



# Whitstable Junior School

# School Uniform Policy

**Approval Level: Governing Board**

**Policy Originator: Headteacher**

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## **Contents**

Statement of Intent .....	
Legal Framework .....	
Key Personnel in Relation to this Policy.....	
Roles and Responsibilities.....	
Governing Board .....	
Head Teacher.....	
Teaching and support staff.....	
Parents/carers .....	
Pupils .....	
Cost and Availability .....	
Religious Clothing .....	
Equality .....	
Complaints and Challenges.....	
School Uniform Supplier.....	
Non-Compliance.....	
Our Uniform .....	
Our PE Kit.....	
Forest School Clothing .....	
Jewellery .....	
School Bag.....	
Water Bottle .....	
Hair Styles.....	
Make-Up .....	
Adverse Weather.....	
Hot Weather .....	
Cold Weather.....	
Labelling.....	

## Vision Statement

*'Learning today for Life tomorrow.'*

### Whitstable Junior School Community Code

- **Be Safe**
- **Be Kind**
- **Be Responsible**

At WJS we believe that wearing our uniform gives us a feeling of *safety* in belonging to the WJS community, knowing that others in our community will look out for us when we need help.

Wearing our uniform engenders a sense of inclusivity and promotes *kindness* towards all. We support the right of all pupils to wear uniform in which they feel comfortable. Our uniform provides students with a variety of choices in the clothing they can wear, offering gender neutral and sensory friendly options.

We encourage a sense of community identity, pride and *responsibility*. By wearing the same badge and the same clothing, pupils are encouraged to think of the needs of the community in addition to their individual needs.

We encourage our pupils to develop habits for life which they take forward in their futures. By ensuring they are well-presented, pupils learn about habitual personal *responsibility* that will stay with them for life.

Furthermore, we are keen to ensure pupils are ready for Secondary School expectations and the world of work.

For our uniform policy to be successful, it must be implemented universally. Our parents understand this and so support us at home to uphold the school's high standards. We understand that, for some families, finances are tight. We believe that, by doing all we can to keep items of fashion out of school, we help families to keep costs down. We want no child to be seen as poorer or wealthier than any other. If individual problems do arise or you are unsure about an item of clothing, please do not hesitate to contact the Wellbeing team or school Office Manager who will deal with your enquiry in the strictest of **confidence**.

## Statement of Intent

Whitstable Junior School is committed to promoting equality and value for money and to ensuring that no child is discriminated against due to their religion or belief, economic circumstances or social and cultural background. This policy contains provisions to meet these objectives and has been created with health and safety, value for money and practicality at its heart.

Additionally, it is important that our pupils feel a sense of belonging to our school. We believe that wearing a smart and practical uniform allows all children, regardless of their backgrounds, to feel equal to their peers and confident in their appearance.

We also believe it is important for children to wear clothing that is conducive to a successful learning environment, including activity-appropriate clothing, such as sports attire.

## Legal Framework

This policy has due regard to all legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

- Education and Inspections Act 2006

- Education Act 2011
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Equality Act 2010
- The General Data Protection Regulation
- Data Protection Act 2018

This policy also has due regard to all relevant guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- DfE (2014) 'School Admissions Code'
- DfE (2013) 'School Uniform'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies and documents:

- Home-School Agreement
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Complaints Policy

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

The Governing Board is responsible for:

- In consultation with the Head Teacher and school community, establishing a practical and smart school uniform that accurately reflects the school's vision and values.
- Ensuring that equal opportunities are considered regarding the school's uniform and that no person is discriminated against.
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of parents/carers, pupils and the wider school community regarding changes to the school's uniform.
- Ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible and affordable.

The Head Teacher is responsible for:

- Enforcing the school's uniform on a day-to-day basis.
- Ensuring that school staff understand this policy and know what to do if a pupil is in breach of the policy.
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of the school community regarding the school's uniform and making appropriate recommendations to the Governing Board.
- Providing pupils with exemptions as appropriate e.g. for a pupil who has a broken arm and requires a loose-fitting top.

Teaching and support staff are responsible for:

- Ensuring that pupils dress in accordance with this policy at all times.
- Taking appropriate action when pupils are in breach of this policy.
- Ensuring that pupils understand why having a consistent and practical school uniform is important e.g. to establish school identity.

Parents/carers are responsible for:

- Providing their children with the correct school uniform as detailed in this policy.
- Informing the Head Teacher if their child requires a more relaxed uniform policy for a period of time, including why.
- Ensuring that their child's uniform is clean, presentable and the correct size.

Pupils are responsible for:

- Wearing the correct uniform at all times, unless the Head Teacher has granted an exemption.
- Looking after their uniform as appropriate.
- Respecting why a school uniform is important to the school e.g. to develop a sense of belonging.

### **Cost and Availability**

In accordance with the School Admissions Code, Whitstable Junior School ensures that the School Uniform Policy does not discourage parents/carers from applying for a place for their child.

The school is committed to meeting the DfE's recommendations on costs and value for money.

Every care is taken to ensure that our uniforms are affordable for all current and prospective pupils, and that the best value for money is secured through reputable suppliers.

The school works with multiple suppliers to obtain the best value for money possible. Any savings negotiated are passed to parents where possible.

The school does not enter into exclusive single supplier contracts or cash-back arrangements.

The school does not amend uniform requirements regularly and takes the views of parents/carers and pupils into account when considering changes to school uniforms.

Where changes are required, the school ensures that assistance is provided to parents/carers struggling to meet the associated costs.

The school regularly holds used uniform sales for a donation. The school has a store of used uniform which will be given to families on request.

### **Religious Clothing / Ceremonial Wear**

Some religions and beliefs require their members to conform to a specific dress code. The school does not discriminate against any religion or belief; however, the school weighs the needs and rights of individual pupils against the health and safety concerns of the entire school community.

Whitstable Junior School endeavours to allow religious requirements to be met, wherever possible. Please make an appointment with the Head / Assistant Headteacher to make any requests for Ceremonial wear to be worn in school.

Parents'/carers' concerns and requests regarding religious clothing are dealt with on a case-by-case basis by the Head Teacher and Governing Board. This is always conducted in accordance with the school's Complaints Policy.

### **Equality**

The school is required to ensure that this policy does not discriminate unlawfully.

Every step has been taken to ensure that the cost of similar uniform items, for example, trousers versus skirts, are not disproportionate.

The school endeavours to ensure that our uniform is as gender neutral and inclusive as possible. We do not insist that children of any sex must wear specific items of clothing.

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 in consultation with the child's parents.

## **Complaints and Challenges**

The school endeavours to resolve all uniform complaints and challenges locally and informally, in accordance with the school's Complaints Policy.

To make a complaint, parents/carers should refer to the Complaints Policy and follow the stipulations outlined.

When a complaint is received, the school works with parents/carers to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

Governors are willing to consider reasonable requests for flexibility to allow a pupil to accommodate particular social and cultural circumstances.

### **School Uniform Supplier**

Our school uniform suppliers are:

School uniform is available online from Barnums Schoolwear, PMG Schoolwear or Coastal School Uniform Company:

<https://www.pmgschoolwear.co.uk/school/WhitstableJuniorSchool>

[www.barnumsschoolwear.co.uk/](http://www.barnumsschoolwear.co.uk/)

[www.coastalschooluniformcompany.co.uk](http://www.coastalschooluniformcompany.co.uk)

You can also visit Barnums locally at:

12-16 William Street  
Herne Bay  
Kent  
CT6 5EJ

Phone: 01227 365220

### **Non-Compliance**

On rare occasions, for example, if slogans on clothing are offensive, the Head Teacher and/or Assistant Headteachers are permitted to ask a pupil to take off the clothing, such as a sweatshirt / jumper. In the event that they cannot take the clothing off, parents/carers will be contacted and they will be asked to bring in more suitable uniform/clothing.

On other occasions, for example, if a child is wearing inappropriate footwear, teaching and/or support staff will inform parents/carers by telephone or in-person.

If a child requires an item of uniform for a specific activity and no spare clothing is available in school, for example, Forest School, parents/carers may be asked to bring the item into school.

Individual family circumstances will be considered in the event that a child is not wearing the correct uniform. However, in accordance with our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, these should be recorded using our electronic recording system (CPOMS) where appropriate.

Sanctions for breaches of this policy are a last resort: the school endeavours to work with families to resolve breaches of this policy in a timely manner.

### **Our Uniform**

The school endeavours to ensure that our uniform is as gender neutral as possible.

The uniform is as follows:



## LOWER SCHOOL (YRS 3 & 4)

- Red School Jumper or sweatshirt/Cardigan (with school logo)
- Charcoal Grey/Black Trousers/Charcoal Grey/Black Skirt
- White Polo Shirt (with or without school logo)
- Charcoal Grey/Black Trousers or shorts
- Black Shoes (heel no higher than 2.5cm/1")
- All Black Trainers

## UPPER SCHOOL (YRS 5 & 6)

- Black School Jumper or sweatshirt/Cardigan (with school logo)
- Charcoal Grey/Black Trousers/Charcoal Grey/Black Skirt
- White Polo Shirt (with or without school logo)
- Charcoal Grey/Black Trousers or shorts
- Black Shoes (heel no higher than 2.5cm/1")
- All Black Trainers

## WINTER ONLY

- Boots may be worn, black or grey sensible style, no adornments or buckles.

## SUMMER TERM ONLY

- Red gingham or red stripe dress
- Black, Red or White sandals (one colour only) with heels no higher than 2.5cm (1")
- White socks

High heels are not permitted.

All items of clothing and footwear must be labelled with the pupil's name.

### **Our PE Kit**

Children are asked to come into school on the day of their PE lesson wearing their PE kit. They can wear it for the full school day.

Parents/carers are responsible for ensuring their child is dressed appropriately for PE.

#### **The PE kit is as follows:**

Polo shirt in house colour

Black shorts

Black or white plimsolls (Trainers may be worn for outdoor PE/Games)

Sweatshirt in House colours (optional, but recommended)

Black jogging bottoms for winter only

PE bag large enough to contain the above!

### **Upper school:**

Shin pads (for safety and protection), gum shields for hockey as indicated by teacher.

All items of clothing and footwear must be labelled with the pupil's name.

## **Forest School Clothing**

Children are asked to come into school on the day of their Forest School session wearing PE kit and appropriate shoes. Parents/carers will be informed of their children's Forest School days via newsletter, our website and/or via text reminders.

Arms and legs must be covered to avoid scratches and/or stings.

Parents/carers are responsible for ensuring that their child is dressed appropriately for Forest School.

Forest School clothing is as follows:

- Waterproof coat (or waterproof jacket in warmer weather)
- Comfortable tracksuit bottoms or leggings (not shorts)
- Long-sleeved top
- Wellington boots or old trainers
- Appropriate hat for the weather
- Scarf and gloves (in colder weather)
- All items of clothing and footwear must be labelled with the pupil's name.

## **Jewellery**

The only permitted jewellery that may be worn is:

- One pair of stud earrings (no other piercings are permitted)
- A sensible wristwatch (not a smartwatch)

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, for example, PE lessons / swimming lessons. If children cannot remove their own earrings, then this should be done at home on the day of PE. Parents / carers need to contact the Headteacher should they wish their child to wear an item of jewellery with cultural / religious significance.

## **School Bag**

Pupils must use an appropriately sized waterproof bag to carry their books and equipment. It should hold children's books and reading diaries comfortably without causing any damage.

Large bags / large rucksacks are discouraged for day-to-day lessons due to space on children's pegs.

School bags featuring inappropriate images, slogans or phrases are not permitted.

The school encourages pupils to bring non-valuable bags to school. The school will not be liable for lost or damaged school bags.

### **Water Bottle**

All children should bring a water bottle into school every day: this can be refilled by children whenever necessary during the day.

Water bottles must be labelled with the pupil's name.

### **Hair Styles**

Hairstyles should be smart and moderate in style. Brightly coloured dyed hair is not permitted.

Pupils with what could be deemed extreme hairstyles may be exempt from the rule above on racial or religious grounds. The Head Teacher will take each individual pupil's scenario into consideration.

Large, excessive hair accessories should not be worn; however, small hair clips or plain headbands are acceptable.

Hair extensions are not permitted.

At the Head Teacher's discretion, there may be exceptions to the above in extreme circumstances e.g. a pupil may be permitted to cover their hair if they have hair loss / illness etc.

Shoulder length, or longer hair needs to be worn up for PE and outdoor learning. 'Half up – Half down' is allowed at other times. There may be occasions when the Headteacher requires hair to be worn fully up for a period of time i.e. if nits are present in children's hair.

### **Make-Up**

False nails and nail extensions are not permitted.

Only clear nail varnish may be worn.

Children are not allowed to wear make-up.

Pupils wearing make-up are required to remove it or, if appropriate, will be sent home to remove it.

At the Head Teacher's discretion, there may be exceptions to the above in extreme circumstances e.g. a pupil may be permitted to cover heavy scarring/skin damage.

### **Adverse Weather**

#### **Hot Weather**

Everyone working at/attending the school during hot weather conditions is required to wear sun-safe clothing that covers as much of their skin as possible.

This includes wearing:

- Loose fitting tops with collars or covered necklines
- Tops that cover the shoulder area
- Grey or black shorts or pale blue and white summer dresses of an appropriate length (if families wish to)
- Sun-safe hats
- Sunglasses with UV protection
- Sunscreen (children must be able to apply this themselves and it must be labelled and handed to the child's class teacher)

During hot weather, lightweight clothing is required to reduce the risk of overheating. Pupils are not required to wear their jumpers/cardigans during heatwaves.

If outside during break and lunch times, pupils not wearing sun-safe clothing/sunscreen are advised to stay in an area protected from the sun.

### Cold Weather

During cold weather, pupils are required to wear scarves, gloves, coats and hats when they are outside.

Additional layers underneath the usual school uniform are accepted. 'Skins' can be worn under clothing in winter. If a child is wearing skins, they must keep their sweatshirt on at all times. ie skins should not be visible.

Where possible, pupils not wearing warm clothing are provided with spare clothing if going outside during break and lunch times.

### Labelling

School staff encourage good organisation of clothing and footwear, for example, designated spaces for children to keep belongings in and checking of labels. However, all pupils' clothing and footwear must be clearly labelled with their name.

Clothing and footwear are the responsibility of the pupil and not the school.

If a child goes home in another child's clothing by accident, for example, their jumper, parents/carers should send the clothing not belonging to them back into school to their child's class teacher.

Any lost clothing is to be taken to the lost property box. All lost property is retained for a term and is disposed of if it is not collected within this time.