SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY

Promoting belonging. Supporting comfort.
Keeping uniform affordable.



RIVERSIDE BRIDGE SCHOOL

INSPIRE, EMPOWER, ACHIEVE

This policy forms part of the Riverside Bridge School Policy Framework
and should be read alongside any related policies, procedures and guidance.

RIVERSIDE BRIDGE SCHOOL
INSPIRE, EMPOWER, ACHIEVE

OUR COMMITMENT

At Riverside Bridge School, every policy reflects our commitment to creating a safe, inclusive and ambitious school community in which every pupil is valued, every voice matters and every family is respected and supported.

Our policies translate our values into consistent practice. They support high expectations, clear responsibilities, effective partnership and informed decision-making, ensuring that the needs, rights, wellbeing and future outcomes of our pupils remain at the heart of our work.

We work collaboratively, act with integrity and continually reflect upon and improve our practice to achieve the best possible outcomes for every pupil.

POLICY PRINCIPLES

Our Policy Principles underpin how we work together and guide the decisions and actions we take to support every pupil and their families.



POLICY PURPOSE & FRAMEWORK

Riverside Bridge School policies set out the expectations, responsibilities and approaches that support safe, consistent and high-quality practice across the school. They translate our values, statutory responsibilities and professional expectations into clear guidance for everyday decision-making and practice.

Each policy forms part of the Riverside Bridge School Policy Framework and should be read alongside any related policies, procedures, statutory guidance and school frameworks referenced within the document.

Policies apply to the members of the school community identified within each document, including staff, governors, parents and carers, volunteers, contractors and other professionals where relevant. Everyone is expected to understand and apply the requirements appropriate to their role and to seek further guidance where clarification is required.

CURRICULUM DRIVERS



Our Drivers provide a shared golden thread across curriculum, school life, policy and leadership, helping ensure that our decisions and practice remain focused on the experiences and futures we want for every pupil.

STATEMENT OF INTENT

This policy sets out Riverside Bridge School's approach to school uniform. It explains the expectations, responsibilities and arrangements that support a practical, inclusive and affordable uniform which promotes belonging while recognising the individual needs of pupils.

Riverside Bridge School believes that a simple, practical and affordable school uniform can promote a sense of belonging, equality and pride within the school community.

Our uniform has been designed to meet the diverse needs of our pupils while supporting comfort, safety and participation in learning. We recognise that many pupils attending Riverside Bridge School have additional sensory, physical or medical needs and that flexibility is therefore an important principle of this policy.

The school is committed to ensuring that uniform requirements represent good value for families and do not create unnecessary financial barriers. Uniform expectations will be reasonable, inclusive and proportionate, with appropriate adjustments made where individual needs require them.

We also recognise that some pupils may be unable to tolerate particular items of clothing, footwear or fabrics because of sensory processing differences, disability, medical need or other individual circumstances. In these situations, the priority will be to support the pupil's attendance, dignity, comfort and participation rather than apply a rigid uniform requirement.

Our responsibilities to pupils and families

Riverside Bridge School will:

- provide a practical uniform suited to the needs of our pupils;
- minimise compulsory branded items wherever reasonably possible;
- permit generic alternatives where branding is not necessary;
- make reasonable adjustments where required because of disability, medical need, sensory difference, religion or another protected characteristic;
- work with families where individual adaptations are needed;
- keep uniform costs and supplier arrangements under review;
- provide information about second-hand uniform where available;
- work constructively with families where difficulties arise.

Through these arrangements, we aim to ensure that school uniform supports belonging and identity without creating unnecessary barriers to attendance, comfort, dignity or participation.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

01	PURPOSE	02	EQUALITY, INCLUSION AND REASONABLE ADJUSTMENTS
03	KEEPING UNIFORM AFFORDABLE	04	SCHOOL UNIFORM EXPECTATIONS
05	PURCHASING SCHOOL UNIFORM	06	ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
07	MONITORING AND REVIEW	08	RELATED POLICIES AND FRAMEWORKS

APPROVED BY: Governing Board

APPROVED ON: September 2026

REVIEWED DUE ON: September 2027

Section 01

PURPOSE

Promoting belonging. Supporting participation. Setting clear expectations.

The purpose of this policy is to provide a clear framework for the school's uniform expectations whilst ensuring that these remain inclusive, affordable and appropriate for the needs of pupils attending Riverside Bridge School.

The policy aims to:

- promote a positive sense of identity and belonging;
- ensure that uniform supports health, safety and participation in learning;
- minimise unnecessary costs for families;
- comply with statutory guidance on school uniform and the Equality Act 2010;
- provide clarity for pupils, parents, carers, staff and governors regarding the school's expectations.

Riverside Bridge School recognises that many pupils require reasonable adjustments to clothing because of sensory processing differences, physical disabilities, medical needs or religious beliefs.

Requests for adaptations will always be considered on an individual basis, with the aim of balancing the needs of the pupil with the safe and effective operation of the school.

Section 02

EQUALITY, INCLUSION AND REASONABLE ADJUSTMENTS

Recognising individual need. Removing barriers. Supporting dignity.

Riverside Bridge School is committed to ensuring that its uniform arrangements are inclusive and comply with the Equality Act 2010.

The school recognises that pupils may require adjustments to uniform expectations because of disability, medical needs, sensory processing differences, religious beliefs or other protected characteristics.

Requests for reasonable adjustments will always be considered individually and in partnership with parents, carers and, where appropriate, relevant professionals.

Examples of reasonable adjustments may include:

- alternative fabrics or clothing to meet sensory needs;
- adaptations to accommodate medical equipment or physical disabilities;
- modifications to footwear where clinically required;
- alternative PE or swimming clothing for medical, cultural or religious reasons;
- the wearing of religious dress or head coverings.

The school will work with families to identify practical solutions that support the pupil's wellbeing, dignity and participation whilst maintaining appropriate standards of safety.

Section 03

KEEPING UNIFORM AFFORDABLE

Reducing cost. Supporting choice. Ensuring value.

Riverside Bridge School recognises its duty to ensure that school uniform is affordable and represents good value for money for families.

In developing and reviewing its uniform requirements, the school will have regard to statutory guidance issued by the Department for Education and will seek to minimise unnecessary costs wherever possible.

The school will do this by:

- limiting the number of compulsory branded items;
- allowing generic items to be purchased from a range of retailers;
- avoiding unnecessary changes to the uniform;
- providing information about second-hand uniform where available;
- reviewing supplier arrangements periodically to ensure value for money;
- consulting with families before making any significant changes to the uniform.

The Governing Board will consider affordability alongside quality, durability and practicality when reviewing the school's uniform arrangements.

Section 04

SCHOOL UNIFORM EXPECTATIONS

Keeping uniform practical. Supporting identity. Allowing flexibility.

The school expects pupils to wear the agreed uniform wherever this is practical and appropriate. Uniform helps to promote a sense of belonging, supports equality and enables pupils to be easily identified during educational visits and community activities.

At Riverside Bridge School, uniform expectations are applied with flexibility to reflect the individual needs of pupils.

Required branded items are:

- Riverside Bridge School polo shirt;
- Riverside Bridge School jumper or cardigan;
- Riverside Bridge School PE T-shirt.

Optional branded items include:

- PE shorts;
- outdoor PE sweatshirt.

Parents and carers may choose whether to purchase these items.

Other uniform items

To help keep costs affordable, all other items may be purchased from any retailer, provided they are suitable for school.

The school recommends:

- plain black footwear suitable for school activities;
- practical clothing appropriate to the weather;
- clearly labelled personal belongings;
- PE and swimming clothing appropriate to the activities being undertaken.

There are no requirements for branded coats, bags or other accessories.

The school recognises that some pupils may need alternative clothing or footwear because of medical, sensory or physical needs. These arrangements will be agreed individually with families where appropriate.

Section 05

PURCHASING SCHOOL UNIFORM

Providing choice. Supporting affordability. Making access straightforward.

Branded uniform items are available from the school's current uniform supplier.

Information about the current supplier and ordering arrangements is available from the school office and on the school website. Generic uniform items may be purchased from any retailer.

Where available, families are encouraged to make use of the school's second-hand uniform scheme to help reduce costs and support sustainability.

Section 06

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Working together. Applying expectations fairly. Supporting pupils.

Supporting consistent and appropriate school uniform is a shared responsibility between the school, pupils and families. Riverside Bridge School is committed to working in partnership with parents and carers to ensure that uniform expectations are understood and applied fairly.

Pupils are encouraged to wear the agreed school uniform whenever this is appropriate and comfortable for them. Uniform is expected:

- whilst attending school;
- when representing the school at educational visits or community events where requested;
- during other activities identified by the school.

The school recognises that some pupils may, at times, be unable to wear all or part of the agreed uniform due to sensory processing differences, medical needs, physical disabilities or other individual circumstances. Where this occurs, the priority will always be to ensure that the pupil is able to attend school, engage in learning and feel safe and comfortable.

Where difficulties with wearing school uniform become frequent or represent a significant change, the school will work in partnership with parents and carers to understand the underlying reasons and agree appropriate strategies or reasonable adjustments to support the pupil. The aim will always be to maximise attendance, wellbeing and participation, rather than to apply sanctions for non-compliance.

Pupils are encouraged to take increasing responsibility for their uniform and personal belongings, appropriate to their age, stage of development and level of independence.

Parents and carers are responsible for ensuring that their child attends school in appropriate clothing that is:

- clean and suitable for school activities;
- clearly labelled where possible;
- in good condition;
- appropriate for the weather and planned activities.

Where families experience difficulty obtaining school uniform or require reasonable adjustments, they are encouraged to contact the school as early as possible so that appropriate support can be considered.

Staff will apply this policy consistently and sensitively, recognising that individual pupils may require reasonable adjustments. Where concerns arise regarding a pupil's uniform, staff will seek to resolve these through supportive discussion with parents and carers rather than punitive measures.
Where appropriate, staff will work with families to identify practical solutions that enable pupils to participate fully in school life.

The Governing Board is responsible for approving this policy and monitoring its implementation. It will ensure that the school's uniform arrangements:

- comply with statutory guidance and the Equality Act 2010;
- remain practical, inclusive and affordable;
- reflect the needs of Riverside Bridge School pupils;
- are reviewed periodically to ensure they continue to represent good value for families.

Section 07

MONITORING AND REVIEW

Reviewing affordability. Monitoring inclusion. Maintaining suitability.

The Headteacher is responsible for the day-to-day implementation of this policy and for ensuring that uniform expectations are applied fairly and consistently across the school.

The Governing Board will review this policy annually, or sooner where changes to legislation, statutory guidance or the needs of the school require it.

During each review, consideration will be given to:

- affordability for families;
- equality and reasonable adjustments;
- feedback from pupils, parents and carers;
- the suitability and practicality of the uniform;
- compliance with current statutory guidance.

Section 08

RELATED POLICIES & FRAMEWORKS

Connecting practice. Strengthening consistency.

This policy should be read alongside:

- Equality, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Charging and Remissions Policy
- Complaints Policy
- Educational Visits Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Accessibility Policy and Accessibility Plan
- SEND Policy

Need help with uniform?

Please contact the school office if you require support with obtaining uniform or need to discuss reasonable adjustments. We are committed to working with families to ensure every pupil can attend school comfortably, safely and with dignity.