Policy Information Sheet

Name of Policy:	**School Uniform Policy**
Delegated Authority	☒ Trust Board ☐ Nominated Committee ☐ CEO ☐ CFO ☐Other _____
Policy review cycle	☒ Annual ☐ 3 years ☐ 4 years ☐ Other _____
Statutory policy	☒ Yes ☐ No
Published online	☒ Statutory ☐ Trust recommended ☐ No

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1.0			01.04.2026

School Uniform Policy

1. Purpose

At Hartlepool Free School, our uniform policy aims to:

- Promote a sense of belonging, equality, and school identity.
- Support positive behaviour by reducing distractions and social pressures.
- Ensure that clothing is practical, comfortable, and appropriate for learning and physical activity.
- Reflect our inclusive ethos and understanding of the individual needs of our pupils.

We recognise that many of our pupils have sensory, emotional, or social needs that affect how they experience clothing. This policy is therefore designed with flexibility, dignity, and wellbeing in mind.

2. General Principles

- The uniform should be comfortable, simple, and easy to wear.
- Reasonable adjustments and exemptions will be made for pupils with sensory sensitivities, medical needs, religious requirements, or gender expression.
- Staff will work with families to agree adaptations where needed.
- No child will be excluded from learning or activities because of uniform issues.
- We do expect parents/carers support in wearing of uniform as part of an inclusive culture, identity and sense of belonging.

3. Uniform Requirements

An initial set of uniform is provided free of charge (2 polo tops and one hoodie). Additional subsidised uniform can be purchased from Amazon and local retailers. We do not expect any additional uniform purchased to be embroidered but parents can do so if they wish. Please ask at the school office for website links. Basic uniform expectations:

- Wear the uniform provided – polo shirt is light blue in colour and hoodie is dark heather.
- No makeup or jewellery including smart watches
- No nail extensions
- Flat shoes that can be used outside and in
- Black bottoms (not branded)
- Black/dark trainers/shoes

4. Additional Guidance

- Pupils are encouraged to keep clothing clean and presentable, but the school recognises that some families face practical or financial challenges. Support can be offered discreetly.
- Makeup and hair styles/colours are allowed provided they do not cause disruption or compromise safety.
- Staff will handle uniform concerns sensitively and privately, never through public discipline or confrontation.

5. Financial Support

- The school will support families who may find uniform costs difficult through: Subsidised uniform items
- Second-hand uniform availability

6. Review and Feedback

This policy will be reviewed annually in consultation with pupils, parents, carers, and staff to ensure it continues to meet the needs of our SEMH community.

7. Contact

For questions or to discuss individual uniform needs, please contact: the School Office.