

CATCOTT PRIMARY



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# SCHOOL UNIFORM

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‘...where learning takes you to greater heights...’

Approved by:

Full Governing Body

Date:

January 2025

Last reviewed on:

Next review due by:

January 2026

## This policy aims to:

1. Set out our approach to requiring a uniform that is of reasonable cost and offers the best value for money for parents and carers
2. Explain how we will avoid discrimination in line with our legal duties under the Equality Act 2010
3. Clarify our expectations for school uniform

## Roles and responsibilities

### The governing board is responsible for:

1. Establishing, in consultation with the headteacher and school community, a practical and smart school uniform that accurately reflects the school's vision and values.
2. Ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible and inclusive, and does not disadvantage any pupil by virtue of their protected characteristics or socio-economic status.
3. Ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible and affordable.
4. Demonstrating how best value for money has been achieved in the uniform policy.
5. Ensuring compliance with the DfE's 'Cost of school uniforms' guidance.

### The headteacher is responsible for:

1. Enforcing the school's uniform on a day-to-day basis.
2. Ensuring that teachers understand this policy and what to do if a pupil is in breach of the policy.
3. Listening to the opinions and wishes of the school community in regard to the school's uniform and making appropriate recommendations to the governing board.

### Staff members are responsible for:

1. Ensuring that pupils dress in accordance with this policy at all times.
2. Ensuring that pupils understand why having a consistent and practical school uniform is important, e.g. school identity.

## Parents are responsible for:

1. Providing their children with the correct school uniform as detailed in this policy.
2. Informing the headteacher if their child requires a more relaxed uniform policy for a period of time, including why.
3. Ensuring that their child's uniform is clean, presentable and the correct size. •  
Clearly labelled with the child's name.

## Pupils are responsible for:

1. Wearing the correct uniform at all times, unless the headteacher has granted an exemption.
2. Looking after their uniform as appropriate.

## Cost principles

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' ability to 'shop around' for a low price.

## We will make sure our uniform:

1. is available at a reasonable cost
2. provides the best value for money for parents/carers

## We will do this by:

1. carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary
2. making the wearing of items with the school logo on non-compulsory
3. allowing the wearing of cheaper alternatives to school-branded items
4. keeping the number of optional branded items to a minimum, so that the school's uniform can act as a social leveler
5. no difference in uniform requirements for different years
6. avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
7. making sure that arrangements are in place for parents to acquire second-hand uniform items

8. avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents of any changes
9. consulting with parents and pupils on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy

## Equality principles

The school takes its legal obligation to avoid discriminating against any protected characteristic unlawfully very seriously, and aims to ensure that the uniform policy is as inclusive as possible so that all pupils are supported to access a school uniform which is comfortable, suitable for their needs, and reflects who they are.

The school will work to ensure that school uniform's cost does not disproportionately affect any pupils by ensuring that uniforms for all genders are as equal in price as possible and by adhering to the cost principles.

The school will ensure that parents and pupils are consulted over any changes to school uniform, and that views and advice is sought specifically from pupils, and parents of pupils, who:

1. Are transgender, including non-binary pupils.
2. Have SEND and/or sensory needs.
3. Are of a religious or cultural background that has dress requirements.

The school implements a gender-neutral uniform, meaning that pupils are not required to wear specific items based on their gender, and may wear any of the uniform items listed in the 'School uniform' section of this policy regardless of the legal sex recorded on the school's records. Transgender pupils are supported to access the uniform that best reflects their gender expression in line with the LGBTQ+ Policy.

The school ensures that pupils who are required to follow certain dress requirements, e.g. by virtue of their membership of a particular religious or cultural group, are afforded flexibility to allow them to wear a uniform that adheres to their requirements as far as possible. The school endeavours to meet all requests for amendments to the uniform for these purposes; however, will ensure that the needs and rights of individual pupils are weighed against any health and safety concerns for the entire school community.

Parents' concerns and requests regarding religious clothing are dealt with on a case-by-case basis by the headteacher and governing board, and always in accordance with the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.

The school ensures that the needs of pupils with SEND and/or sensory difficulties are considered in the uniform policy, e.g. ensuring soft, stretchy fabrics and avoiding intricate

buttons or hard seams; however, where the needs of these pupils cannot be met in the standard uniform policy, individual adaptations to the uniform will be considered and permitted wherever possible.

## Uniform assistance

The school supports vulnerable families in meeting the costs of uniforms. School uniform assistance is provided by supplying school clothing on request. The budget for the school uniform assistance scheme comes from pupil premium funds.

To claim school uniform assistance, parents should be eligible for FSM. Eligibility is determined by checking original documents from the relevant authority, detailing receipt of the benefit and the address of the pupil.

Parents are invited to donate their child's uniform which is in reusable condition when they no longer need it.

## School uniform

### Clothing

The school uniform is as follows:

Item	Optional or required	Where to purchase
Navy blue sweatshirt or cardigan.	Required	Branded items available from school suppliers. Blue sweatshirt or cardigan available from regular retailers.
White polo shirt	Required	Regular retailers
Navy blue or black Skirt Shorts Trousers Summer dress	Required	Available from regular retailers
Black, low-heeled shoes or plain black trainers	Required	Available from regular retailers
School Book Bag	Provided by school on admission	Available from school supplier

- High heels are not permitted;
- Black jeans are not permitted.

Our uniform supplier is Brigade clothing. Branded items can be ordered through their website:

<http://www.brigadeuniformdirect.uk.com/>

## PE Kit

Parents must acquire a PE kit meeting the following criteria:

1. Plain T-shirt with no branding in house colours
2. Plain shorts or tracksuit bottoms with no branding
3. Suitable trainers
4. Suitable sports footwear, e.g. football boots

Parents are responsible for ensuring their child brings their PE kit to school when needed

Children joining in Reception will be given their first coloured t-shirt as part of the 'Sorting Ceremony' in the Autumn term.

## Opal Play and Forest School

To make sure all children can play outdoors everyday they need to be warm, dry and comfortable, with the right clothing for all kinds of weather.

The children may get a bit messier, so we are asking for every child to have:

1. a named pair of wellies or waterproof shoes
2. A waterproof (not shower proof) coat.
3. Waterproof trousers or puddlesuits.

## Jewellery

Permitted jewellery that may be worn is:

- One pair of stud earrings – no other piercings are permitted.
- A smart and sensible wrist watch.

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, including PE lessons and science experiments.

## Hairstyles

The school reserves the right to make a judgement on where pupils' hairstyles or hair colours are inappropriate for the school environment; however, will ensure that any such judgements do not discriminate against any pupil by virtue of their protected characteristics. Each individual pupil's scenario will be taken into account where any judgements on appropriateness are to be made, and parents will always have the freedom to complain via the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.

Pupils with long hair must ensure that this does not impede their vision, cover their face or provide a health and safety risk. Long hair must be tied up during practical lessons, e.g. during PE.

The following hairstyles are not considered appropriate for school:

1. Brightly-coloured, dyed hair.
2. Headwear with bold patterns or colours.
3. Excessive hair accessories.

## Labelling

Please label all clothing and footwear clearly labelled with their name.

Any lost clothing should be checked for a name label before being taken to the lost property box.

All lost property is retained for two week and is recycled within the school community if it is not collected within this time.

## Monitoring and review

This policy is reviewed every two years by the chair of governors and the headteacher.

The scheduled review date for this policy is November 2025