School uniform policy

Maryport Church of England Primary School

At Maryport Cof E Primary School, through our learning, we will always persevere to be the best we can be, show kindness towards everyone, be truthful and respect each other.

‘Teach children to choose the right path and when they are older they will remain upon it’ (Proverbs 22:6)

We aim to prepare them well to live life in all its fullness (John 10:10)

Approved by:	Lindsay Burnett	**Date:**	October 2026
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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 all 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: age, sex, sexual orientation, 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
- Make sure that our uniform costs the same for all pupils
- Allow all pupils to have long hair, although we reserve the right to ask that long hair be tied back
- Allow all pupils to style their hair in a way that is appropriate for school, and makes them feel most comfortable
- Allow pupils to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons, or if they are experiencing discomfort
- Allow pupils to wear headscarves and/or other religious garments
- 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 Lindsay Burnett, Headteacher via the school office, who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis

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 (DfE) on the cost of school uniforms.

We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that need to have a school logo attached or be in a unique fabric or style) cannot be purchased from a wide range of retailers, and that requiring many such items limits parents/carers' ability to shop around for the best price.

We will therefore make sure our uniform:

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

We will do this by:

- Following the statutory limits for compulsory branded items of uniform and PE kit to a maximum of:
    - No compulsory branded items
- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary, and limiting these items where possible.
- Avoiding specific requirements for items such as coats, bags and shoes/trainers that pupils could also wear on non-school days. See more information in section 4.1
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities including (but not limited to) sport, music and drama
- Avoiding requiring different branded items for particular times of the year, such as a branded dress in summer and a branded skirt in winter
- Considering alternative methods for signalling differences in groups for interschool competitions, such as creating posters
- Considering alternative approaches, including loaning compulsory branded items such as sports kit for competitions
- Making sure that opportunities to acquire second-hand items in a timely manner are accessible to parents and carers of both current and prospective pupils, and publishing this information on our website
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications, and minimising the financial impact on parents/carers of any changes
- Consulting with parents/carers and pupils on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy, and carefully considering any complaints about uniform in line with the school's complaints policy
- Avoiding single-supplier contracts, to make sure generic items can be purchased from a range of retailers
- Continuing to review this policy, to ensure the cost of our uniform is reasonable and provides the best value for money

4. Expectations for school uniform

4.1 Our school's uniform

Our uniform consists of navy-blue jumper, white polo and grey trousers, skirt or pinafore. There is also the option to wear a blue checked skirt or pinafore although this is not compulsory.

Black shoes or plain black trainers (no logos) are to be worn.

We also ask that each child has a pair of wellies in school in order that they can access all of our OPAL play zones and our woodland area regardless of the weather.

Uniform with a logo can be ordered online at Maryport C of E Primary School or at the school office. Please note that there is a minimum order on the checked skirts and pinafores therefore these are not available online. Some stock of these items are available to purchase or try on for size in the office.

There is no obligation to wear uniform with a logo on and, providing they are in the correct colours. These items are widely available on local shops at reasonable cost.

PE kit

For PE, children need black shorts, and a white t.shirt. Optional blue hoodies can also be purchased online. Children in some year groups will be required to bring a swimming costume. There is no specification for this costume as long as it meets reasonable standards of modesty.

Children should have suitable coats and waterproofs to enable them to enjoy outdoor activities in inclement weather. There is no specific colour or requirement for these.

All items worn for school should be a suitable fabric and fit for day to day school wear.

All items should be fit for purpose and meet standards of modesty for the age and stage of the child.

Hair should be neat and long hair should be tied up. Hairstyles should not cause a distraction to learning of the child or others.

Jewelry should not been worn in school. Children with pierced ears are permitted to wear a plain single earring in each ear. These must be removed by the child for PE.

Watches may be worn however no smart watches, including watches that can be used to play games or take photos are permitted in school.

4.2 Where to purchase or acquire it

- Optional branded school uniform can be purchased via the school office or direct from our suppliers – these are available on the school website.
- All other items are widely available in clothing stores and supermarkets.
- Second hand uniform can be obtained via the school office.

  This information should be clear and easily understood, and published on the school website.

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 Lindsay Burnett, 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/carers are also expected to contact Lindsay Burnett, 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/carers are expected to lodge any complaints or objections relating to the school uniform in a timely and reasonable manner in accordance with the school's complaints policy.

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/carers 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 headteacher if the situation doesn't improve.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with by contact with parent/carers.

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 and the pupil will not miss classroom teaching because of a sanction. This is in line with the statutory guidance.

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/carers, 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 every 4 years by Lindsay Burnett, Head teacher. At every review, it will be approved by the governing board's finance committee.

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

- Behaviour policy
- Equality information and objectives statement
- Anti-bullying policy
- Complaints policy