

The Mary Bassett Lower School

School Uniform Policy



Approved by:

The Governing Body

November 2023

Last reviewed on:

December 2022

Next review due by:

December 2024

Contents

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

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
- Promoting the ethos of a school
- Providing a sense of belonging and identity
- Setting an appropriate tone for education

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 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)
- 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 and other religious or cultural symbols
- Allow for adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents and carers to get in touch with the Headteacher, who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests

3. Limiting the cost of school uniform

After consultation with parents and carers we found that 74% of parents and carers would prefer the choice between branded and unbranded 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 on the cost of school uniform.

We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that have 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' and 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 and carers

We will do this by:

- Offering families the choice between branded and unbranded school uniform. Where unbranded uniform is chosen we ask families to purchase the same school colours as unbranded uniform for example bottle green jumpers/cardigans
- Selling iron on school badges from the school office for £1.50
- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost or long-lasting items
- 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 signaling differences in groups for interschool competitions, such as creating posters or labels
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents and carers to acquire second-hand uniform items through uniform sales organised by the PTFA
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents and 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

Please see Appendix 1

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 the 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 and carers are also expected to contact the 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 and 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 and 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 the school pastoral team.

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 FGB 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 annually by the Headteacher. At every review, it will be approved by the FGB.

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

- Behaviour policy
- Equality information and objectives statement
- Anti-bullying policy
- Complaints policy

School Uniform

At The Mary Bassett Lower School we value the opportunity to have a uniform that:

- helps children identify themselves as part of a wider community
- encourages children to take pride in their appearance
- is comfortable to wear, practical and affordable for parents and carers through the option of branded or unbranded uniform
- supports children to also consider their personal comfort and individual presentation



Jumpers & Cardigans

Bottle Green sweatshirts and cardigans can be worn along with a plain white polo shirt



Shirts

White polo style shirts.



Socks & Tights

Socks & Tights: white, grey or bottle green.

Shoes

Shoes must be black or brown. Please ensure they are comfortable and if possible with plenty of grip. Heeled, strappy, soft-fabric or canvas shoes are not suitable.

Book Bag

All pupils are required to have a school book bag. Branded book bags (£7.00) and back packs (£11.50) are available from the School Office.

Please don't forget to name ALL items of clothing

Hair

We encourage long hair to be tied back during the school day.

Headwear

Small and tidy hair accessories in school colours can be worn. Sun caps are encouraged for hot weather.

Trousers & Shorts

Grey Trousers or shorts can be worn.

PE Kit

Children require a named drawstring PE bag containing a dark green PE T-shirt, black shorts and a pair of trainers.

The school sells its own bottle green PE T-shirt from the front desk (£4.00) In winter months we recommend parents provide green, grey or black hoodies and tracksuit bottoms to supplement the kit.



Skirts, Pinafores & Summer Dresses

Grey skirts and pinafores can be worn. Green and white gingham summer dresses can be worn

Technology

Children are not allowed to bring personal mobile technology in to school, including tablets, smart watches and mobile phones.

Jewellery

We permit only plain stud earrings (that ideally can be removed for PE) and invite children to wear a watch (ideally analogue) if they desire. Please avoid precious or expensive items.

The School's branded uniform is available from Wear2School in Leighton Buzzard. Please follow this link for an easy payment scheme.

You can purchase school badges to iron onto unbranded clothing from the school office for £1.50 per badge.

[School Uniform | The Mary Bassett Lower School](#)