

Brookside Primary School
School Uniform Policy June 2022



Learn Together, Achieve Together

Statement of intent

Brookside Primary 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 pupils, 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 pupils, and is affordable and the best value for money for the school and pupils' families.

We believe that pupils 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.

1. 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 pupil by virtue of their protected characteristics or socio-economic status.
- 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 pupil is in breach of the policy.

Staff members are responsible for:

- Ensuring that pupils dress in accordance with this policy at all times.
- Disciplining pupils who are in breach of this policy.
- Ensuring that pupils 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, presentable and the correct size.

Pupils 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.

2. Cost principles

The school is committed to ensuring that its school uniform is affordable and accessible to all pupils, and does not place an unreasonable financial burden on parents.

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

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 pupil, 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.

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 pupils, 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. The school will not amend uniform requirements regularly and will take the views of parents and pupils into account when considering any changes to school uniforms.

3. 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 pupils 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 pupils by ensuring that uniforms for all genders are as equal in price as possible and by adhering to the cost principles laid out in section 3.

The school implements a gender-neutral uniform, meaning that pupils 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. Transgender pupils are supported to access the uniform that best reflects their gender expression.

The school ensures that pupils 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 pupils 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 always in accordance with the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.

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

4. Complaints and challenges

The school endeavours to resolve all uniform complaints and challenges locally and informally, in accordance with the school's Complaints Procedures.

To make a complaint, parents should refer to the Complaints Procedures 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 pupil to accommodate particular social and cultural circumstances.

5. Uniform assistance

The school holds second-hand school uniforms for parents to access; access to these uniforms is available upon request made to the headteacher. Parents are invited to donate their child's uniform when they no longer need it.

6. School uniform

Children will wear school uniform apart from the days they do PE. On PE days should attend school in PE Kit.

Below is a reminder of the expected School Uniform, what the children need to wear on their PE days, and what they need to bring into school for Forest School Sessions.

Non-PE Days:

Children are expected to wear the following:

- Grey/black trousers or shorts

- or Grey Skirt or Pinafore dress
- or Green and white dress (Summer)
- Bottle green sweater, cardigan or school sweatshirt
- White or bottle green polo shirt or white shirt
- White or grey socks
- Shoes or sandals – please note trainers are not suitable for Non PE days in school.



School sweatshirts and polo shirts embroidered with the school logo can be purchased through the link on the school website www.brooksideprimary.com.

7. Clothing for PE Days

Children are expected to wear the following:

- White or black shorts with no branding or logos on.
- A plain white-shirt with no branding or logos on or school embroidered PE T - Shirt
- A pair of trainers although some indoor PE work is done in bare feet. A band for long hair so that it can be tied back.

During colder months the children need to wear:

- a pair of plain black jogging bottoms or leggings with no branding or logos on
- white PE T- shirt and a school sweatshirt/cardigan or plain green sweatshirt/cardigan. (No Hoodies)

Throughout their time in Key Stage Two children attend swimming lessons for some part of each year. They need a costume or trunks and a towel. Long hair must be tied back and worn with a swimming cap.

8. Forest School Sessions

The children will go out for forest school sessions in all weathers and their clothes could get dirty. Please send children with clothes which you don't mind them getting dirty.

Children will need:

- Waterproof trousers and waterproof raincoat.
- A pair of wellies.
- Black Jogging bottoms/leggings. Old T- shirt and sweater top.
- During winter months, they will also need a warm hat and gloves.

It is very helpful if all clothes the children bring to school are labelled with their name.

9. Jewellery

Permitted jewellery that may be worn is:

- One pair of stud earrings – no other piercings are permitted.
- A sensible wrist watch.

Jewellery is the responsibility of the pupil and not the school. Lost or damaged items will not be refunded. All jewellery must be removed during practical lessons, including PE lessons and Forest school sessions.

10. Lost Property

The children are expected to take responsibility for their own belongings as a great deal of teaching time can be spent looking for lost items. Please help your child by making sure that clothes, pumps, lunch boxes etc. are clearly marked with the owner's name. A strong hanging loop in outdoor coats is a great help in keeping coats on the correct peg. Lost items that are clearly marked can be returned to their owners but unmarked items are put in the lost property boxes in the junior and infant corridors.

We ask parents to ensure that items of value are not brought to school.

11. Hairstyles

The school reserves the right to make a judgement on where pupils' hairstyles or hair colours are inappropriate for the school environment; however, will ensure that any such judgements do not discriminate against any pupil by virtue of their protected characteristics. Each individual pupil's scenario will be taken into account where any judgements on appropriateness are to be made, and parents will always have the freedom to complain via the school's Complaints Procedures.

Pupils with long hair must ensure that this does not impede their vision, cover their face or provide a health and safety risk. Long hair must be tied up during practical lessons, e.g. during PE.

The following hairstyles are not considered appropriate for school:

- Brightly-coloured, dyed hair.
- Headwear with bold patterns or colours.
- Excessive hair accessories.

12. Makeup

Make up is not allowed - and this includes nail varnish

13. Monitoring and review

This policy is reviewed every two years.

The scheduled review date for this policy is June 2024

