



# Riversdale Primary School

A nurturing, ambitious and values led school.

# SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY

DATE: 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026

REVIEW DATE: 30<sup>th</sup> May 2029

## PURPOSE

Riversdale Primary School has a school uniform because we believe it supports a sense of belonging, pride and shared identity. Uniform helps pupils feel part of the school community and supports a calm, purposeful environment for learning.

This policy sets out the school's expectations for uniform and appearance. It also explains how the school ensures that uniform is affordable, inclusive, practical and in line with current statutory guidance.

## LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND GUIDANCE

This policy has been written with regard to:

- DfE statutory guidance: Cost of school uniforms;
- DfE non-statutory guidance: School uniforms: guidance for schools;
- Education (Guidance about Costs of School Uniforms) Act 2021;
- Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026, including the limit on compulsory branded items from September 2026;
- Equality Act 2010;
- the school's duties relating to safeguarding, health and safety and behaviour.

Schools and governing boards must have regard to the DfE statutory guidance on the cost of school uniforms. The guidance states that school uniform should be affordable, should not be a barrier to applying for or attending a school, and that all branded items should be kept to a minimum.

## PRINCIPLES

Riversdale Primary School's uniform policy is based on the following principles:

- uniform should be affordable and offer good value for money;
- branded items should be kept to a minimum;
- parents and carers should be able to buy most items from a range of retailers;
- second-hand uniform should be available;
- uniform should be practical, comfortable and suitable for school life;
- uniform should support health and safety;
- the policy should be inclusive and should not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, religion or belief, disability, gender reassignment or any other protected characteristic;
- pupils should not be prevented from attending school or participating in learning because of uniform difficulties.

## AFFORDABILITY AND BRANDED ITEMS

The school is committed to keeping uniform costs as low as reasonably possible.

Most items of Riversdale uniform can be bought from supermarkets, high-street shops or other general retailers. Branded items can be purchased directly from the school, via the Arbor app.

From September 2026, primary schools must not require more than three compulsory branded items of school uniform or PE kit. Riversdale Primary School already comply with this requirement.

For Riversdale, the compulsory branded items are:

- School sweatshirt or cardigan with the Riversdale logo;
- PACT Folder with the Riversdale logo in KS1;
- PE top in the child's house colour.

Backpacks with the Riversdale logo in KS2 are available but optional.

The school will avoid making frequent changes to uniform requirements. Where changes are necessary, families will be given reasonable notice and transitional arrangements will be put in place wherever possible.

## SCHOOL UNIFORM EXPECTATIONS

Pupils should wear the following uniform:

- jade green school sweatshirt, jumper or cardigan, with the school logo;
- white polo shirt or white shirt;
- grey, black or navy trousers, shorts, skirt or pinafore;
- green gingham dress may be worn in warmer weather;

- flat, sensible black or dark-coloured shoes or trainers;
- plain socks or tights in suitable school colours.

Items should be practical, comfortable and suitable for learning, play and movement around the school site.

Jeans, fashion leggings, high heels, open-toed sandals, including crocs, and footwear that is unsafe for school are not suitable.

### **PE KIT**

Pupils should wear:

- plain black or navy shorts, joggers or tracksuit bottoms;
- house-coloured T-shirt;
- trainers suitable for PE.

Pupils may wear their school jumper during colder weather.

Pupils should not be excluded from PE because of a minor uniform issue. Where a pupil does not have PE kit, the school will respond proportionately and sensitively, including offering spare kit where available.

### **OUTDOOR CLOTHING**

Pupils should have suitable outdoor clothing for the weather, including a coat during colder or wet weather.

In warmer weather, pupils are encouraged to wear a sun hat or cap for outdoor play and PE. Any plain, suitable cap or sun hat may be worn.

### **RELIGIOUS, CULTURAL AND MEDICAL DRESS**

The school respects pupils' religious, cultural and medical needs.

Pupils may wear religious or cultural clothing, including a hijab, turban, patka, headscarf or other appropriate covering. These should be safe and practical for school activities. Plain colours that fit reasonably with the school uniform are preferred, such as black, navy, white, grey or jade green.

Reasonable adjustments will be made for pupils with medical needs, sensory needs, SEND or disabilities. Parents and carers should contact the school if their child needs an adjustment to the uniform expectations.

### **JEWELLERY, WATCHES AND ACCESSORIES**

For health and safety reasons, jewellery should be kept to a minimum.

The following may be worn:

- one pair of small plain stud earrings;
- a simple wristwatch.

Hoop earrings, dangling earrings, rings, bracelets, necklaces and other jewellery should not be worn unless agreed for religious, medical or other exceptional reasons.

Smart watches or devices that can take photographs, record, connect to the internet, send messages or receive notifications should not be worn in school.

All jewellery and watches must be removed for PE, swimming and certain physical activities where required for safety. Staff cannot take responsibility for jewellery or watches that are lost or damaged.

If earrings cannot be removed independently by the pupil, parents/carers should remove them before school on PE or swimming days.

### **HAIR, MAKE-UP AND NAILS**

Hair should be safe and practical for school. Long hair should be tied back for PE, swimming, cooking, practical activities and where required for health and safety.

The school will not apply rules about hair in a way that discriminates against pupils because of race, religion, culture, disability or any protected characteristic.

Hair accessories should be simple, safe and suitable for school.

Make-up, false nails and nail varnish should not be worn in school. This is because they are not necessary for primary school and can create health and safety issues, particularly during PE, play and practical activities.

## **BAGS AND PERSONAL ITEMS**

Pupils should bring only the items they need for school. Bags should be a suitable size and should not create health and safety issues in classrooms or cloakrooms.

All clothing, bags, water bottles and personal items should be clearly labelled with the pupil's name.

The school cannot accept responsibility for lost, damaged or unlabelled items.

## **SECOND-HAND UNIFORM AND SUPPORT WITH COSTS**

The school will support families to access affordable uniform.

This may include:

- second-hand uniform sales or exchanges;
- donated uniform;
- signposting to local support;
- support from the school in cases of financial difficulty.

Information about how to access second-hand uniform will be made available to parents and carers through the school website or the weekly community newsletter.

Parents and carers who are experiencing difficulty obtaining uniform should contact the school. Requests will be handled sensitively.

## **SUPPLIER ARRANGEMENTS**

Where branded uniform is offered, the school will ensure that supplier arrangements provide good value for money.

The school will:

- keep branded items to a minimum;
- ensure most items can be bought from a range of retailers;
- review supplier arrangements periodically;
- avoid unnecessary single-supplier arrangements unless they are justified and represent best value;
- ensure any supplier arrangement is managed in line with procurement expectations.

Any savings negotiated with suppliers should be passed on to parents and carers. DfE guidance states that schools should ensure supplier arrangements prioritise cost and value for money and should avoid single-supplier contracts except in specific circumstances.

## **EQUALITY AND INCLUSION**

The school will apply this policy fairly and sensitively.

The school will consider reasonable requests to vary the uniform where this is needed because of:

- religion or belief;
- race, ethnicity or culture;
- disability;
- SEND or sensory needs;
- medical needs;
- temporary injury;
- financial hardship;
- safeguarding or welfare reasons.

Uniform expectations will not be applied in a way that unfairly disadvantages a pupil or prevents them from accessing education.

## **NON-COMPLIANCE WITH UNIFORM EXPECTATIONS**

Where a pupil is not wearing the correct uniform, staff will respond proportionately and sensitively.

The school will consider whether there may be a reason for the uniform issue, including financial hardship, family circumstances, SEND, sensory needs, medical needs or safeguarding concerns.

The usual approach will be:

- a quiet conversation with the pupil, where appropriate;
- contact with parents/carers if the issue continues;
- support to obtain the correct uniform where needed;
- use of spare or second-hand uniform where appropriate;
- further discussion with parents/carers if there is persistent non-compliance without reasonable explanation.

Pupils will not be publicly shamed or humiliated because of uniform issues.

## **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **Governing Body**

The Governing Body is responsible for:

- approving the uniform policy;
- ensuring the policy has regard to statutory guidance;
- ensuring uniform remains affordable and inclusive;
- reviewing branded items and supplier arrangements;
- ensuring second-hand uniform arrangements are available.

### **Headteacher**

The Headteacher is responsible for:

- implementing the policy consistently;
- ensuring staff understand the policy;
- considering reasonable adjustments and individual circumstances;
- ensuring parents and carers are informed of uniform expectations;
- ensuring the policy is published on the school website.

### **Staff**

Staff are responsible for:

- encouraging pupils to follow the uniform expectations;
- responding sensitively to uniform issues;
- referring concerns to senior leaders where needed;
- avoiding public criticism or embarrassment of pupils.

### **Parents and Carers**

Parents and carers are responsible for:

- ensuring their child wears suitable school uniform;
- labelling clothing and personal items;
- contacting the school if they need support or an adjustment;
- ensuring jewellery is removed on PE and swimming days where required.

### **Pupils**

Pupils are expected to:

- wear suitable school uniform;
- look after their belongings;
- follow health and safety expectations;
- show respect for the uniform choices, religious dress and individual needs of others.

## COMPLAINTS

Parents and carers who are concerned about the uniform policy, its cost, availability or how it has been applied should contact the school in the first instance.

If the concern is not resolved, parents and carers may use the school's Complaints Procedure.

## MONITORING AND REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed at least every three years, or sooner if:

- statutory guidance changes;
- uniform legislation changes;
- supplier arrangements change;
- governors decide that a review is needed;
- feedback from parents, carers or pupils indicates that changes should be considered.

The school will consider affordability, equality, practicality, availability of second-hand uniform and the number of branded items when reviewing the policy.