

# School uniform policy

Dorset Studio School



**Dorset**  
Studio School  
LAND & ENVIRONMENT

<b>Approved by:</b>	Governors	<b>Date:</b> September 2023
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### 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

### 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 age, sex, disability, race, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity, 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 a way that is appropriate for school and makes them feel most comfortable
- › Allow pupils to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons or if they are experiencing discomfort related to their sex, gender or gender reassignment
- › Allow pupils to wear headscarves and/or other religious garments
- › Allow pupils with sensory or physical needs to make reasonable adaptations to their uniform depending on their specific needs
- › Allow for reasonable adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents to get in touch with School Business Manager, [tracey.richards@dorsetstudioschool.co.uk](mailto:tracey.richards@dorsetstudioschool.co.uk), who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis

### 3. Limiting the cost of school uniform

Adapt this section, taking into account factors such as:

- The socio-economic status of your school community
- Pupil demographics
- The uniform of neighbouring schools or schools in your trust

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:

- Is available at a reasonable cost
- Provides the best value for money for parents/carers

We will 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 and/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 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 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. Expectations for school uniform

#### 4.1 Our school's uniform

School Uniform	
<p>Royal Blue Polo Shirt with school logo                      Black Cargo Trousers                      Black soft-soled safety shoes – These do not need to be steel-toe capped. – e.g. <b>BROWN SHOES ARE NOT PERMITTED</b>                      Black socks</p>	

<b>Black Soft Shell Jacket and/or Black Fleece And/or Fleece Gilet <i>HOODIES ARE NOT PERMITTED</i></b>	
<b>Work based Learning Uniform</b>	
<b>Plain boiler suit (black or navy) Green/black/blue full safety wellington boots (must be steel toe-capped) Plain waterproof trousers (black or navy) Plain waterproof gilet (black or navy) Hi-Vis Vest Work Gloves</b>	
<b>PE Kit</b>	
<b>Rugby Top PE T-Shirt Sports shorts – Black / Blue (no logo) Sports socks - Blue or Black Plain tracksuit bottoms in black or blue (optional) Training shoes</b>	

**Headscarves:**

Where a scarf or a veil is worn, as part of religious observance, students must ensure that the garment does not interfere with work practice.

**Hair:**

Hair must be clean and neat and, if long, tied back. Hair fastenings should be discreet. Where hair has been coloured it should be of a subdued, natural tone. It should not be excessively short or cut with lines or patterns.

**Nails:**

Nails should be short and free from varnish. False nails are not permitted and are not practical within the school environment.

**Jewellery:**

Watches are acceptable as well as medical bracelets/necklaces. No other jewellery can be worn apart from one pair of discreet earrings - maximum one small earring stud per ear lobe. Any jewellery must be removed for all sporting and work-based activities. Taping over earrings is not accepted.

**NB – no body piercing is permitted.**

**4.2 Where to purchase it**

- Price & Buckland [www.pbuniform-online.co.uk/dorsetstudio](http://www.pbuniform-online.co.uk/dorsetstudio)
- High street retailers

**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 Principal 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 are also expected to contact the Principal 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 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 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 Principal and Senior Leadership 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 and pupils
- Offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all pupils

The board 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 every 3 years by the Principal. At every review, it will be approved by the Governing Body.

## **7. Links to other policies**

This policy is linked to our:

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