

Shaw Education Trust

Uniform Policy

Date agreed: 29th September 2025
Chair of Committee: Peter Cade
Date to be reviewed: 29th September 2028 (or as and when required)

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. Uniform at Ivy House School

- Due to the Special Educational needs and disabilities of the children at Ivy House School, it is optional for parents/carers to purchase a school uniform for their child
- Students can attend school in comfortable clothing, those with sensory sensitivity may find certain clothes itchy, heavy or tight which can lead to a sensory overload
- However, for those parents who choose to purchase a school uniform, as a school, we have a duty to make sure that the uniform parents can choose to buy 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

2.1 We will make sure our school uniform:

- Is available at a reasonable cost
- Provides the best value for money for parents/carers

2.2 We will do this by:

- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary
- Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics where possible
- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost or long-lasting items, such as ties
- Considering cheaper alternatives to school-branded items, such as logos that can be ironed on, as long as this doesn't compromise quality and durability
- Avoiding specific requirements for items students 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 classes or departments
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents to acquire second-hand uniform items
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents of any changes
- Consulting with parents and students on any proposed significant changes to the uniform statement and carefully consider any complaints about this

3.1 Our school uniform

Uniform consists of:

- Polo shirts (available in white, red, and bottle green)
- Sweatshirts and cardigans (bottle green)
- Black or grey leggings or jogging bottoms if traditional school trousers are not suitable
- A green school dress is available for purchase for the summer months

3.2 Where to purchase it

- If parents/carers do wish to purchase a school uniform for their child, you can visit the Ivy House School page on MyClothing
- Second-hand uniform; If you have pre-loved uniform that you no longer require we would welcome you to send it into school and we will offer it to families via a Family Update Newsletter or via text message to families.

4. 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:

- Avoid listing uniform items based on sex, to give all students 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 students
- Allow all students to have long hair
- Allow all students to style their hair in a way that is appropriate for school and makes them feel most comfortable
- Allow students to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons or if they are experiencing discomfort related to their sex, gender or gender reassignment
- Allow students to wear headscarves and/or other religious garments
- Allow students 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 students or their parents/carers to get in touch with Hannah Birks, Deputy Headteacher, who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis

If you would like to discuss our Uniform Policy please contact a member of the Senior Leadership Team.