



Parkside Primary School

Uniform Policy

Reviewed July 2025

Uniform Policy

Aims

Parkside Primary School is committed to promoting equality. We want to promote value for money and to ensuring that no child is discriminated against due to their religious belief, economic circumstances, social background or SEND. This policy contains provisions to meet these objectives and has been created with health and safety, value for money and practicality in mind. We have also considered sustainability issues while constructing our approach to our uniform.

It is important that our children feel a sense of belonging to our school. We believe that wearing a smart and practical uniform allows all children, regardless of their backgrounds, to feel equal to their peers and confident in their appearance.

We also believe it is important for children to wear clothing that is conducive to a successful learning environment, including activity-appropriate clothing, such as sports attire.

The Legal Framework

This policy has due regard to all legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Education Act 2011
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Equality Act 2010
- The General Data Protection Regulation
- Data Protection Act 2018

This policy also has due regard to all relevant guidance including the following:

- (DfE) Cost of school uniforms statutory guidance (2021)
- (DfE) Education (Guidance about Costs of School Uniforms) Act (2021)
- (DfE) Developing school uniform policy guidance (2024)

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies and documents:

- Home-School Agreement (signed by parents/carers when a child joins the school)
- Safeguarding Policy
- SEND Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy

- Safe in the Sun Policy
- Complaints Policy

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 sex, race, religion or belief, 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 for health and safety).
- Allow all pupils to style their hair in the way that is appropriate for school yet makes them feel most comfortable.
- Allow pupils to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons.
- Allow pupils to wear headscarves.
- Allow other religious or cultural symbols to be worn (this must be done in consultation with the Head teacher).
- Allow for adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking parents/carers to contact the Head teacher who can answer questions about the policy and respond appropriately to any requests.

The Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill which is being passed through Parliament but not yet law (as of July 2025) states that it will ban schools from requiring parents to buy more than three branded items as part of the school uniform. The government is clear that these items should be limited to low-cost and long-wearing items only. This means, for the first time, no school in England will be able to require unnecessarily large numbers of branded items, so no parent will be unfairly disadvantaged.

At Parkside, we have only ever had branded logo jumpers or fleeces as part of our uniform provision and parents/carers are able to purchase these from the school office. Parents/carers are also able to purchase their own purple jumpers or fleeces which are not branded with our logo.

We will await the guidance in the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill and adapt our procedures and policies as necessary.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Governing Body is responsible for:

- In consultation with the Head teacher and the school community, establishing a practical and smart school uniform that accurately reflects the school's vision and values.
- Ensuring that equal opportunities are considered regarding the school's uniform and that no person is discriminated against.
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of parents/carers, pupils and the wider school community regarding changes to the school's uniform.
- Ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible and affordable.

The Head Teacher is responsible for:

- Enforcing the school's uniform policy on a day-to-day basis.
- Ensuring that school staff understand this policy and know what to do if a pupil is in breach of the policy.
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of the school community regarding the school's uniform and making appropriate recommendations to the Governing Body.
- Providing pupils with exemptions as appropriate e.g. for a pupil who has a broken arm and requires a loose-fitting top.
- Making short-term adaptations to the uniform requirements due to different circumstances (eg. a change in the weather).

Teaching and support staff are responsible for:

- Ensuring that pupils dress in accordance with this policy at all times.
- Taking appropriate action when pupils are in breach of this policy- by speaking with SLT.
- Ensuring that pupils understand why having a consistent and practical school uniform is important e.g. to establish school identity.
- Ensuring activities in school (such as painting in Art and Design) do not damage the children's uniform leading to further costs for parents/carers.

Parents/carers are responsible for:

- Providing their children with the correct school uniform as detailed in this policy.
- Informing the Head teacher if their child requires a more relaxed uniform policy for a period of time, including reasons why.
- Ensuring that their child's uniform is clean, presentable and fits correctly.

Pupils are responsible for:

- Wearing the correct uniform at all times, unless the Head teacher has granted an exemption.
- Looking after their uniform (particularly during playtimes and lunchtimes).
- Respecting why a school uniform is important to the school e.g. to develop a sense of belonging.

Cost and Availability

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 suggests multiple suppliers to obtain the best value for money possible. Any savings negotiated are passed to parents/carers where possible. The school does not enter into exclusive single supplier contracts or cash-back arrangements. The school does not amend uniform requirements regularly and takes the views of parents/carers and pupils into account when considering changes to school uniforms. Where changes are required, the school ensures that assistance is provided to parents/carers struggling to meet the associated costs.

We encourage parents/carers to use local uniform suppliers and supermarkets that can offer the best value. Uniform is also available to purchase from the school office. We also promote the use of second- hand retailers.

Sustainability and our Pre-Loved Uniform Shop

We actively encourage the use of sustainability at Parkside. When children out- grow their uniform or leave in Year 6 parent/carers are encouraged to donate what they can to school. Regular second-hand events take place run by Friends of Parkside. Further to this, Parkside Primary School want to lead the way on educating our children on the importance of sustainable fashion with the opening of our very own Pre-Loved Uniform Shop. Opened throughout term time, families can visit the shop to take items they need for their children. We also ask for regular donations of uniform ensuring the stock is always available. The lost property box is at the entrance and can be accessed at any time by parent/carers and the children. After each half term, the box is emptied and the items inside are taken to the Pre-Loved Uniform Shop. See below our Pre-Loved Uniform Shed.



Religious Clothing/Ceremonial Wear

Some religions and beliefs require their members to conform to a specific dress code. The school does not discriminate against any religion or belief; however, the school weighs the needs and rights of individual pupils against the health and safety concerns of the entire school community.

Parkside Primary School endeavours to allow religious requirements to be met, wherever possible. Parents/ carers can make an appointment with the Head teacher to discuss the Uniform Policy and to make any requests for ceremonial wear to be worn in school.

Parents'/carers' concerns and requests regarding religious clothing are dealt with on a case-by-case basis by the Head teacher and Governing Body. This is always conducted in accordance with the school's Complaints Policy.

Equality

The school is required to ensure that this policy does not discriminate unlawfully. Every step has been taken to ensure that the cost of similar uniform items, for example, trousers versus skirts, are not disproportionate. The school endeavours to ensure that our uniform is as gender neutral and inclusive as possible. We do not insist that children of any gender must wear specific items of clothing. Governors are willing to consider reasonable requests for flexibility to allow a pupil to accommodate particular social and cultural circumstances.

Our Uniform

The school endeavours to ensure that our uniform is as gender neutral as possible. The uniform is as follows:

- Purple sweatshirt or cardigan (with or without the school logo).
- White polo or formal shirt.
- Grey trousers or joggers (optional: in summer grey shorts may be worn).
- Grey skirt (optional: in summer, a purple summer dress may be worn).
- Black, sensible shoes or trainers.
- Grey, black or white socks.
- Grey or black tights.
- Book bag or ruck sack (with or without the school logo).

High heels are not permitted (even on dress- up or non-school uniform days): sensible shoes must be worn by everyone.

Please be aware that children are also not allowed to wear Crocs, sliders, open-toed sandals, or flip-flops to school unless there is a valid medical or SEN reason, which a member of the Senior Leadership Team must authorise. Children who are not wearing appropriate footwear will not be allowed to use the play equipment or run in the playground. They might not be able to participate in PE, and they may be required to stay inside for playtime. This is for their safety and the safety of other children.

All items of clothing and footwear must be labelled with the child's name.

Our PE Kit

Parents/carers are responsible for ensuring their child is dressed appropriately for Physical Education (PE). The PE kit is as follows:

- Plain white T-shirt.
- Black shorts
- Plain, suitable trainers or plimsolls

Black tracksuit bottoms, joggers or leggings (optional: due to the weather).

Parents/carers will be informed if their child's PE is not appropriate. They will also be informed if their child does not have their kit in school.

All items of clothing and footwear must be labelled with the child's name

Trip/ Educational Visits Clothing

Parents/carers are responsible for ensuring that their child is dressed appropriately for a trip. Clear expectations for clothing for the trip will be given in a letter to parents/carers.

Specific Parkside purple polo shirts are provided for the children who take part in sports competitions.

Dress- up days/ Non-School Uniform days

We endeavour to give parents/carers ample notice of upcoming dress-up or non-school days, such as Comic Relief, Maths Day and World Book Day. We do not expect parents/carers to buy specific items and state alternatives when a letter outlining the day is sent out. We also endeavour to provide as much as we can for performances such as the Christmas Nativity or class assemblies. We will inform parents/carers if particular items of clothing are required. **Any dress-up/ non-school uniform days are always optional and parent/carers can choose if their child takes part.**

For Sport's Day we ask the children to wear a t-shirt related to their House Group (we make it clear to parents/carers that they do not need to buy anything specific). We provide coloured stickers for any child who wants one.

Weather

Hot Weather: Everyone working at/attending the school during hot weather conditions is required to wear sun-safe clothing that covers as much of their skin as possible. We will take guidance about hot weather from the borough or government.

This includes wearing:

- Loose fitting tops with collars or covered necklines
- Tops that cover the shoulder area
- Grey shorts or summer dresses

- Sun-safe hats
- Sunglasses with UV protection

Children are asked to come into school already wearing sun cream and can apply themselves during the day. Staff members will not apply sun cream on children. During hot weather, lightweight clothing is required to reduce the risk of overheating. Pupils are not required to wear their jumpers/cardigans during this time. If outside during break and lunch times, pupils not wearing sun-safe clothing/sunscreen are advised to stay in an area protected from the sun. Playtimes and lunchtimes will be adapted if required.

Cold Weather: During cold weather, children are encouraged to wear scarves, gloves, coats and hats when they are outside. We will take guidance about cold weather borough or government. Additional layers underneath the usual school uniform are accepted. Where possible, pupils not wearing warm clothing are provided with spare clothing if going outside during break and lunch times (if required). Playtimes and lunchtimes will be adapted if required.

Jewellery

The only permitted jewellery that may be worn is:

- One pair of stud earrings (no other piercings are permitted)
- A sensible wristwatch (not a smartwatch)

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, for example, PE lessons / swimming lessons.

School Bags

Pupils must use an appropriately sized waterproof bag to carry their books and equipment. It should hold children's books and reading diaries comfortably without causing any damage. School bags featuring inappropriate images, slogans or phrases are not permitted. The school encourages pupils to bring non-valuable bags to school. The school will not be liable for lost or damaged school bags. Bags can be purchased from our school office at any time.

All items must be labelled with the child's name.

Water Bottles

All children should bring a water bottle into school every day: this can be refilled by children whenever necessary during the day.

All items must be labelled with the child's name.

Hair Styles

Hairstyles should be smart and moderate in style. Brightly coloured hair is not permitted. Pupils with what could be deemed extreme hairstyles may be exempt from the rule above on racial or religious grounds. The Head teacher will take each individual pupil's circumstances into consideration. Long hair should be tied up. This is to avoid health and safety risks and ensure that children's vision is not impeded. Large, excessive hair accessories should not be worn; however, small hair clips or plain headbands are acceptable. Hair extensions are not permitted. At the Head teacher's discretion, there may be exceptions to the above in extreme circumstances e.g. a pupil may be permitted to cover their hair if they have hair loss / illness etc. Hair styles may be changed during dress- up days (but must still be appropriate).

Make-Up

False nails and nail extensions are not permitted. Only clear nail varnish may be worn. Children are not allowed to wear make-up during ordinary school days. However, during dress-up days it will be accepted (but must still be appropriate). At the Head teacher's discretion, there may be exceptions to the above in extreme circumstances e.g. a pupil may be permitted to cover heavy scarring/skin damage.

Labelling

School staff encourage good organisation of clothing and footwear, for example, designated spaces for children to keep belongings in and checking of labels. However, all pupils' clothing and footwear must be clearly labelled with their name. Clothing and footwear are the responsibility of the pupil and not the school. If a child goes home in another child's clothing by accident, for example, their jumper; parents/carers should send the clothing not belonging to them back into school to their child's class teacher. Any lost clothing is to be taken to the lost property box.

Non-Compliance

On rare occasions, for example, if slogans on clothing are offensive, the Head teacher and/or SLT are permitted to ask a pupil to take off the clothing, such as a sweatshirt / jumper. In the event that they cannot take the clothing off, parents/carers will be contacted and they will be asked to bring in more suitable uniform/clothing. On other occasions, for example, if a child is wearing inappropriate footwear, teaching and/or support staff will inform parents/carers by telephone or in-person. If a child requires an item of uniform for a specific activity and no spare clothing is available in school, parents/carers may be asked to bring the item into school. Individual family circumstances will be considered in the event that a child is not wearing the correct uniform. Sanctions for breaches of this policy are a last resort: the school endeavours to work with families to resolve breaches of this policy in a timely manner.

Complaints

The school endeavours to resolve all uniform complaints in accordance with the school's Complaints Policy. To make a complaint, parents/carers should refer to the Complaints Policy and follow the stipulations outlined. When a complaint is received, the school works with parents/carers to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

A Reference Guide to Our School Uniform

The images below are intended as a guide only. We allow sweatshirts/cardigans with our school logo on and plain purple ones. For more information, please read our Uniform Policy in full.

Autumn/ Winter:	Spring/ Summer:	PE:
		