School uniform policy

June 2026

UN Convention on The Rights of the Child

- **Article 2 (Non-discrimination):** All children have these rights, regardless of background, race, religion, or gender. Uniform policies must not treat any child unfairly or discriminate against protected characteristics.
- **Article 28 (Right to education):** Every child has the right to a good quality education. Uniform policies should not create unreasonable barriers or financial burdens that prevent a child from attending school.

This policy is linked to our:

- Positive Behaviour policy
- Equalities policy
- Anti-bullying policy
- Complaints policy

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 sex, race, religion or belief, 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 the way that is appropriate for school yet makes them feel most comfortable
- Allow pupils to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons
- Allow pupils to wear headscarves and other religious or cultural symbols
- Allow for adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents to get in touch with our Head Teacher who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests.

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 on the cost of school uniform.

We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that have 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' 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
- 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 leveler
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year 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 to acquire second-hand uniform items
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimizing the financial impact on parents of any changes
- Consulting with parents 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

Wearing a uniform encourages pride in personal appearance and a feeling of belonging to the school community. Howard Primary school is named after Lord Howard of Effingham (1536 -1624) who once owned the land upon which the school is built. Howard was Lord High Admiral to Queen Elizabeth I during the time of the Spanish Armada, which explains why the school emblem on the royal blue uniform is an Elizabethan Man of War under full sail. The Latin word 'Paratus' on the uniform logo stands for `being prepared'.

The number of uniform items which bear the school's logo have been kept to a minimum, and are detailed below.

Main Uniform

Item	Colour(s)
Sweatshirt or Cardigan	Royal blue (school logo required)
Polo shirt	Sky blue (school logo required)
Trousers *	Plain grey or black
Skirt	Plain grey or black
Pinafore dress	Plain grey or black
Summer dress	Blue and white small check
Socks	Plain black or grey or white
Tights	Plain white
School shoes** or Plain trainers	Plain black
Outdoor coat	No specific type but needs to be suitable for inclement weather conditions
School bag / Book bag	No specific type (school logo options are available, but are not compulsory)
Hair Accessories (small hair clips/headbands)	No specific colour

* Leggings and jeans are **not** allowed

** Open-toed footwear and shoes with a high heel are **not** allowed

P.E. Uniform

Children wear their P.E. kit to school on the days that they have P.E. lessons.

Item	Colour(s)
P.E. T-shirt	Royal blue (school logo required)
Shorts / Jogging bottoms	Plain Navy blue or black
Plimsolls	Plain black
Trainers	Plain black or white trainers can be worn for outdoor sports
Swimming kit (Year 4 only)	
Swimming costume / Swimming trunks	No specific colour or logo
Swimming cap required if hair is long	No specific colour or logo
Towel	No specific colour or logo
Swimming kit bag (e.g. drawstring-type or a reusable bag)	No specific colour or logo

4.2 Where to purchase it

Our school uniform logo items can be purchased through our school outfitter, Hewitts of Croydon, either from their Croydon store, or via their online shop.

Items of uniform without our school logo can be purchased more economically in any high street clothing department, supermarket, or can be purchased online.

The school also regularly runs second hand uniform sales, where parents can buy uniform donated by families whose children have outgrown their uniform items. This is an environmentally friendly way to reduce uniform costs and support the school. Further information and dates of upcoming uniform sales are communicated by the school office.

4.3 Make up including nail polish

Children should not wear any make-up or nail polish in school.

4.4 Earrings

Children are allowed to wear earrings, provided that they are only the small stud type.

Earrings should be removed and left at home on PE days.

If earrings cannot be removed (e.g. if the child's ears have been recently pierced), surgical tape can be used to cover any earrings during P.E. This must be applied by the child's parent/carer on the day of their P.E. lesson unless the child is capable of doing this themselves. Parents/Carers will be asked to provide this tape for their child to use in class.

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)

Pupils are also expected to contact our Head Teacher if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics.

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 are also expected to contact our Head Teacher if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to:

- Their child's protected characteristics
- The cost of the uniform

Parents 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 to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

5.3 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 Head Teacher if the situation does not improve.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with through conversations with the child and/or their Parent/Carer.

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.

5.4 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
- Takes into account the views of parents 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 by the Governing Body every three years, or sooner if necessary.