

Valley Road Primary School

School Uniform Policy (draft)



“At Valley Road Primary School, we encourage all children to take pride in their appearance. Pupils are expected to wear the school uniform as we believe it plays an important role in developing a sense of belonging, community and equality within our school. Wearing uniform helps children feel part of the Valley Road family and encourages pride in representing our school.”

Approved by:	Mrs Sterjo	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

We believe that school uniform:

- Promotes a sense of community and belonging.
- Encourages equality among pupils.
- Helps develop pride in the school.
- Reduces distractions and supports positive attitudes to learning.
- Enables pupils to represent Valley Road Primary School positively within the wider community.

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 Mrs Sterjo 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 3 or fewer

4. Expectations for school uniform

4.1 Our school's uniform: The standard school uniform consists of:

- Dark green sweatshirt or cardigan
- Yellow polo shirt
- Grey trousers or grey shorts
- Dark green skirt or pinafore dress
- Green and white or yellow and white summer dress
- Dark green or grey tights
- White, grey or black socks
- Plain black shoes

Physical Education (PE) Kit

- Green PE top
- Black shorts, skort, jogging bottoms or leggings
- Trainers

Optional:

- Black and gold PE hoodie

Additional Items

We recommend that children bring:

- Book bag (essential for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils)
- PE bag
- Raincoat or winter coat

- Sun hat
- Outdoor trainers or wellington boots for break times
- Water bottle

Uniform Expectations

To ensure consistency and maintain high standards across the school, please note:

- All school shoes should be plain black with a low heel.
- Only plain stud earrings are permitted.
- Earrings must be removed or covered with tape during PE lessons.
- No other jewellery should be worn to school.

We appreciate the support of parents and carers in ensuring pupils attend school dressed appropriately and ready to learn each day.

4.2 Where to purchase or acquire it

School uniform can be purchased directly from the school. To place an order, please complete the order form and return it to the School Office at:

office.2512@valley-road.oxon.sch.uk

A range of items featuring the Valley Road logo, including sweatshirts, cardigans, PE tops and PE hoodies, is available to purchase. However, families are not required to buy logo-branded items from the school. Similar items without the school logo, together with all other uniform items, may be purchased from retailers such as ASDA, Next, Marks & Spencer and other suppliers.

Pre-Loved Uniform

Our PTA regularly offers high-quality pre-loved uniform items at affordable prices. All proceeds support the PTA's fundraising efforts for the benefit of our school community.

For information about upcoming sales, please contact:

pta@valleyroad.oxon.sch.uk

Families who require financial support towards the cost of school uniform may be able to access assistance through the Henley Educational Trust:

www.henleyeducationaltrust.com

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 Mrs Sterjo 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 Mrs Sterjo 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 Mrs Sterjo
- 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
 - Considers 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 2 years and approved by the full governing board

7. Links to other policies

- This policy is linked to our:
- Behaviour policy
- Equality information and objectives statement
- Anti-bullying policy
- Complaints policy