



Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership

Issued: September 2023
Review: Term 1 annually
LST: AWI

SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY

1. Aims

This policy aims to:

- Set out the Trust 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 the Trust expectations for school uniform.

2. Our legal duties under the Equality Act 2010

The [Equality Act 2010](#) prohibits discrimination against an individual based on the protected characteristics. Schools will allow limited adaptations to uniform expectations on the grounds of equality. Pupils or their parents should make contact with the Headteacher, who can answer questions about their school's uniform expectations and respond to any requests.

3. Limiting the cost of school uniform

Trust schools have a duty to make sure that the uniform required is affordable and 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 lower prices. Thus, we endeavour to make Trust uniforms:

- available at a reasonable cost.
- Provide the best value for money for parents/carers whilst maintaining high standards of presentation.

We do this by:

- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary.
- Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics where possible.
- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost or long-lasting items, such as ties.
- 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 can wear or use on non-school days, such as coats.
- Keeping the number of optional branded items to a minimum, so that the school's uniform can act as a social leveller.
- Avoiding a lot of different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups except for ties.
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities.
- Considering alternative methods for signalling differences in groups for interschool competitions, such as creating posters or labels.
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents to acquire second-hand uniform items.
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents of any changes.
- Consulting with parents and pupils on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy.

4. Uniform expectations

The expectations for all Trust schools can be found on the local school websites or by contacting the schools directly. All websites can be accessed [here](#).

We expect schools to have a minimum of two uniform suppliers where possible for parental choice. Where this is not possible, key basic items such as shirts, blouses, skirts and trousers can be purchased by parents through a wide variety of easily accessed high street or on-line shops and supermarkets.

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).

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 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 Trust complaints policy.

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 the uniform policy will be dealt with by the school's local behaviour policy.

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. Schools in the Trust will endeavour to support families in hardship with the cost of uniform.

5.4 Local Governing Body

The local governing body of each school will review their local uniform expectations periodically and make sure that it:

- Is appropriate for their school's context.
- Is implemented fairly across their school.
- Takes into account the local views of parents and pupils.
- Offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all pupils.

The local governing body 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 regularly.

6. Monitoring arrangements

This Trust policy will be reviewed annually by the Trust Board and consider local governing body representations on behalf of their school settings. At every review, it will be approved and re-published.

7. Links to other Trust policies

This policy is linked to our:

- Behaviour policy
- Equality statement
- Anti-bullying policy
- Complaints policy