



School Uniform at Spa Bermondsey

The school uniform at Spa Bermondsey is simple and flexible. We take the needs of each individual pupil into account and make sure school clothing makes them happy and safe.

Our duties under the Equality Act 2010

The [Equality Act 2010](#) prohibits discrimination against an individual based on the protected characteristics, which include sex, race, religion or belief, and gender reassignment.

To avoid discrimination we:

- Avoid listing uniform items based on sex, to give all pupils 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 pupils
- Allow all pupils to have long hair, although we reserve the right to ask for this to be tied back
- Allow all pupils to style their hair in the way that is appropriate for school yet makes them feel most comfortable
- Allow pupils with sensory or physical needs to make reasonable adaptations to their uniform, depending on their specific needs
- Allow pupils to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons
- Allow pupils to wear headscarves and other religious or cultural symbols
- Allow for adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents to get in touch with Natasha Damree, Deputy Headteacher, who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests

Uniform costs and requirements

As a special school, we are mindful that sensory issues can make the wearing of a school uniform difficult. Equally many of our pupils want to wear a uniform as this gives them a sense of community, pride and helps differentiate between weekday and weekend wear.

We make sure the uniform we offer 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.

We will make sure our uniform:

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

We will do this by:

- Making sure all families know items with school logos are not compulsory
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different key stage groups
- Avoiding specific requirements for items such as coats, bags and shoes/trainers that pupils could also wear on non-school days
- Providing the initial items of uniform for free, including our PE t shirt
- Not having different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- 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 of any changes
- Avoiding requiring different branded items for particular times of the year, such as a branded dress in summer and a branded skirt in winter
- Consulting with parents and pupils on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy
- Continuing to review this policy, to ensure the cost of our uniform is reasonable and provides the best value for money

Our school's uniform

The school has a simple uniform:

- White shirt or blouse or white or blue polo shirt or Spa polo shirt covering shoulders and stomach
- Grey or black trousers or joggers or Skirts or dresses, worn to the knee
- Grey or black jumper and/or Spa fleece
- Shoes that cover the toes

Pupils in KS5 are not required to wear a school uniform but are required to follow the school dress code.

- Tops cover shoulders and stomachs
- Graphics on tops avoid slogans which can be seen as offensive and / or designs which could cause upset (such as depictions from horror movies or similar)
- Skirts and/or shorts come down to the knee
- Shoes are worn that cover toes

If pupils are unable to wear certain uniform items please discuss this with Natasha Damree, the Deputy Headteacher.

For PE, your child will need:

- Plain t-shirt or Spa PE t shirt
- Navy blue/black shorts or joggers
- Trainers

Where to buy uniform

You are welcome to buy uniform from any uniform provider. Most supermarkets offer very good value for money.

Fleeces and T Shirts with the school logo on can be bought directly from the school office. We ask that families use ParentPay to make these purchases wherever possible.

Used items are also available for any families who would like them. Please discuss this with the Deputy Headteacher.

We provide one fleece, Spa PE T shirt and Spa polo shirt for free when the pupil first joins.

Monitoring Arrangements

Governors

The local governing body 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 and pupils
- Offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all pupils

They 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.

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Deputy Headteacher. At every review, it will be approved by the local governing body.

Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

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