

# School Uniform Policy

## Oatlands Junior School



<b>Approved by:</b>	Local Governing Body	<b>Date:</b> May 2024
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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 **Estelle Scarth (Headteacher)** [headteacher@ojs.rklt.co.uk](mailto:headteacher@ojs.rklt.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

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:

- Continuing to consult Oatlands Infant School about their school uniform policy
- 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 at both Oatlands Junior and Oatlands Infant Schools 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

We like to foster a feeling of community and identity within our school. For this reason, we ask you to send your child wearing school uniform.

#### Required uniform:

- Trousers, shorts, knee length skirt, culottes or pinafore in plain grey or black

- Jade green school jumper or cardigan with OJS logo or plain navy jumper or cardigan
- White blouse or shirt
- White or navy polo shirt with OJS logo or plain white or navy polo shirt
- Black school shoes (no trainers, unless it is your child's PE day)
- White, black or grey socks.
- Black, grey or navy tights.

#### **Optional Summer Uniform:**

- A dress in check pattern can be worn in the summer (blue or green).

#### **Required PE Uniform:**

To alleviate changing time and ensure that children get maximum use of their allotted PE time, we ask children to come into school in their PE kit on their designated days. They will wear this all day.

- Plain T-shirt in their house colour i.e., red, blue, green, yellow (no football shirts).  
*Children will be informed on Y2/3 transition day or new starter date, which house team they are in.* (You can also buy a coloured t-shirt with the school's logo on.)
- Navy shorts (not skorts).
- Navy blue or black jogging bottoms or thick running leggings for outdoor PE in colder weather.
- Navy blue-zip up top for outdoor PE in colder weather. (You can also buy a navy school hoody, with the school's logo on.)
- Trainers.
- White, black or grey socks.

#### **Recommended PE Uniform:**

- We recommend that children wear black, white, or navy thermal underlayers during colder months.

#### **Required Swimming Kit:**

- Trunks, not shorts.
- Full one-piece swimming costume, not bikini.
- A towel.

#### **Recommended Swimming Kit:**

- Goggles and a swimming cap.

*Please ensure that all items of clothing and footwear worn in school are clearly identified by name.*

#### **Bags, packed lunch boxes and water bottles:**

We welcome children to carry their belongings and packed lunch boxes (if not having school dinner) in a school bag of their choice and encourage water bottles to be brought into school. These can be re-filled in the classroom throughout the day. For children who do not have a water bottle, jugs of water and cups are provided in the classroom.

Back-packs and reading book bags with the school logo on are available from Emblazon:

<https://www.emblazon.biz/webshop/schoolwear/harrogate/oatlands-primary-school/>

*Each child is allocated a named locker which is fixed in each class cloakroom where they will be able to keep their school bag, coat and any after-school club attire.*

### **Expectations for Jewellery and Hairstyles:**

Boys and girls with collar length hair or longer, or fringes across their eyes, will be required to tie or clip their hair back for all PE activities.

For health and safety reasons children may only wear:

- A wristwatch (not Smart Watch for e-safety reasons).
- One pair of small stud earrings.

These must always be removed for PE and swimming.

It is recommended that if children get their ears pierced, this should be in the summer holidays. This will allow time for them to heal before returning to school so they can take them out for PE and swimming lessons. If for any reason, children cannot remove their earrings, parents should provide their child with micro tape to cover the earrings for safety reasons and communicate this to the class teacher.

### **4.2 Where to purchase it**

Items with the logo on are currently available from Emblazon:

<https://www.emblazon.biz/webshop/schoolwear/harrogate/oatlands-primary-school/>

Generic items are accepted, and branded items are not required.

Non-branded items of uniform can be obtained from local chain stores, second-hand retailers or at any other educational outfitters.

### **PTA and second-hand uniform:**

Branded and non-branded uniform can also be obtained from our second-hand uniform rail in school.

### **Lost Property:**

Lost property is placed in a large red box located in the Y5/6 corridor.

It is the children's responsibility to check lost property for items they have lost.

Parents are welcome to check the lost property box at the end of the school day. Please enter the school via the school office.

At the end of each half-term, unclaimed items are sorted by the PTA. Labelled items are returned to school to be passed on to the pupils. Items of school uniform, including coats, which are deemed to be serviceable will be graded and laundered for sale, with the proceeds being donated to the PTA. Any remaining items will be disposed of via responsible recycling or charity shops.

We also have a large white re-cycling clothing bank at the school gate and welcome any donations. School receives a monthly payment depending on weight of clothing donated, which we use to replenish our stocks of spare school and PE uniform, as well as purchasing OJS sports kit worn by individuals or teams in sporting competitions.

## 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 **Estelle Scarth (Headteacher) [headteacher@ojs.rklt.co.uk](mailto:headteacher@ojs.rklt.co.uk)**, 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 **Estelle Scarth (Headteacher) [headteacher@ojs.rklt.co.uk](mailto:headteacher@ojs.rklt.co.uk)** 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 **Year Group Team Leaders**.

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
- Considers 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 retendering contracts at least every 5 years.

## 6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed every two years by **Estelle Scarth, Headteacher**. At every review, it will be approved by the full **Local Governing Body**.

## 7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

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