



Great Sampford
Primary School

School Uniform Policy

Updated : July 2025
Review : July 2026

Introduction

From September 2022, schools have to comply with the statutory guidance from the DfE on school uniforms, under the Education (Guidance about Costs of School Uniforms) Act 2021. This policy aims to show how our school aims to meet these requirements.

Throughout this policy, 'parents' should be taken to include all those with parental responsibility, including guardians and carers.

Rationale

Uniform as it can play a key role in:

- promoting the ethos of a school
- providing a sense of belonging and identity
- setting an appropriate tone for education

By creating a common identity amongst all pupils, regardless of background, a school uniform can act as a social leveller. It can reduce bullying and peer pressure to wear the latest fashions or other expensive clothes. If, however, the uniform is too expensive it can place an unreasonable burden on families. Furthermore, if a distinction can be made between those who can afford it and those who cannot, this can reduce the benefits of a uniform and has the potential to negatively impact attendance, access and participation, and lead to bullying.

Parents should not have to think about the cost of a school uniform when choosing which school(s) to apply for. No school uniform should be so expensive as to leave pupils or their families feeling unable to apply to, or attend, a school of their choice. Therefore, schools need to ensure that their uniforms are affordable.

Role of the Governing Body

It is for the Governing Body of a school to decide:

- rules around appearance
- whether there should be a school uniform policy and if so, what that should be
- how the uniform should be sourced

These duties are placed upon all governing boards by statute to ensure that school policies promote good behaviour and discipline amongst the pupil body.

Factors

The following factors have been considered when determining the school's uniform policy:

- Assessing the overall cost implications, e.g., when a child may grow out of an item quickly or where spare items are likely to be needed.
- Assess the impact uniform variations can have on total costs and the ability of parents to pass items down between siblings. Therefore, the Governing Body has decided there are not separate requirements for specific year groups or houses/teams when attending our school.
- Avoid frequent changes and show how any change in uniform specifications secures the best value for money or why the change is required.
- Minimise any financial impact of any change on parents (such as allowing pupils to continue to wear the old uniform for a reasonable period).
- Consider how costs affect different groups of pupils, especially children who belong to groups with a particular protected characteristic, e.g., disadvantaged.

- Engage with parents and pupils when developing the uniform policy. The school will share a draft version of this policy for parental feedback which will be shared with the Governing Body.
- Avoid needing additional uniform for extra-curricular activities. This may involve but is not limited to, extra-curricular activities such as sport, music, or drama. This does not preclude schools from having a standard PE kit for PE lessons.
- Engage with uniform suppliers to ensure that they get the best value for money on their proposed uniform. For instance, a supplier may be able to provide standard style items cheaper than more intricate and unique designs.

Branded items

Cost and value for money for parents should be the most important consideration for the Governing Body when considering how school uniforms should be sourced. Parents should be able to purchase generic items of uniform from a range of retailers, e.g., supermarkets, giving them choice and value for money.

The school currently has a contract with 'Goodies' to supply the following branded items. However, all of these items are optional and equivalent generic items can be purchased by parents that would still meet our uniform dress code:

- Royal blue cardigan with logo
- Royal blue jumper with logo
- School tie
- Blue Games shirt with school logo
- Navy blue shorts
- Navy blue skorts
- A nylon drawstring kit bag
- Book Bag

Further details can be discussed with Mrs Bullock in the office.

Our Governing Body will ensure that suppliers continue to provide good value for money throughout the duration of the contract. Any contract we have for school uniform will be retendered at least every 5 years. When reviewing this policy, it does not necessarily have to result in changes being made to the contractor supplying branded items.

Pre-Loved uniforms

A selection of second-hand uniform garments are available at our school. Parents who are interested in seeing our current stock, should enquire directly at our school office. All profits made from sales of second-hand uniform go directly to the school.

Uniform dress code

The following table outlines the dress code we ask children to adhere to. Whilst some of these items could be branded, all can be sourced as generic items from a range of retailers.

(See Appendix A for a more detailed list of the school uniform)

Trousers/skirts/ Pinafores:	Dark grey
Tops:	White polo shirts for Robin and Puffin Shirt and school tie for KS2
Jumpers/ cardigans:	Royal blue

Socks/tights:	Grey
Shoes:	Black, plain sensible flat-soled shoes should be worn in school. No boots or trainers.
Summer dresses	Mid-blue checked gingham summer dress with white socks
PE	Blue logo games top; navy shorts/skirt; trainers; navy blue tracksuit; white socks
Swimming	Children in Years 3 & 4 attending swimming lessons will require a swimsuit (girls) or swimming trunks (boys) and a swimming hat.

Jewellery

This policy is based on the Generic Risk Assessments for PE Activities (Athletics, Dance, Games and Gymnastics), which replaced previous PE guidance in August 2009.

- All jewellery, including earrings, must be removed for PE lessons.
The current risk assessments do not allow for earrings to be taped over as a suitable alternative. Therefore, if a pupil cannot remove their earrings, they will unfortunately be unable to participate in the PE lesson until the earrings can be taken out.
- This policy is mandatory for all Essex schools.
- For pupils with newly pierced ears, while the formal allowance for taping ended in 2014, we understand that this can cause challenges. As such, we ask parents to plan ear piercings for the start of the summer holidays to allow time for healing and ensure earrings can be safely removed for PE in term time.

We kindly ask all parents and carers to support us in maintaining a safe environment by ensuring children do not wear earrings or other jewellery on PE days, unless flat-backed earrings have been specifically approved by the headteacher. This will help avoid injury and ensure all pupils can take part safely.

Other support with the cost of school uniforms

Our school runs a scheme to help reduce the cost of the branded items for families whose financial status has meant they have triggered Pupil Premium funding for the school. This scheme offers to contribute up to £50 towards each eligible child's branded uniform costs per academic year. For further details of this scheme, please speak to the school office.

Religion or beliefs

Some religions and beliefs require their adherents to conform to a particular dress code or to otherwise outwardly manifest their belief. This could include wearing or carrying specific religious artefacts, not cutting their hair, dressing modestly, or covering their head. Pupils have the right to manifest a religion or belief, but not necessarily at all times, places or in a particular manner.

Where a school has good reason for restricting an individual's freedoms, for example, the promotion of cohesion and good order in the school, or genuine health and safety or security considerations, the restriction of an individual's rights to manifest their religion or belief may be justified.

Our school is sensitive to the needs of different cultures, races and religions and will act reasonably in accommodating these needs, without compromising important school policies, such as school safety or discipline. It should be possible for most religious requirements to be met within a school uniform policy and our Governing Body will act reasonably through consultation and dialogue in accommodating these.

As well as religious beliefs we allow our children to express their identity, and as such the uniform policy is considered gender neutral.

Pupil non-compliance

Teachers can discipline pupils for breaching the school's rules on appearance or uniform. This should be carried out in accordance with the school's published Behaviour & Discipline Policy.

Complaints

Disputes about school uniforms should be resolved locally and should be pursued in accordance with the school's complaints policy.

Appendix A



School Uniform

At Great Sampford we believe it is important that all children and staff are appropriately dressed. The wearing of our agreed school uniform is therefore an expectation for all pupils. All items with the school Kingfisher logo can be purchased via your Arbor account. We also keep stock of PE shorts and skorts. All other clothing can be purchased from any high street clothing shop.

Key Stage 1

Early Years and Years 1 & 2

White polo shirt
Dark grey skirt, pinafore, trousers or shorts (not cargo style)
Grey socks or tights
Mid-blue checked gingham summer dress with white socks
Royal blue cardigan with logo
Royal blue jumper with logo

Sensible black shoes not trainers

PE Kit

Blue Games shirt with school logo
Navy blue shorts or navy skorts
Short white socks
A pair of trainers
A nylon drawstring kit bag can be purchased too

Children also need a navy-blue tracksuit or sweatshirt for winter outdoor games.

Key Stage 2

Years 3-6

White shirt and school tie
Dark grey skirt, pinafore, trousers or shorts (not cargo style)
Mid-blue checked gingham summer dress with white socks
Grey socks or tights
Royal blue jumper with logo
Royal blue cardigan with logo

Sensible black shoes not trainers

PE Kit

Blue Games shirt with school logo
Navy blue shorts or navy skorts
Short white socks
A pair of trainers

Children also need a navy-blue tracksuit or sweatshirt for winter outdoor games.

Book Bags

These can be purchased from the school office for children in Reception to end of Year 2. Children in Swift and Eagle Classes (Years 3-6) can use their own choice of bag.

Swimming (Swift Class: Years 3 and 4 only)

Costume (one-piece, no bikinis) and towel in appropriately sized bag.
Swim shorts must fall above the knee; baggy swim shorts are not recommended for swimming lessons.

Swimming hats **must** be worn by all children with hair which is long enough to cover their ears.

Please note:

- Long hair should be tied back, especially for PE and Swimming.
- Earrings should not be worn on PE and swimming days. Staff cannot remove or tape earrings; children must be able to remove earrings themselves if necessary.
- No make up is to be worn
- Football boots and shin pads must be worn by all children who attend football club.

Please ensure all clothing and kit bags are clearly named.