



# Charles Darwin Community Primary School

## School Uniform Policy

Signed by:

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Headteacher

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Chair of governors

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## **Statement of intent**

Charles Darwin Community Primary School believes that a consistent school uniform policy is vital to promote the ethos of the school and provide a sense of belonging and identity for all pupils, regardless of their protected characteristics or socio-economic circumstances.

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, and is affordable and the best value for money for 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 such a way that sets an appropriate tone for education.

## **1. 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

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

- DfE (2021) 'Cost of school uniforms'
- DfE (2021) 'School Admissions Code'
- DfE (2021) 'School uniforms'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Complaints Procedures Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Tendering and Procurement Policy

## **2. 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.
- Processing and approving all eligible School Uniform Assistance Application Forms.

The headteacher is responsible for:

- Encouraging the wearing of 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.
- Providing pupils with an exemption as appropriate, e.g. for a pupil who has a broken arm and requires a loose-fitting top.

Staff members are responsible for:

- Encouraging pupils to dress in accordance with this policy at all times.
- 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 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 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.

### **3. 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.

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.

#### **4. 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 pupils, and parents of pupils, who:

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

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, 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.

## **5. 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.

## **6. School uniform supplier**

Our current school uniform supplier is:

- My School Style  
[www.myschoolstyle.com/school/charles\\_darwin](http://www.myschoolstyle.com/school/charles_darwin)
- Northwich Schoolwear  
<https://northwichschoolwear.co.uk/collections/charles-darwin-primary-school>

## **7. Uniform assistance**

The school supports vulnerable families in meeting the costs of uniforms. School uniform assistance is provided via a uniform bursary. The budget for the school uniform assistance scheme comes from pupil premium funds.

To claim school uniform assistance, parents should be eligible for FSM.

Families who meet the criteria should complete a bursary form and return it to the school office.

The school holds second-hand school uniforms for parents to access; access to these uniforms is available upon request made to the school office. Second-hand uniform will also be offered for sale at regular intervals across the year. Parents are invited to donate their child's uniform when they no longer need it.

## 8. School uniform

### School colours

Our school colours are as follows:

- Red
- Blue

### Clothing

The school uniform is as follows:

Item	Optional or required	Branding	How to acquire	Cost per item from school supplier
Regular school uniform				
Blue sweatshirt or cardigan	Required	School logo on right-hand side	Branded sweatshirt and cardigan available from school suppliers and second hand from school office.	£11.50 – £12.99 £12.50 – £14.99
Red polo shirt	Required	School logo on right-hand side (optional)	Available from school suppliers and second hand from school office.	£8.50 - £10.49
Blue school fleece	Optional	School logo on right-hand side	Available from school supplier and second hand from school office.	£16.99
Blue reversible/fleece school coat	Optional	School logo on right-hand side	Available from school supplier and second hand from school office.	£18.99
Grey or black trousers, shorts or skirt	Required	No branding	Available second hand from school office and available from regular retailers.	N/A
Red check summer dress	Optional	No branding	Available second hand from school office and available from regular retailers.	N/A
Sensible, plain black shoes	Required	No branding	Available from regular retailers.	N/A
PE kit				
Blue t-shirt	Required	School logo on right-hand side	Available from school supplier, second hand from school office and available from regular retailers.	£5.99 - £6.00



Blue school hoodie	Optional	School logo on right-hand side	Available from school supplier, second hand from school office and available from regular retailers.	£15.99 - £16.00
Plain blue shorts	Required	No branding	Available from school supplier, second hand from school office and available from regular retailers.	N/A
Plain blue tracksuit bottoms	Optional	No branding	Available second hand from school office and available from regular retailers.	N/A
Sensible trainers	Required	No branding	Available from regular retailers.	N/A
<b>Accessories</b>				
School book bag	Optional	School logo	Available from school supplier.	£6.49 - £6.50
School document bag	Optional	School logo	Available from school supplier.	£9.99
School PE bag	Optional	School logo	Available from school supplier.	£5.49 - £5.50

Trainers are not considered suitable footwear. High heels are not permitted.

Skirts must be knee-length. Black jeans are not permitted.

Parents are responsible for ensuring their child wears their PE kit to school on PE days.

### **Jewellery**

Permitted jewellery that may be worn is:

- One pair of stud earrings – no other piercings are permitted.
- A smart and sensible wrist watch.

Jewellery is the responsibility of the pupil and not the school. Lost or damaged items will not be refunded. A pupil wearing jewellery does so at their own risk.

### **School bag**

Pupils must use an appropriately sized waterproof bag to carry their books and equipment. It should hold A4-sized work books comfortably without causing any damage.

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**

Pupils with long hair must ensure that this does not impede their vision, cover their face or provide a health and safety risk. Long hair must be tied up during practical lessons, e.g. during PE.

## **Makeup**

Make up is not permitted.

## **9. Adverse weather**

All pupils are required to wear weather-appropriate clothing during adverse weather.

- Parents are asked to ensure their child is wearing sunscreen and has a hat during sunny weather (sunglasses are not permitted).
- Parents are asked to send their child with additional warm/waterproof clothing and a change of footwear during snowy conditions.

## **10. Labelling**

All pupils' clothing and footwear is clearly labelled with their name.

Any lost clothing is be taken to the lost property boxes. All lost property is retained for half a term and made available to all parents after this time.

## **11. Monitoring and review**

This policy is reviewed every two years by the chair of governors and the headteacher.

The scheduled review date for this policy is September 2026.

