils are provided with a red school reading book bag. These can also be ordered through the school office. Other small bags are acceptable too.

### **Extreme Weather**

Children should dress appropriately for extreme weather conditions. In the summer it is vital that children have a protective sun hat or cap. Sun cream should be applied to children before they arrive at school on hot summer days. Boots and sufficiently warm waterproof coats should be provided in extremely wet or snowy weather.

As outdoor play is a vital part of the Early Years curriculum, the children Reception should be dressed appropriately for all kinds of weather so it is important to provide an appropriate raincoat for wet and cold days. Hats, gloves and wellington boots would also be items of clothing that we recommend could be provided for the children.

### **Lost Property**

In order to return lost property, all uniform, including shoes, PE uniform, swimming kit and personal items should be clearly labelled or marked with the child's full name.

### **Adherence to Policy**

It is our expectation that parents will ensure they send their child to school in clothing which adheres to our policy. If uniform concerns arise, a reminder will be sent home to alert the parent to the aspect of the uniform which is not meeting the policy. We will then expect this to be addressed by the parent.

If your child is not able to wear their full uniform on a certain day, for a genuine reason, e.g. their shoes are damaged, please contact the office or let a member of staff know and to clarify when they will be back in full uniform.

If a parent repeatedly fails to ensure that their child is wearing the correct uniform, we will contact parents to remind them of expectations and work together to find a solution so that the child does wear the correct uniform. Should a parent find themselves unable to afford a uniform, they should contact the office for support.

The uniform policy will be available in alternative formats on request (e.g., large print, translated versions, emailed PDF). Key uniform expectations are summarised on the school website.

### **Policy Review**

This policy will be monitored annually and reviewed every three years or earlier if the need arises.