



Dowson Primary Academy

UNIFORM POLICY

July 2025

Review Cycle: annual



Author: Kat Thornburn
k.thornburn@dowson.tameside.sch.uk



UNIFORM POLICY

INTRODUCTION

At Dowson Primary Academy, it is the policy that all children wear our agreed uniform every day to school or when participating in school-organised events outside of normal school hours unless otherwise stated in the information given by school to parents.

Uniform fosters a sense of belonging to a school community and helps the children to feel equal to each other. As outlined in the DFE guidance, it contributes to the ethos of a school and setting an appropriate tone. It instils pride and supports positive behaviour and discipline.

Uniform can also be useful to protect children from social pressures to dress in a particular way.

A complete list of the items needed for School Uniform, including those for Physical Education, is outlined in this document.

In 2021, the government announced new statutory guidance on school uniform that schools needed to consider to ensure uniform was affordable to parents and that their policies and practice met the key points of the guidance. The table below outlines how Dowson Primary meets these requirements.

Government guidance requirements	How Dowson meets the requirement
Keep branded items to a minimum	The only branded items required from the entire uniform is the jumper/cardigan, tie and p.e. t-shirt. All other items do not have to be branded and can be sourced from most supermarkets or high street stores.
Engage with parents and pupils when you develop your uniform policy, and publish it on your website	At the point of policy review, parents are invited to give their views on the current uniform including suitability and price. Pupils are asked their opinions on the uniform and any elements they struggle with or would change. The policy is always available on our website at www.dowson.tameside.sch.uk
Prioritise cost and value for money (including durability and quality) when awarding contracts to suppliers	Keeping branded items to a minimum and having more than one supplier keeps cost at a competitive rate. We ask that businesses visit school with sample materials when they are tendering.
Avoid single-supplier contracts unless you run regular tendering competitions	We have 2 suppliers of our uniform who are competitively priced.
Retender contracts regularly (at least every 5 years)	Our next re-tender is due in Spring 2023.
Make sure second-hand uniform is available for parents, and publish information about this on your school website	Our PTFA manage our pre-loved uniform sales which can be found here: https://app.uniformd.co.uk/items/67



AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Our aim is that our uniform is in-keeping with our values of pride, respect, aspiration and team work. We ask children to wear their shirts tucked into their skirts or trousers and to take pride in their personal appearance as well as the presentation of their work – ‘Look Smart, Think Smart!’

Our policy on school uniform is based on the belief that school uniform:

- promotes a sense of pride in our school;
- helps to create a sense of community and belonging towards the school;
- identifies the children with the school;
- supports our commitment to inclusion, making pupils feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance;
- is considered good value for money by most parents;

Much of this policy mirrors that of High School policies and therefore, by adhering to this, it is yet another way in which we can prepare our pupils for the next stage of their education.

JEWELLERY, HAIR STYLES AND ACCESSORIES, MAKE-UP AND NAIL VARNISH

For health and safety reasons we do not allow children to wear jewellery. The exceptions to this rule are one, small stud earring in pierced ears and a wrist watch – both of which must be removed in PE lessons to prevent them from causing injury. Children are required to be able to remove these items themselves. Please note: Teachers are not permitted to remove earrings. If children are unable to do this, please ensure they do not wear these items to school on the days they have P.E. The watch worn to school is not permitted to be a ‘smart watch’.

Long hair should be tied up for school for Health and Safety reasons and to reduce any risk of possible spread of headlice. Hair bands, ribbons and bows should be in school colours.

Head bands should not have things like large flowers attached and bows should be of an appropriate size for school – no larger than approximately 5 inches.

Make up and nail varnish (including acrylic or gel nails) should not be worn to school. Extreme hairstyles are not appropriate for school. The use of styling products should be kept to a minimum and children should not have decorative patterns cut or shaved into their hair or have hair coloured or dyed. In the event of patterns being cut or shaved into hair or extreme colours being put into a pupil’s hair, we will contact parents to ask that they rectify this as soon as possible.

FOOTWEAR

For health and safety reasons we do not allow children to wear shoes with platform soles or high heels. All children are required to wear sensible, plain black school shoes or shoe-boots. Trainers and full boots should not be worn. Where children come into school in large boots for example in the winter, they would be required to change into their school shoes upon arrival to school.



Examples of what is acceptable footwear and what is not are found in the pictures in the Uniform list section of this policy.

THE ROLE OF PARENTS

We believe that one of the responsibilities of parents is to ensure that their child has the correct uniform and PE kit, and that it is clean, in good repair and that the child's name is written on all items.

If a parent has difficulties for any reason with fulfilling this request they are asked to speak confidentially to a senior member of staff to discuss the issues. Parents should be assured that we will do all we can to help.

Children who arrive at school wearing non-school uniform clothing will be loaned an appropriate item to wear for that day. The same system will apply for children who do not have a PE kit. Parents will be contacted to discuss the matter.

The school welcomes children from all backgrounds and faith communities. If there are serious reasons, for example on religious grounds, why parents want their child to wear clothes that differ from the school uniform, the school will consider such requests sympathetically.

If any parent would like to request a modification to the uniform policy for this or any other reason, they should, in the first instance, contact the Principal.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

The Principal implements the school uniform policy with the support of all staff. The Principal considers all representations from parents regarding the uniform policy and liaises with parents and the staff body to ensure that the policy is implemented fairly and with sensitivity. It is the Principal's responsibility to ensure that the school uniform meets all regulations concerning equal opportunities; they ensure that the school uniform policy enables children to dress sensibly, in clothing that is hardwearing, safe and practical.

The Senior Leadership Team monitors and reviews the school uniform policy through its focus group work by:

- seeking the views of parents, to ensure that they agree with and support the policy;
- considering any requests from parents for individual children to have special dispensation with regard to school uniform.

The uniform will undergo a full review every 3 years.

SCHOOL UNIFORM LIST

Our school uniform colour is a combination of navy and primrose yellow.

Most items can be bought from High Street shops. All items embroidered with the Dowson Logo can be bought from Kids Stop in Hyde or Sallies in Denton.



Foundation Stage Uniform:

- Dowson branded navy jumper or cardigan
- White polo shirt –with the Dowson logo or plain*
- Grey skirt** / pinafore dress** / trousers
- In the summer term, grey shorts or a blue and white checked dress** are an optional alternative
- Plain white, black, grey or navy socks
- Plain grey, black or navy tights
- Sensible black school shoes or shoe-boots***
- Navy Waterproofs and a pair of wellington boots to be kept in school for outdoor learning
- Dowson branded book bag (all children are gifted a school book bag by our PTFA when they start at our school)

* Please note that children in Reception can have the option of the white polo OR a shirt and tie like the rest of school. It is also acceptable that parents change this part way through the year, for example if it is summer term and uniform needs replacing, parents may wish to convert to shirt and tie in preparation for Year 1.

Years 1 – 6 Uniform:

- Dowson branded navy jumper or cardigan
- Dowson navy and yellow pinstriped tie – clip on or formal. *N.B: We strongly encourage children in Upper School – years 4-6 – to wear formal ties in preparation for high school and as a skill in-keeping with our values of aspiration and pride.*
- White shirt
- Grey skirt** / pinafore dress** / trousers
- In the summer term only, grey shorts or a blue and white checked dress** are an optional alternative
- Plain white, black, grey or navy socks
- Plain grey, black or navy tights
- Sensible black school shoes or shoe-boots***
- Dowson branded book bag (all children are gifted a school book bag by our PTFA when they start at our school)

** Please note skirts, dresses and pinafores should be an appropriate length and of a style which allows girls to sit comfortably on the floor.

***Shoes should be flat, black and appropriate for school. Your child should wear shoes which he or she can manage to do up independently and that will remain secure on their feet during any physical activity, for example at playtimes.

Examples of what is and is not acceptable footwear in line with our policy can be found in the pictures here. Please be aware that not all shoes that can be found in a 'school shoe' section of some stores are accepted in line with this policy.



P.E. Kit:

- Dowson branded navy t-shirt
- Plain navy shorts
- Trainers – preferably dark in colour - with Velcro fastening unless your child can independently tie their laces
- A plain navy tracksuit with no sports logos may also be bought for outdoor P.E. during the winter. This is advisable only. Please note: a Dowson tracksuit consisting of jogging bottoms and a hooded sweatshirt with the school logo can be purchased from our supplier.

Children in Reception change for P.E in the summer term only so a P.E. kit is not needed until this time.

Children need a change of clothes and footwear for P.E. (for health and hygiene reasons). This should be kept in a drawstring bag so that it fits in a child's locker without taking up too much space. The kit can be left for the duration of the term and sent home each holiday to be washed. A PE kit consisting of a Dowson navy t-shirt and navy shorts in a drawstring bag with the logo may be bought as a package deal from the supplier.

Bags:

All children are expected to only require a book bag for reading books and any letters / homework that needs to be sent home and a drawstring bag containing their p.e. kit. In the interests of space and health and safety, we do not permit any other bags such as rucksacks.

Our PTFA kindly buy all children a Dowson branded book bag when they start at our school so this is not included in the branded items we expect parents to buy.

The only other bags that may occasionally be needed – and this will be communicated with parents and carers when necessary – may be swimming kits or such things as forest school wear.



Other available, optional, items:

- Reversible waterproof coat with the school logo which are suitable for boys and girls
- Dowson branded Fleece - Please note, this may not be used as a replacement to the school jumper or cardigan.

All items of school uniform can also be purchased from our PTFA pre-loved uniform shop at <https://app.uniformd.co.uk/items/67>

All school uniform and P.E. kit, including shoes, MUST be named. Children – and adults - can become upset as a result of lost clothing; please help us by naming everything.

NON-COMPLIANCE

We adhere closely to all the measures in the policy. As well as doing so in order to meet the aims and objectives set out above, we do it to prepare children well for high school where the same rules apply and strict measures are in place for compliance.

At Dowson, where the uniform policy is not adhered to, the following measures will be put into place:

1. On the first occasion, a spare item of uniform will be provided by school wherever possible. A verbal reminder to the child or parent may be given regarding an aspect of the policy where necessary.
2. On the second occasion, a reminder letter will be sent home, outlining the area of the policy that has not been met.
3. On the third occasion, a member of Senior Leadership will contact the parents personally.

If necessary, school will form a uniform agreement with parents to ensure that the standards of uniform we expect can be reached and maintained. We endeavour to support any families who may be finding this difficult for whatever reason in any way we can.