Eccleston Mere Primary School

School Uniform Policy



Approved by:	Headteacher / Chair of Governors (signed electronically)	Reviewed on: October 2026
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Statement of intent

Eccleston Mere Primary School believes that a consistent school uniform policy is vital for:

- Promoting the ethos of a school.
- Providing a sense of belonging and identity.
- Setting an appropriate tone for education.

For the purposes of this policy, "uniform" includes the following elements of pupils' appearance:

- Clothing, including the school uniform itself, variations of the school uniform such as PE kits, and other clothing worn at school, e.g. non-uniform.
- Hairstyles and headwear.
- Jewellery and other accessories.
- Cosmetics such as makeup and nail polish.

This policy lays out the measures the school has taken to ensure a consistent, fair and inclusive uniform policy, and to implement a uniform that reflects the needs of all pupils, is affordable, and provides the best value for money for both the school and pupils' families.

We believe that pupils learn most effectively and achieve their best outcomes when they are comfortable, able to be themselves, and dressed in a way that sets an appropriate tone for education.

In writing and updating this policy, we have sought to:

- Consider how this policy might affect groups represented in the school, especially those who share protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010.
- Consider how comfortable the uniform will be for pupils.
- Take a sensible approach to allow for exceptions to be made, e.g. during adverse weather.

• Ensure that the uniform is suitable and safe for pupils who walk or cycle to school.

• Choose a PE kit which is practical, comfortable, appropriate to the activity involved and affordable.

• Ensure the policy is easy to access and understand.

Legal framework

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

- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Education Act 2011
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Equality Act 2010
- The UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)
- Data Protection Act 2018
- DfE 'Cost of school uniforms'
- DfE 'School Admissions Code'
- DfE 'School uniforms: guidance for schools'
- Equality and Human Rights Commission 'Preventing hair discrimination in schools'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Complaints Procedures Policy
- Behaviour Policy

Roles and responsibilities

The governing board is responsible for:

- Establishing, in consultation with the headteacher and school community, a practical and smart school uniform that accurately reflects the school's vision and values.
- Ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible and inclusive, and does not disadvantage any pupil by virtue of their protected characteristics or socio-economic status.
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of parents, pupils and the wider school community regarding changes to the school's uniform.
- Ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible and affordable.
- Demonstrating how best value for money has been achieved in the uniform policy.
- Ensuring compliance with the DfE's 'Cost of school uniforms' guidance.

The headteacher is responsible for:

- Enforcing the school's uniform on a day-to-day basis.
- Ensuring that teachers understand this policy and what to do if a pupil is in breach of the policy.
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of the school community in regard to the school's uniform and making appropriate recommendations to the governing board.

Staff members are responsible for:

- Ensuring that pupils dress in accordance with this policy, while applying expectations consistently, sensitively and without embarrassing pupils.
- Addressing breaches of this policy in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy, taking account of any reasonable adjustment, practical difficulty or financial hardship.
- Ensuring that pupils understand why having a consistent and practical school uniform is important, e.g. school identity.

Parents are responsible for:

- Providing their children with the correct school uniform as detailed in this policy.
- Informing the headteacher if their child requires a temporary or ongoing reasonable adjustment to the uniform requirements, including the reason where appropriate.
- 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 headteacher has granted an exemption.
- Looking after their uniform as appropriate.
- Understanding and respecting why a school uniform is important to the school, e.g. school identity and community.

Cost principles

The school is committed to ensuring that its school uniform is affordable and accessible to all pupils, and does not place an unreasonable financial burden on parents.

In accordance with the 'School Admissions Code', the headteacher will ensure that the school's uniform policy does not discourage parents from applying for a place for their child.

The school will assess the overall cost implications of its uniform policy regularly, including prior to making any changes to the school uniform. When evaluating whether costs are reasonable and proportionate, the school will take into account the opinions and situations of:

- Economically disadvantaged parents.
- Parents with multiple children who are, or will be in the future, pupils at the school.
- Parents of younger children, as they are likely to grow quickly and require new sets of uniform more frequently.
- Parents of pupils with protected characteristics that may impact their ability to access the uniform due to costs.
- LAC and PLAC.

The school will evaluate the cost of its uniform based on the overall collection of uniform items that parents would need to purchase for a pupil, rather than on the cost effectiveness of individual items; this will include consideration of the fact that parents will need to purchase multiples of certain items, e.g. shirts and socks, to ensure their child can come to school in clean uniform every day.

The school keeps variations in school uniform for different groups of pupils, e.g. year group-specific items or house colours, to a minimum where possible to ensure that pupils can get the most wear out of their uniform possible and that parents can pass some items down to younger siblings.

The school keeps branded uniform items to a minimal level that is reasonable for all members of the school community. The school defines a branded uniform item as any item of clothing that cannot be purchased at a range of retailers, including by virtue of logos, colours, design and fabrics. Where the school decides to require an item of branded clothing, it will conduct an assessment to ensure prices are

kept as low as possible, e.g. by offering sew- or iron-on logo badges for jumpers that can be bought at retailers instead of requiring special branded jumpers.

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 and does not enter into exclusive single supplier contracts or cash-back arrangements. More information on supplier processes can be found in the 'School uniform supplier' section of this policy.

The school will not amend uniform requirements regularly and will take the views of parents and pupils into account when considering any changes to school uniforms.

Equality principles

The school takes its legal obligation to avoid discriminating against any protected characteristic unlawfully very seriously, and aims to ensure that the uniform policy is as inclusive as possible so that all pupils are supported to access a school uniform which is comfortable, suitable for their needs, and reflects who they are.

The school will work to ensure that school uniform's cost does not disproportionately affect any pupils by ensuring that uniforms for all genders are as equal in price as possible and by adhering to the cost principles laid out in section 3.

The school will ensure that parents and pupils are consulted over any changes to school uniform, and that views and advice is sought specifically from parents of pupils, who:

- Have SEND and/or sensory needs.
- Are of a religious or cultural background that has dress requirements.
- Are transgender, including non-binary pupils.

The school implements a gender-neutral uniform, meaning that pupils are not required to wear specific items based on their gender, and may wear any of the

uniform items listed in the 'School uniform' section of this policy regardless of the legal sex recorded on the school's records. Transgender pupils are supported to access the uniform that best reflects their gender expression.

The school ensures that pupils who are required to follow certain dress requirements, e.g. by virtue of their membership of a particular religious or cultural group, are afforded flexibility to allow them to wear a uniform that adheres to their requirements as far as possible. The school endeavours to meet all requests for amendments to the uniform for these purposes; however, will ensure that the needs and rights of individual pupils are weighed against any health and safety concerns for the entire school community.

Parents' concerns and requests regarding religious clothing are dealt with on a case-by-case basis by the headteacher and governing board, and always in accordance with the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.

The school ensures that the needs of pupils with SEND and/or sensory difficulties are considered in the uniform policy, e.g. ensuring soft 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.

Complaints and challenges

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

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

When a complaint is received, the school works with parents 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.

Finding and consulting suppliers

If the school is considering changing its suppliers and seeks a list of available suppliers, it will consider the following options:

- Consulting an industry body
- Researching local suppliers
- Consulting with other schools and networks
- Having informal discussions with potential suppliers to help determine the school's own needs

If the school prepares to request bids from potential suppliers, it will consider the following elements:

- What products parents will need
- Existing contractual commitments
- Length of tender process
- The school's evaluation process

Template documents

Schools will use the DfE's 'Procuring uniform supplies' template documents to ensure that they undergo the procurement process correctly. The templates consist of an invitation to tender, a request for quotation, and a pricing schedule.

Schools will use the invitation to tender template to ask questions of suppliers. Schools will then use the pricing schedule to ask suppliers to submit their prices. Full instructions on how to use the templates are included in each of the documents.

School uniform supplier

Our current school uniform can be purchased from most clothing retailers and from supermarkets.

Where parents wish to buy branded clothing (which is optional), these are available from school uniform stockist in the local area, including Whitakers and Topaz.

Uniform assistance

The school supports vulnerable families in meeting the costs of uniforms, during periods of financial hardship. In such circumstances, the Headteacher or a member of the pastoral team can be contacted by telephone or in person.

The school holds second-hand school uniform for parents to access. Uniform is available upon request to a teacher or member of the leadership or pastoral team.

Non-compliance

Staff will address non-compliance consistently, sensitively and proportionately, in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy.

Where a pupil is not wearing the correct uniform, staff will speak to the pupil quietly and respectfully, establish whether there is an authorised adjustment or practical reason, explain the relevant expectation and address any immediate health and safety concern.

Parents will be contacted where the matter cannot be corrected easily, presents a safety concern, or is repeated. Persistent non-compliance may be recorded and escalated in accordance with the Behaviour Policy.

Financial hardship or difficulty accessing the required uniform will be referred to the pastoral team or headteacher so that appropriate support can be considered.

Staff will not publicly challenge or embarrass a pupil, assume that non-compliance is deliberate, or impose a sanction without considering SEND, medical, religious or cultural needs.

Reasonable adjustments may be authorised by the headteacher where required for medical, disability, sensory, cultural, religious or other exceptional reasons.

School uniform

School colours

Our school colours are as follows:

- Navy Blue
- Light Blue
- Grey

Clothing

The school uniform is as follows:

Item	Optional or required	Branding (Optional)	How to acquire
Navy blue sweatshirt or navy-blue cardigan	Required	Can be branded, with school logo on left-hand side or can be plain.	Branded sweatshirt and cardigan available from specialist school supplier. Plain navy blue sweatshirt or cardigan can be bought from regular retailers / supermarkets.
Light blue polo shirt	Required	Can be branded, with school logo on left-hand side or can be plain.	Branded polo shirt available from specialist school supplier. Plain polo shirt can be bought from regular retailers / supermarkets.
Grey trousers, grey skirt or grey pinafore	Required	No branding	Available from specialist school supplier and available from regular retailers / supermarkets.
Navy blue, grey or white socks.	Required if visible. Optional if	No branding	Available from regular retailers.

	wearing long trousers.		
Plain navy blue, grey or white tights	Optional	No branding	Available from regular retailers.
Sensible, plain black shoes**	Required	No branding	Available from regular retailers.
PE Kit			
Plain white t-shirt	Required	Can be branded, with school logo on left-hand side or can be plain.	Available from specialist school supplier and available from regular retailers / supermarkets.
Plain navy shorts	Required	No branding	Available from specialist school supplier and available from regular retailers / supermarkets.
Seasonal / Optional Extras			
Blue / White Summer dress- grey shorts	Optional	No branding	Available from regular retailers.
School book bag	Optional	School logo	Available from school supplier.

**Shoes must be sensible, plain black footwear that fit securely, fully enclose the toes and heel, have a safe low heel and provide suitable grip and support. Trainers, Crocs or other moulded clog-style footwear, sliders, flip-flops, backless

or open-toed shoes, high or block heels, and boots extending above the ankle are not permitted. Reasonable adjustments may be authorised for medical, disability, sensory, cultural or religious reasons.

Our school uniform can also be purchased second hand if available online or in charity stores.

Parents are responsible for ensuring their child brings their PE kit to school when needed.

Jewellery

Jewellery should not normally be worn in school.

The school is not responsible for jewellery that is lost or damaged.

Watches may be worn but must be removed for PE and other practical activities.

Following a new ear piercing, earrings may be worn for the recommended healing period where parents have provided a letter. During this period, earrings must be covered appropriately for PE and other physical activity.

Requests relating to jewellery or piercings for religious or cultural reasons should be made to the headteacher and will be considered on an individual basis, with appropriate regard to health and safety and the Equality Act 2010.

School bag

Pupils may use an appropriately sized waterproof bag to carry their books and equipment. It should be a practical bag, which holds the necessary books / resources as required.

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.

Hairstyles / Accessories

Hair should be appropriate for school and must not create a safety concern. Expectations will be applied without discriminating against hair associated with a pupil's race, religion, culture, disability or other protected characteristic.

Long hair must not obscure a pupil's face or vision and must be tied back for PE and practical activities.

Brightly coloured dyed hair is not considered appropriate for school.

Hair accessories should be plain, appropriately sized and safe.

Make-up, nails and cosmetics

Pupils must not wear make-up, false eyelashes, nail varnish, gel or shellac polish, acrylic, false or extension nails, or other cosmetic enhancements that are unsuitable for primary school.

Artificial, extended or heavily decorated nails are not permitted because they can cause injury, interfere with safe participation in PE and practical activities, and make appropriate hand hygiene more difficult.

Where ordinary make-up or nail varnish can be removed safely and discreetly, a pupil may be asked to remove it. Gel polish, acrylics and nail extensions must not be forcibly removed at school; parents will be contacted and asked to arrange safe removal as soon as possible. Exceptions may be authorised by the headteacher for medical, disability or other exceptional circumstances, such as covering scarring or damaged skin.

Adverse weather

During hot weather, pupils may be encouraged to:

- Wear lightweight uniform.
- Remove jumpers when appropriate.
- Wear sun hats and sunglasses outdoors and follow the school's sun-protection arrangements.

Any temporary change to normal uniform expectations during periods of hot weather will be communicated by the school.

During cold weather, pupils may wear suitable coats, hats, scarves and gloves outdoors.

Labelling

Parents should ensure that all pupils' clothing and footwear is clearly labelled with their child's name.

Lost clothing is taken to the school's lost property area. Unclaimed items may be disposed of or donated after a reasonable period.

Monitoring and review

This policy is reviewed annually by the headteacher and governing board. The next scheduled review is October 2027.