

# School uniform policy

The Bythams' School



Last reviewed on: July 2025

Next review due by: July 2028

## Contents

1. Aims .....	2
2. Our school's legal duties under the Equality Act 2010 .....	2
3. Limiting the cost of school uniform .....	3
4. Expectations for school uniform .....	4
5. Expectations for our school community .....	6
6. Monitoring arrangements .....	7
7. Links to other policies .....	7

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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 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

## 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, 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 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 (though we reserve the right to ask for this to 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 related to their sex, gender or gender reassignment
- 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 Martin Sutton, Headteacher, 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 uniform.

We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that need 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/carers' 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:

- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary
- Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics where possible.
- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost and/or long-lasting items, such as ties
- Considering cheaper alternatives to school-branded items, such as logos that can be ironed on, as long as this doesn't compromise quality and durability
- Avoiding specific requirements for items pupils could wear on non-school days, such as coats, bags and shoes
- Keeping the number of optional branded items to a minimum, so that the school's uniform can act as a social leveller
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- Considering alternative methods for signalling differences in groups for interschool competitions, such as creating posters or labels
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents/carers to acquire second-hand uniform items
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents/carers of any changes
- Consulting with parents/carers and pupils on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy

## 4. Expectations for school uniform

### 4.1 Our school's uniform

#### Girls

##### Winter

- Grey skirt or pinafore or grey or black trousers
- Royal blue sweatshirt, cardigan or polar fleece with the Bythams logo
- White polo shirt (with or without the Bythams logo)
- Grey or black tights
- Sensible black shoes

##### Summer

- Gingham dress
- Grey or black skirt
- White polo shirt (with or without the Bythams logo)
- Royal blue sweatshirt, cardigan with the Bythams logo
- White socks
- Sensible black shoes

#### Boys

##### Winter

- Grey or black trousers
- Royal blue sweatshirt or polar fleece with the Bythams logo
- White polo shirt (with or without the Bythams logo)
- Grey or black socks
- Sensible black shoes

##### Summer

- Grey or black shorts
- White polo shirt (with or without the Bythams logo)
- Grey or black socks
- Sensible black shoes

## Forest School clothes

Children should bring Forest School clothes to school to change into for their session.

- Wellies
- Waterproof coat
- Waterproof or warm trousers
- Warm sweatshirt/jumper
- Hat and gloves in winter

## Jewellery

Children are only allowed to wear a watch and a pair of sensible stud earrings to school. Necklaces and bracelets should not be worn. Earrings and watches cannot be worn for PE lessons. If your child cannot remove their earrings independently they should not be worn on PE days.

## Hair

Long hair for both girls and boys must be tied back and out of their face.

## Make-up

Make-up and nail varnish should not be worn at school.

### **PE Kit**

- White polo shirt or T-shirt
- Black / Navy shorts
- Black / Navy jogging bottoms (for winter)
- Bythams sweatshirt (dependent on weather)
- Trainers

### **4.2 Where to purchase it**

Uniform can be purchased from [Andrew Hyde Schoolwear](#).

The Friends of the Bythams group sell 'preloved' uniform. If you would like to find out more information regarding availability of sizes/prices etc please email [fobs.uniform@outlook.com](mailto:fobs.uniform@outlook.com).

Uniform does not have to be branded with the school logo and a generic item will be accepted if the uniform school colours are adhered to.

## 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 Martin Sutton, Headteacher 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 Martin Sutton, Headteacher 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.

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 rules listed in our behaviour policy.

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.

### 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
- Takes into account 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 three years by The Headteacher At every review, it will be 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