



Sitwell Infant School

School Uniform Policy

Statement of intent

Sitwell Infant School 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 children, 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 children, and is affordable and the best value for money for the school and families.

We believe that children 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.

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
- Education (Guidance about Costs of School Uniforms) Act 2021

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

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 child by virtue of their protected characteristics or socio-economic status.

- Listening to the opinions and wishes of parents, children 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.

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 child 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.

Staff members are responsible for:

- Ensuring that children dress in accordance with this policy at all times.
- Ensuring that children 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 and presentable.

Children 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.

Cost principles

The school is committed to ensuring that its school uniform is affordable and accessible to all children, and does not place an unreasonable financial burden on parents. In accordance with the 'School Admissions Code', the Headteacher will ensure that the school's uniform policy does not discourage parents from applying for a place for their child.

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 will be in the future, children at the school.
- Parents of younger children, as they are likely to grow quickly and require new sets of uniform more frequently.
- Parents of children with protected characteristics that may impact their ability to access the uniform due to costs.

- Looked After Children (LAC) and Previously Looked After Children (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 child, 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 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 children, 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 children into account when considering any changes to school uniforms.

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 children 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 children by ensuring that uniforms for all genders are as equal in price as possible and by adhering to the cost principles. The school will ensure that parents and children are consulted over any changes to school uniform, and that views and advice is sought specifically from children, and parents of children, who:

- Are transgender, including non-binary children.
- 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 children 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.

The school ensures that children 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 children 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 children 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 children cannot be met in the standard uniform policy, individual adaptations to the uniform will be considered and permitted wherever possible.

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 child to accommodate particular social and cultural circumstances.

School uniform supplier

Our current school uniform supplier is:

Name of supplier: Price & Buckland

Address of supplier: Benneworth Close, Hucknall, Nottingham, NG15 6EL

Telephone: 0115 759 1416

The governing board will ensure that a written contract is in place with the supplier for branded items. 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.

Uniform assistance

The school supports vulnerable families in meeting the costs of uniforms. The budget for the school uniform assistance scheme comes from pupil premium funds. To claim assistance for school uniform, parents should be eligible for free school meals (FSM). Families who meet the criteria are contacted by school at the beginning of every school year and offered the free uniform package.

The school holds recycled school uniform in school for parents to access; access to these uniforms is available upon request. Recycled uniform is also made available to parents at regular times throughout the school year, such as at parents' evenings and PTA events. Parents are invited to donate their child's uniform when they no longer need it.

School uniform

School colours

Our school colours are as follows: *Kingfisher green & navy blue*

Clothing

The school uniform is as follows:

Item	Optional or required	Branding	How to acquire	Cost per item from school supplier
Regular school uniform				
Kingfisher green sweatshirt or cardigan	Required	School logo on left-hand side	Branded sweatshirt and cardigan available from school supplier and recycled from school office (if stock).	£10.00 (sweatshirt) £11.00 (cardigan)
Navy blue polo shirt	Required	School logo on left-hand side	Available from school supplier, recycled from school office and available from regular retailers.	£8.50
White polo shirt	Required	No branding	Available from regular retailers.	N/A
Grey or black trousers, shorts or skirt	Required	No branding	Available recycled from school office and available from regular retailers.	N/A
Summer dress	Optional	No branding	Available recycled from school office and available from regular retailers.	N/A
Sensible, plain black shoes	Required	No branding	Available from regular retailers.	N/A

PE kit				
Plain white t-shirt	Required	No branding	Available from school and regular suppliers.	£4.00
Plain black shorts	Required	No branding	Available from school and regular suppliers.	£4.50
Accessories				
School book bag	Required	School logo	Available from school supplier.	£5.00 (first book bag provided free of charge)
School PE bag	Required	School logo	Available from school supplier.	£4.50 (first PE bag provided free of charge)

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

Jewellery

Permitted jewellery that may be worn is:

- One pair of stud earrings.
- A smart and sensible wrist watch.

Jewellery is the responsibility of the child and not the school. Lost or damaged items will not be refunded. Smart watches are not permitted. Jewellery must not be worn on PE days. Parents are responsible for ensuring that children do not have their ears pierced at a time which would impact on a child being able to take part in PE lessons.

School bags

School expects that **only** school book bags and PE kit bags are used in school.

All children should bring their school book bag to school every day to carry books and equipment. We expect book bags to be taken home and brought back each day so that children can read their book at home and change it when needed. School PE kits should be in school on the days that children have their PE lessons. These are shared with parents via normal communication channels.

School book bags and PE kit bags are provided free of charge when children start school and a new one purchased when needed.

Adverse weather

All children 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.
- Shorts or skirts.
- Children are advised not to wear any jumpers during heatwaves. If outside during break times, children 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.

Labelling

All children's clothing and footwear should always be clearly labelled with their name by their parents or carers. Any lost clothing is taken to the lost property box in the school reception area. Items that are lost but are labelled are returned to the child when found.

All lost property is retained for one month and is disposed of or made available as recycled uniform if it is not collected within this time.

*This policy will be reviewed biannually in the Autumn term.
Autumn 2022*