



Park Community Academy School uniform policy



Adopted by: Business Lead

Implementation date: 4th February 2022

Review period: Every 2 years

Review date: August 2025

Contents:

Statement of intent

1. Legal framework
2. Roles and responsibilities
3. Cost principles
4. Equality principles
5. Complaints and challenges
6. School uniform supplier
7. Uniform assistance
8. Non-compliance
9. School uniform
10. Adverse weather
11. Labelling
12. Monitoring and review

Appendices

- A. School Uniform Assistance Application Form

Statement of intent

Park Community Academy believes that a consistent school uniform policy is vital to promote the ethos of the school and provide a sense of belonging and identity for all pupils, regardless of their protected characteristics or socio-economic circumstances.

This policy lays out the measures the school has taken to ensure a consistent, fair and inclusive uniform policy, and to implement a uniform that reflects the needs of all pupils, and is affordable and the best value for money for the school and pupils' families.

We believe that pupils learn most effectively and achieve their best outcomes when they are comfortable, able to be themselves, and dressed in such a way that sets an appropriate tone for education.

1. Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Education Act 2011
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Equality Act 2010
- The UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)
- Data Protection Act 2018
- This policy has due regard to all relevant guidance including, but not limited to, the following:
 - DfE (2021) 'Cost of school uniforms'
 - DfE (2021) 'School Admissions Code'
 - DfE (2021) 'School uniforms'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Complaints Procedures Policy
- Behaviour Policy

2. Roles and responsibilities

The governing board is responsible for:

- Establishing, in consultation with the headteacher and school community, a practical and smart school uniform that accurately reflects the school's vision and values.
- Ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible and inclusive, and does not disadvantage any pupil by virtue of their protected characteristics or socio-economic status.
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of parents, pupils and the wider school community regarding changes to the school's uniform.
- Ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible and affordable.
- Demonstrating how best value for money has been achieved in the uniform policy.
- Ensuring compliance with the DfE's '[Cost of school uniforms](#)' guidance.
- Processing and approving all eligible School Uniform Assistance Application Forms.

The Headteacher is responsible for:

- Enforcing the school's uniform on a day-to-day basis.
- Ensuring that teachers understand this policy and what to do if a pupil is in breach of the policy.
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of the school community in regard to the school's uniform and making appropriate recommendations to the governing board.
- Providing pupils with an exemption letter as appropriate, e.g. for a pupil who has a broken arm and requires a loose-fitting top.

Staff members are responsible for:

- Ensuring that pupils dress in accordance with this policy at all times.
- Disciplining pupils who are in breach of this policy.
- Ensuring that pupils understand why having a consistent and practical school uniform is important, e.g. school identity.

Parents are responsible for:

- Providing their children with the correct school uniform as detailed in this policy.
- Informing the headteacher if their child requires a more relaxed uniform policy for a period of time, including why.
- Ensuring that their child's uniform is clean, presentable and the correct size.

Pupils are responsible for:

- Wearing the correct uniform at all times, unless the headteacher has granted an exemption.
- Looking after their uniform as appropriate.
- Understanding and respecting why a school uniform is important to the school, e.g. school identity and community.

3. Cost principles

The school is committed to ensuring that its school uniform is affordable and accessible to all pupils, and does not place an unreasonable financial burden on parents.

The school will assess the overall cost implications of its uniform policy regularly, including prior to making any changes to the school uniform. When evaluating whether costs are reasonable and proportionate, the school will take into account the opinions and situations of:

- Economically disadvantaged parents.
- Parents with multiple children who are, or may be in the future, pupils at the school.
- Parents of younger children, as they are likely to grow quickly and require new sets of uniform more frequently.
- Parents of pupils with protected characteristics that may impact their ability to access the uniform due to costs.
- LAC and PLAC.

The school will evaluate the cost of its uniform based on the overall collection of uniform items that parents would need to purchase for a pupil, rather than on the cost effectiveness of individual items; this will include consideration of the fact that parents will need to purchase multiples of certain items, e.g. shirts and socks, to ensure their child can come to school in clean uniform every day.

The school keeps variations in school uniform for different groups of pupils, e.g. year group-specific items to a minimum where possible to ensure that pupils can get the most wear out of their uniform possible and that parents can pass some items down to younger siblings.

The school keeps branded uniform items to a minimal level that is reasonable for all members of the school community. The school defines a branded uniform item as any item of clothing that cannot be purchased at a range of retailers, including by virtue of logos, colours, design and fabrics. Where the school decides to require an item of branded clothing, it will conduct an assessment to ensure prices are kept as low as possible, e.g. by offering sew- or iron-on logo badges for jumpers that can be bought at retailers instead of requiring special branded jumpers.

The school is committed to meeting the DfE's recommendations on costs and value for money. Every care is taken to ensure that our uniforms are affordable for all current and prospective pupils, and that the best value for money is secured through reputable suppliers.

The school works with multiple suppliers to obtain the best value for money possible. Any savings negotiated are passed to parents where possible and does not enter into exclusive single supplier contracts or cash-back arrangements. More information on supplier processes can be found in the 'School uniform supplier' section of this policy.

The school will not amend uniform requirements regularly and will take the views of parents and pupils into account when considering any changes to school uniforms.

4. Equality principles

The school takes its legal obligation to avoid discriminating against any protected characteristic unlawfully very seriously, and aims to ensure that the uniform policy is as inclusive as possible so that all pupils are supported to access a school uniform which is comfortable, suitable for their needs, and reflects who they are.

The school will work to ensure that school uniform's cost does not disproportionately affect any pupils by ensuring that uniforms for all genders are as equal in price as possible and by adhering to the cost principles laid out in section 3.

The school will ensure that parents and pupils are consulted over any changes to school uniform, and that views and advice is sought specifically from pupils, and parents of pupils, who:

- Are transgender, including non-binary pupils.
- Have SEND and/or sensory needs.
- Are of a religious or cultural background that has dress requirements.

The school implements a gender-neutral uniform, meaning that pupils are not required to wear specific items based on their gender, and may wear any of the uniform items listed in the 'School uniform' section of this policy regardless of the legal sex recorded on the school's records. Transgender pupils are supported to access the uniform that best reflects their gender expression in line with the LGBTQ+ Policy.

The school ensures that pupils who are required to follow certain dress requirements, e.g. by virtue of their membership of a particular religious or cultural group, are afforded flexibility to allow them to wear a uniform that adheres to their requirements as far as possible. The school endeavours to meet all requests for amendments to the uniform for these purposes; however, will ensure that the needs and rights of individual pupils are weighed against any health and safety concerns for the entire school community.

Parents' concerns and requests regarding religious clothing are dealt with on a case-by-case basis by the headteacher and governing board, and always in accordance with the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.

The school ensures that the needs of pupils with SEND and/or sensory difficulties are considered in the uniform policy, e.g. ensuring soft, stretchy fabrics and avoiding intricate buttons or hard seams; however, where the needs of these pupils cannot be met in the standard uniform policy, individual adaptations to the uniform will be considered and permitted wherever possible.

5. Complaints and challenges

The school endeavours to resolve all uniform complaints and challenges locally and informally, in accordance with the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.

To make a complaint, parents should refer to the Complaints Procedures Policy and follow the stipulations outlined.

When a complaint is received, the school works with parents to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

Governors are willing to consider reasonable requests for flexibility to allow a pupil to accommodate particular social and cultural circumstances.

6. School uniform supplier

Our current school uniform supplier is:

- First Class Kids

Currently all school uniform orders are processed via the school office. We have a supply of uniform in school for mid-year orders and a large order is made at the end of the academic for the following September.

The school will retender the uniform contract every five years, whether changes to the uniform are made or not. The governing board will be able to demonstrate how uniform is procured at the best value for money. The Headteacher will work to ensure that the items are procured as cheaply as possible without compromising on the quality, e.g. by requesting standard-style items from the supplier rather than more intricate and unique designs.

The school does not sign contracts with suppliers before requesting visualisations of proposed uniform, as well as fabric samples.

The school will order new uniform each July. Where the school is proposing to change suppliers, it will reach out to suppliers by March in the determination year.

7. Uniform assistance

The school supports vulnerable families in meeting the costs of uniforms where necessary. The budget for the school uniform assistance scheme comes from pupil premium funds.

The school holds second-hand school uniforms for parents to access; access to these uniforms is available upon request made to the headteacher. Parents are invited to donate their child's uniform when they no longer need it.

8. Non-compliance

PCA will work closely with pupils and their families to ensure they wear the correct uniform in school.

Where pupils persistently refuse to comply the family will be contacted by phone and support will be offered.

9. School uniform

School colours

Our school colours are as follows:

- Navy
- Maroon
- Black/Grey

Clothing

The school uniform is as follows:

All Primary and Secondary pupils at Park Community Academy are expected to wear uniform.

The following guidelines should give maximum flexibility of choice to allow for economy when buying new clothes. All pupils are expected to wear Park Community Academy (PCA) SWEATSHIRTS, CARDIGANS AND POLO SHIRTS which are available from the main PCA office or a white shirt, tie and blazer. Where this is a preferred option a blazer badge and tie are available from PCA.

PCA SWEATSHIRTS/CARDIGANS Colour: Navy blue with school badge (Maroon in Yr 11)

SKIRTS Colour: Navy blue/black

TROUSERS Colour: Dark grey or black

BLAZER Colour: Black (Maroon in Yr 11)

FORMAL SHIRTS & BLOUSES Colour: White or blue

TIE Colour: Green, white and navy

PCA POLO SHIRTS Colour: Blue with PCA Logo, or a plain white polo shirt is acceptable if worn under the navy sweatshirt with PCA logo.

PCA PE SHIRTS. Colour: Red with PCA Logo, or a plain red polo shirt is also acceptable

FOOTWEAR - Healthy feet are very important, therefore all children should wear sensible black shoes at PCA. "Fashion" shoes are not suitable. Trainers are not acceptable footwear for PCA.

CLOTHES FOR P.E. and GAMES Key Stages 1 and 2 Key Stages 3 and 4:

A pair of black shorts

A pair of black sports shorts or PE skirt

A red polo shirt with PCA Logo

A pair of sport socks

A pair of football socks or white sports socks

A pair of black pumps or trainers

A pair of trainers and if possible a pair of football boots

(A towel is needed for all PE and Games activities)

All items with the Park Community Academy logo are available from the PCA office.

Sixth Form Dress Code :

Students have the option of a WSFC hoodie and polo shirt. Alternatively they can wear smart, casual clothing of their choice.

Jewellery:

The PCA policy on jewellery is that pupils may wear one single stud in each ear. Necklaces, rings etc should not be worn. Pupils may, of course, wear a wristwatch, however not an apple/smart watch linked to a mobile device. Pupils who wear ear studs must remove them for PE and swimming lessons. We would ask all parents/carers to support this simple rule which is based on health and safety. We would urge that careful consideration is given before allowing your child to have any additional body piercing as this would need to be removed at PCA. If your child wishes to have their ears pierced, please choose a time when the ears can heal before returning to PCA. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Pupils who are wearing skirts must also wear black tights.

Trainers are not considered suitable footwear. High heels are not permitted.

Parents are responsible for ensuring their child brings their PE kit to school when needed.

School bag

Pupils must use an appropriately sized waterproof bag to carry their books and equipment. It should hold A4-sized work books comfortably without causing any damage.

School bags featuring inappropriate images, slogans or phrases are not permitted.

The school encourages pupils to bring non-valuable bags to school. The school will not be liable for lost or damaged school bags.

Hairstyles

The school reserves the right to make a judgement on where pupils' hairstyles or hair colours are inappropriate for the school environment; however, will ensure that any such judgements do not discriminate against any pupil by virtue of their protected characteristics. Each individual pupil's scenario will be taken into account where any judgements on appropriateness are to be made, and parents will always have the freedom to complain via the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.

Pupils with long hair must ensure that this does not impede their vision, cover their face or provide a health and safety risk. Long hair must be tied up during practical lessons, e.g. during PE.

The following hairstyles are not considered appropriate for school:

- Brightly-coloured, dyed hair.
- Headwear with bold patterns or colours.
- Excessive hair accessories.

Makeup

The school rules on makeup are as follows:

- Only light, natural-looking makeup is permitted.
- False nails and nail extensions are not permitted.
- Only clear nail varnish may be worn.
- Temporary tattoos are not permitted.

Pupils wearing excessive makeup are required to remove it.

10. Adverse weather

All pupils are required to wear weather-appropriate clothing that covers as much of their skin as possible during adverse weather.

For hot temperatures, this includes wearing:

- Loose-fitting and lightweight shirts and dresses with sleeves and collars or covered necklines.
- Over the knee skirts, shorts or trousers.
- Tops that cover the shoulder area.
- Sunglasses with UV protection when outside, where possible.

Pupils are advised not to wear any jumpers or blazers during heatwaves. If outside during break times, pupils not wearing sun-safe clothing are advised to stay in an area protected from the sun, or spare clothing is provided.

For cold temperatures, this includes wearing:

- Scarfs, gloves, coats and hats when they are outside.
- Warm jumpers that conform to the school's uniform policy.
- Trousers, or thick tights with skirts.

11. Labelling

We encourage parents/carers to ensure pupils' clothing and footwear is clearly labelled with their name.

Any lost clothing is be taken to the school office.

Monitoring and review

This policy is reviewed every two years by the chair of governors and the Headteacher.

The scheduled review date for this policy is February 2024.