



Commonswood Primary & Nursery School Uniform Policy

Approved by Governors: Summer 2024

Next Review: Annually

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

Our school duty 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 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 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 the INCo (Miss Dean) or the headteacher (Mrs Seymour) who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

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.
- Allowing cheaper alternatives to school-branded items
- Avoiding specific requirements for items pupils could wear on non-school days, such as coats and bags.
- Prohibiting branded logos, so that the school's uniform can act as a social leveller
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different years.
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities.
- Providing competition kits for sports tournaments.
- 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 governors on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy

We endeavour to keep the cost of uniform down as much as possible; if you have difficulty in purchasing the uniform due to cost, please contact the headteacher (Mrs Seymour) at admin@commonswood.herts.sch.uk to discuss.

Uniform Expectations

Pupils attending Commonswood Primary & Nursery School are expected to wear school uniform. Governors have deliberately chosen uniform that is readily available from local high street stores at reasonable prices. Governors feel that uniform is important because it promotes a sense of belonging to our school and pride in the individual and collective achievements of pupils. It also provides children with sensible clothing in which to participate in educational activities. In addition, it frees parents from the pressures to dress children in fashionable, expensive clothing and footwear.

Uniform with the school logo can be purchased from Smarties School Wear. Uniform without the school logo can be purchased from most supermarkets. Our PTA sells discounted pre-loved uniform on a regular basis.

Long hair is best to be tied back for hygiene and health and safety purposes. Long hair must be tied back for design and technology and PE lessons.

Our school uniform comprises of:

- Smart, plain grey short or long trousers (not sportswear, leggings, jeggings, chinos or jogging bottoms (except in Nursery)).
- Sky blue polo shirt.
- Plain grey skirts or pinafores (or pale blue gingham dresses in the summer term only- no playsuits).
- Navy-blue sweatshirt or navy-blue cardigan (with or without school logo).
- Navy, grey or white tights or socks - Socks/tights **must** be worn for hygiene purposes – trainer socks are not permitted. No logos.
- Black shoes – no logos or coloured soles or coloured laces. No laced shoes in Reception or until they can be tied independently. For safety, shoes that do up rather than slip-on are recommended.
- Boots are not part of school uniform. Wellington boots can be worn in wet weather, but children must change into school shoes on arrival.
- Nursery and Reception children require wellington boots and a waterproof coat every day as we regularly visit our Forest School.
- Hair ties should be the school colours.
- Earrings – plain studs only. Multiple piercings are not appropriate for school.
- Watches are permitted. (Smart watches are not permitted) Watches and earrings should not be worn on PE days.
- Coats are a personal choice, but hoodies are not considered to be coats.

Physical Education (PE) uniform:

Children need to dress safely for PE. They should wear plain, **close fitting**:

- Navy-blue shorts (no skorts) – no logos.
- White **collarless** tee shirt – no logos.
- Black plimsolls for indoor PE and (preferably black) velcro trainers for outdoor PE – Black trainers are required for tournaments – competition kits are provided.
- Hair tie for long hair.
- Please provide a pair of navy-blue or white or grey socks for PE if tights are worn to school.
- Pupils in Years 3 & 4 require one-piece swimwear for swimming lessons. Pupils who have not met the National Curriculum standard of 25m, will require a one-piece swimwear in Year 5 for top up lessons.
- Pupils attending extra-curricular, PE related clubs are expected to wear school uniform PE kits. Branded logo kits are not permitted.
- A bag for PE and games kit should be provided.

Please ensure all clothing and bags are named.

A navy-blue tracksuit may be useful during colder weather as children are taught the importance of changing for safety and hygiene reasons.

Children should not wear replica kits or expensive branded logoed clothing. A named bag

for PE and games kit should be provided. All children must have a drinks bottle (water only) and spare underwear/clothing (where necessary).

Aprons

Design and Technology is a vital part of the school curriculum. The aprons (which can be ordered from Smarties School Wear and cost £7.25) one size is designed to fit children aged 4 – 11 with the intention that 1 only apron is purchased in the time the child is at Commonswood.

Outdoor Learning

For Nursery and Reception children, please provide named wellington boots (any colour) which can be kept at school. Children must wear a waterproof coat on designated orchard days. Wellingtons for the rest of the school will be required with notice.

Book bags

Children are asked to carry their reading book to school each day. The reading book needs to be protected from the weather.

Jewellery

Jewellery, including earrings, rings and necklaces, should not be worn at school as it can cause nasty injuries in PE lessons and in the playground. If your child has pierced ears, children may only wear plain studs which must be removed or taped for PE. **Please note that the school will not take responsibility for any loss.** Make-up, nail varnish and hair dye are not appropriate for primary school pupils and should not be worn.

Please ensure all items are clearly named.

Pupils

We expect all pupils to comply to the uniform policy 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)

Pupils are also expected to initially speak to their class teacher if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics.

Parent and Carers

Parents and carers are expected to make sure their child has the correct uniform and PE kit, and that every item:

- Fits
- Is clean
- Is clearly labelled with the child's name
- Is in good condition

Parents/carers are also expected to contact the headteacher if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to:

- Their child's protected characteristics
- Temporary or long-term medical conditions

Disputes about the cost of the school uniform will be:

- Resolved locally
- Dealt with in accordance with our school's complaints policy

Staff

Staff will closely monitor pupils to make sure they are in correct uniform. They will give any pupils and families breaching the uniform policy the opportunity to comply but will follow up with the headteacher if the situation doesn't improve.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with by a senior member of staff.

In cases where it is suspected that financial hardship has resulted in a pupil not complying with this uniform policy, staff will take a mindful and considerate approach to resolving the situation.

Uniform Expectations

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
- Takes into account the views of parents/carers and pupils
- Offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all pupils

Links to other policies/documents

This policy is linked to our:

- Behaviour & Anti-bullying policy
- Equality information and objectives statement
- Complaints policy
- Parent Forum
- Special Educational Needs policy
- Special Educational Needs code of Practice
- Year group transition booklets.

