

Uniform Policy



Agreed by Governors	Autumn 2020
Date for Review	Autumn 2023



UNIFORM POLICY

Principles

The power to introduce a school uniform policy is contained in section 88(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006. This section places a duty on governing bodies to ensure that policies designed to promote good behaviour and discipline are pursued at the school. Governing bodies are required by section 110 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 to put in place home-school agreements.

There is no education legislation specifically covering the wearing of school uniform or other aspects of appearance such as hair colour and style, and the wearing of jewellery and makeup. However, as part of its responsibility for the conduct of Westfield Infant School the Governing Board have specified a uniform which pupils are required to wear and other rules relating to appearance.

At Westfield Infant School we believe that uniform is essential to the ethos of the school community. Uniform establishes a clear sense of identity, fosters a sense of inclusive belonging and engenders both positive behaviour and self-discipline. These are essential contributing factors in supporting teaching and learning. The Governors very much appreciate parents/carers support in ensuring that their child/children attend school smartly dressed and in the correct uniform.

Governors and staff at Westfield Infant School have ensured that the Uniform Policy pays due regard to;

- best value and keeping the cost of supplying the uniform under review;
- availability for parents/carers to purchase uniform items;
- regulations concerning equal opportunities;
- securing equality between boys and girls and equality of opportunity between pupils of different racial groups;
- religious needs concerning dress;
- any special needs a pupil may have.

Aims

At Westfield Infant School we recognise that a uniform can:

- provide a sense of identity and cohesion within the school and instil pride in its achievements;
- support positive behaviour and school discipline;
- ensure pupils dress appropriately for learning activities;
- remove peer pressure to dress in 'designer' fashions;
- enable pupils of all backgrounds to share in a common identity which embraces their particular requirements;
- help reduce inequalities between pupils and some triggers for bullying;
- help identify truants;
- assist identification of strangers on school premises;
- can support and promote the ethos of the school.

Practice

The Uniform Policy, uniform items and essential equipment, e.g. book bags, are shared with parents/carers at the induction meetings for the new EYFS intake and at the initial visit for new pupils joining our school at a time other than the beginning of the Reception Year. There is a display of the school uniform in our main entrance. Parents/Carers are informed of our supply of high quality recycled school uniform available for families. These are available for parents/carers to select from at the induction meetings and at the beginning of each academic year. There is also a section on 'School Clothing' in our Westfield Infant School Parent/Carer Handbook a paper copy of which is available on request or available to view on the Westfield Infant School website www.westfield-inf.leics.sch.uk.

The Governing Board recognises that school uniform and other items that are required to be purchased in accordance with a school uniform policy can be a financial burden. Consequently when introducing a new uniform or considering changes to our school uniform requirements the Governing Board will give high priority to the cost considerations.

The following considerations have been made:

- Our basic uniform items include royal blue sweatshirts/cardigans, white polo shirts, grey or black trousers/skirts/pinafore dresses and/or royal blue gingham dresses. No styles are specified so that items can be purchased from retail chains and supermarkets at reasonable prices or from our suppliers where items are embroidered with the Westfield Bear Logo.
- Black school shoes/boots are recommended. For health and safety reasons we do not allow pupils to wear shoes with platform soles or high heels. If boots are large and prevent pupils from sitting comfortably on the floor they may be asked to change into their PE shoes whilst inside the school building.
- Items that are not encouraged include denim jeans and trainers.
- Items with our school logo e.g. sweatshirts, cardigans, polo shirts and PE kit are obtainable from our specialist supplier **Hole In The Wall, 11 Lower Bond Street, Hinckley**. It is optional for items worn to have the Westfield Bear Logo.
- The Westfield School fleece and coat are optional.
- For families who have eligibility to Free School Meals (Pupil Premium Grant) the Governing Board have agreed to offer vouchers that can be exchanged for school uniform at the Hole In The Wall shop. Vouchers are available for:
 - 1 x Sweatshirt or Cardigan
 - 1 x White Polo Shirt
 - 1 x School Trousers or School Skirt/Dress
 - 1 x Blue PE Shorts or Leotard
 - 1 x PE T-Shirt
 - 1 x School Book Bag (issued once on admission to the school)
- If there is a change to a school uniform policy a transitional period would be introduced so that old uniform can be worn for at least a year before a total changeover to a new uniform and consideration will be given as to whether items of the old uniform can be retained in the new policy.

Non-Uniform Days

Non-uniform days may be organised to support a charity but are limited to one per term. Staff and Governors have agreed to limit the number of non-uniform days because past experience has found that there is a deterioration in the behaviour of pupils on such days.

In the Absence of School Uniform

We believe that one of the responsibilities of parents/carers is to ensure that their child has the correct uniform and PE kit. This is explained at the Induction Meeting for new parent/carers for the new EYFS intake and at the initial visit for new pupils joining our school at a time other than the beginning of the Reception Year. We request that uniform is clean, in good repair and that

the child's name is written on all items. The same system will apply for children who do not have a PE kit. Parents will be contacted to discuss the matter.

It is for the Headteacher to enforce the School Uniform Policy as part of the overall responsibility for the day-to-day running of the school and for maintaining discipline. The Headteacher would decide what action to take when pupils infringe the school uniform policy.

The Headteacher would first establish why a pupil is not complying with the policy. If it is because the family is in financial difficulty the Headteacher would check the family's eligibility for Free School Meals that would lead to the Pupil Premium Grant. The Headteacher would allow an appropriate amount of time for the required items to be purchased and offer for families to loan an item of uniform.

Parents/Carers should be assured that we will do all we can to help. Pupils who arrive at school wearing non-school uniform clothing will be loaned an appropriate item of uniform.

There may be other reasons apart from financial ones or defiance why a pupil is not complying with the uniform policy. For example, their uniform may have been lost, stolen or damaged or accidentally soiled beyond the point where it can be worn and it may not be possible to wash and dry some articles of clothing overnight. For any of the above reasons the pupil would not be sent home.

Westfield Infant School welcomes pupils from all backgrounds and faith communities. If there are serious reasons, for example on religious grounds, why parents/carers want their child to wear clothes that differ from the school uniform, the school will consider such requests sympathetically. If any parent/carer would like to request a modification to the uniform policy they should, in the first instance, contact the Headteacher.

PE

For clothing worn for PE please refer to the Physical Education Policy. Pupils who forget PE kit will be provided with items to wear by school.

Jewellery

For health and safety reasons we do not allow children to wear jewellery. The exceptions to this rule are earring studs in pierced ears, and small objects of religious significance. Pupils are required to remove or cover using tape any items during PE lessons to prevent them from causing injury. Please note: teachers are not permitted to remove earrings.

Medical Issues

The Governing Board will consider carefully requests made to vary the policy to meet the needs of an individual pupil because of a temporary or permanent medical condition or impairment. For example, pupils with some skin conditions may be unable to wear specific fabrics, and pupils with foot or leg injuries may be unable to wear school shoes. A pupil with a specific impairment may find that a certain school uniform item poses restrictions to them.

Monitoring and Review

The Governing Board monitors and reviews the school uniform policy by:

- seeking the views of parents/carers, to ensure that they agree with and support the policy
- considering, with the Headteacher, any requests from parents/carers for individual pupils to have special dispensation with regard to school uniform.

Complaints

Any complaints about school uniform must be made in the first instance to the Headteacher. If the complaint is not satisfactorily resolved the complaint should be brought to the attention of the Governing Board. The Governing Board's decision will be final.

This policy will be reviewed in the Autumn Term 2023.

Adopted by the Governing Board and Signed by
Chair of Governors

Date 25.1.21