School Uniform Policy

(Version 1.3)

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Signed By: Tricia Brabham
On behalf of school governors

Signed by: James Oakley
Headteacher

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Contents

Statement of Policy 3
Legislation and Guidance 4
Roles and Responsibilities 5
Cost and Availability 6
Our Mendip Green Uniform 7
Adverse Weather 11
Labelling 12
Religious Clothing / Ceremonial Wear 13
Equality 13
Complaints and Challenges 13

Statement of Policy

Mendip Green Primary 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.

It is our school policy that all children wear school uniform when attending school, or when participating in a school-organised event inside normal school hours. For events outside normal school hours, and for residential trips, we will provide details (including a kit list, where appropriate) if children are not required to wear uniform.

We provide a complete list of the items needed for school uniform on our website, in our New Starters Handbook and in this policy.

Aims and values

We are very proud of our school uniform and believe that it is important for children to have a level playing field during the school day and not feel any pressures to wear the latest fashion or expensive brand of trainer. We deliberately make our uniform very accessible – it can be purchased cheaply from local supermarkets – and, although logoed items are available through our website, these are not a requirement.

We have made adaptations to our uniform, in light of parent feedback, to ensure that children's clothing and footwear are appropriate for, and promote, active play.

Our policy on school uniform is based on our belief that uniform:

- promotes a sense of pride in the school
- engenders a sense of community and belonging towards the school
- is practical and smart
- is comfortable and suitable for activity so every child could 'run a mile' in it
- identifies the children with the school
- prevents children from coming to school in fashion clothes that could be distracting in class
- makes children feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance
- is regarded as suitable wear for school
- is good value for money, with no unnecessary costs
- is designed with health and safety in mind
- is designed so that it promotes independence for our youngest children and for children with SEND

Legislation and Guidance

The DfE strongly encourages schools to have a uniform as it can play a key role in:

- promoting the ethos of a school
- providing a sense of belonging and identity
- setting an appropriate tone for education

DfE, Non Statutory Guidance - School Uniform

Statutory Guidance

By creating a common identity amongst all pupils, regardless of background, a school uniform can act as a social leveller. It can reduce bullying and peer pressure to wear the latest fashions or other expensive clothes. If, however, the uniform is too expensive it can place an unreasonable burden on families. Furthermore, if a distinction can be made between those who can afford it and those who cannot, this can reduce the benefits of a uniform and has the potential to negatively impact attendance, access and participation, and lead to bullying.

Parents should not have to think about the cost of a school uniform when choosing which school(s) to apply for. No school uniform should be so expensive as to leave pupils or their families feeling unable to apply to, or attend, a school of their choice. Therefore, schools need to ensure that their uniforms are affordable.

DfE, Statutory Guidance – Cost of School Uniform

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.
- Contacting parents 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.
- Requesting, in writing to the Head Teacher, if their child requires a more relaxed uniform policy for a period of time, including why. This request will be reviewed and the outcome shared with parents/carers.
- Ensuring that their child's uniform is clean, presentable and the correct size.

Pupils are responsible for:

- Wearing the correct uniform at all times (as provided by their family), 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, Mendip Green Primary 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. Plain alternatives (available from supermarkets) for all logoed items are encouraged.

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.

Mendip Green have made deliberate decisions in order to make school uniform more accessible and value for money:

- We encourage families, especially those with children in the lower school, to purchase plain, unbranded uniform. This is cheaper and better suited for children when they are growing quickly and getting messy during self-led play.
- We have changed our policy to allow children to wear plain black trainers to school every day. We hope this will allow families to buy one good quality pair of shoes rather than needing a separate pair for PE. Families have also fed back that school shoes are not durable enough for active play. By allowing trainers, we hope that the children's footwear will last longer and reduce cost to families during the year.
- We have changed our policy to allow Year 6 children to wear their leavers' hoodie as part of their uniform.

Mendip Green supports families who may be struggling to meet costs in a number of ways:

- We have a number of uniform items in school which we can be given to families (branded and unbranded). We can also refer directly to Hope Uniform Exchange.
- All stationery is provided by the school although in Key Stage 2, children are given the option to bring their own basic stationery.
- Book bags are provided to all new EYFS starters as a gift from our PTA.
- We can support by providing water bottles and branded book bags (used by Year 1 and Year 2).

Our Mendip Green Uniform

Our Day-to-Day Uniform

Children should wear the following uniform on days when they do not have PE:

Jumpers and cardigans	Tops
• Jumpers, fleeces and cardigans must be red. • These do not have to have the Mendip Green logo on them. • Year 6 children may wear their Mendip Green leavers' hoodie.	• Children should wear a white or red polo shirt. • These DO NOT have to have the Mendip Green logo on them.
Trousers, shorts, skirts and dresses	
• Children should wear trousers, shorts, skirts or pinafore dresses which are black or grey in colour and tailored. • Leggings, jeggings and denim (including black jeggings or skinny jeans) are not permitted, even if purchased from the school uniform section of a shop. • Skirts must be of an appropriate length for active play. • In the summer months, children may wish to wear white and red checked or striped summer dresses, skirts or playsuits.	
Footwear	
• All shoes (including trainers) and boots must be plain black with no coloured soles, logos or laces. • Sandals, ballet pumps and 'Ugg' style boots are not permitted. • All shoes should have good grip, be secured to the foot (laces, Velcro or buckled straps) and be suitable for active play e.g. children can run a mile in them.	
Socks and Tights	
However, ankle socks are your chance to make your mark... any colour... any design... • Tights should be in school colours (grey, black or red). • Children should wear black, grey/ white socks with skirts or dresses – these could be long or short.	

Our PE Kit

Children should wear the following uniform on days when they have PE lessons and swimming:

Jumpers and cardigans	Tops
• Children may wear their school jumper or fleece (These do not have to have the Mendip Green logo on them).	• Children should wear a white or red t shirt or polo shirt. • These DO NOT have to have the Mendip Green logo on them.

• Alternatively, children can wear a plain red, black or grey hoodie. • Year 6 children may wear their Mendip Green leavers' hoodie.	
Trousers and shorts	
• Children should wear plain black or grey shorts or joggers. Note: shorts should cover at least half of the child's thigh. Gymnastics-style shorts are not permitted. • In colder weather, joggers are recommended for warmth as children will play outdoors and may have PE outdoors.	
Footwear	
• Trainers or daps – we understand that it can be difficult to find plain, unbranded trainers, which are suitable quality, especially for older children. Therefore, we only ask that children do not wear brightly coloured trainers. Alternatively, if children wear black trainers day-to-day they can wear these for PE as well.	
Additional Details	
• With the exception of trainers, all PE kit should be unbranded. Football and rugby kits are not permitted. • Football, rugby and other sport strips are not permitted.	

Other items from home

- **Coats:** It is essential that all children have a coat/waterproof for cold and wet weather. We may call you to ask you to bring in a coat, if your child does not have one. Your child may be prevented from going out to play if they do not have appropriate clothing to keep them dry and warm so they are not sat in damp clothes for the rest of the day.
  We recommend that coats are brightly coloured so children who walk or cycle to school are visible.
- **Hair accessories:** All hair longer than shoulder length must be tied up. Hair accessories should be functional, in school colours and of a sensible size – no giant bows or cat ears, please!
- **Jewellery:** On health and safety grounds we do not allow children to wear jewellery in our school.
  The exceptions to this rule are:
  - Simple ear-ring studs in pierced ears
  - small objects of religious significance
  - medical identification bracelets (for children with significant medical needs, including allergies)

  We ask the children to remove these objects during PE, sporting events and swimming for health and safety reasons. If earrings cannot be removed, they must be taped over.
  We advise parents who wish their children to have their ears pierced to do so at the beginning of the school holidays.
  No other jewellery is permitted, including charity bands and friendship bracelets
- **Watches:** Children may wear a simple wrist watch
  SMART watches are not permitted if they have camera/recording function or if they have connectivity (e.g. cellular). For children in Y5/6 who may be walking home alone and need to wear a SMART watch for this reason, the watch must be locked in the phone box with the class mobile phones during the

school day. SMART watches that simply record number of steps/activity levels are permitted. However, the school strongly advises that all watches are simple, inexpensive analogue or digital watches without any SMART functions.

- **Stationery:** All stationery is provided by the school. Children in Key Stage 2 may bring a small pencil case with basic stationery to school, if they wish. Marker pens, gel pens, notebooks, sticky notes and highlighters are not permitted.
  Children will be asked to take home unnecessary, expensive or distracting stationery. Parent/carers will be contacted as appropriate.
- The school will not be liable for lost or damaged belongings brought into school.
- Children must not bring other personal belongings to school.

School Bags

- Children in EYFS – Y2 are encouraged to have a book bag.
- For children in Y3 and above, they may bring a small school bag. As a rough idea, this should fit in a washing up bowl when full.
- Bags should be able to hold children's books and reading journals comfortably, without causing any damage.
- Large bags are discouraged due to limited space on children's pegs and in their cubby holes.
- 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 Bottles

- 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 child's name.

Hair Styles

- Hairstyles should be smart and moderate in style.
- Hair longer than shoulder length should be tied up. This is to avoid health and safety risks and ensure that children's vision is not impeded.
- Large, excessive hair accessories should not be worn.
- All hair accessories and hair coverings should be in school colours (red, white, black or grey).
- 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.

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, parents will be contacted.

- 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.

Spare Uniform

If your child has toileting accidents, please provide spare (labelled) uniform, including underwear, in a named carrier bag. This will be kept safely in the classroom so it is ready should it be needed.

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. In the event of unusually hot weather, we will notify families that children should wear their PE kits, if they wish to.

This includes wearing:

- A loose fitting, white or red t-shirt or polo shirt that covers the shoulder area
- Grey or black shorts or
- red and white checked/striped summer dresses/playsuit of an appropriate length
- 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). All sunscreens must be nut free.

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

Outside play times may be adjusted to avoid the heat of the day or reduced in length to no more than 20 minutes, depending on guidance from the Met Office and DfE. Cool rooms will also be available.

Cold Weather

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

Children may also wear additional layers underneath their usual school uniform.

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 cupboard. This is regularly checked and uniform that is labelled is returned to the owner, wherever possible. We will also place unclaimed uniform outside at the end of term for families to look through.

All lost property is retained for a term and is donated to charity or disposed of (depending on its condition) if it is not collected within this time.

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.

Mendip Green Primary School endeavours to allow religious requirements to be met, wherever possible.

Please make an appointment with the Head / Deputy to discuss the policy and 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.

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.

Non-Compliance

On rare occasions, for example, if slogans on clothing are offensive, the Head Teacher and/or Deputy Head Teacher 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.

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.