School uniform policy

Varna Community Primary School

Approved by: Varna Governing Body **Date:** September 2026

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Next review due by: September 2027

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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
- Uniform is an important part of a school's identity. It reinforces who we are as a community and helps allow students to feel pride in their school. It also helps prepare students for life after school where many will have to dress smartly for high school, or even the world of work.

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 sex, race, religion or belief, 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 the way that is appropriate for school yet makes them feel most comfortable
- Allow pupils to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons
- Allow pupils to wear headscarves and other religious or cultural symbols
- Allow for adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents to get in touch with the admin team on 0161 7111023 who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests

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.

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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:

- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary
- Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics where possible by only asking that the sweatshirt features the school logo
- 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 leveler
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- Considering alternative methods for signaling 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 (signposting to Roundhouse sales, school sales at certain points in the school year)
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents of any changes
- Consulting with parents and pupils 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

Can be bought from:

Panache Uniform Shop

Address: 90 Market St, Droylsden, Manchester M43 6DE
Phone: 0161 301 5570

- We ask that children wear a branded sweatshirt/cardigan
- You can purchase branded t-shirts from the suppliers though these are optional
- Generic light blue t-shirts, black/grey trousers, black/grey skirts and light blue/white summer dresses (if worn) can be bought from any supermarket or high street shop
- Year 4 go swimming, for this swimming costume/trunks and a hat is required (if the hair is classed as medium to long length)
- We ask that children wear only small stud earrings for health and safety reasons
- Footwear is required to be black
- Pale blue check summer dresses can be work

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Multi coloured trainers, tracksuit bottoms, thin leggings are not part of the school uniform and should not be used as such.

If your child comes to school not wearing a school uniform as laid out in the policy, then staff will contact you about your plans to address this.

4.2 Where to purchase it

Information about second-hand uniform:

- Contact the family support team who may have second hand items available or about a second hand uniform sale, Roundhouse also do regular sales too

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 Miss Livesey 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 Miss Livesey, Headteacher 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 speaking to parents in the first instance.

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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

Takes into account 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 re-tendering contracts at least every 5 years.

6. Health and Safety Considerations linked to school uniform and presentation at school

Jewellery

On the grounds of Health and Safety, no jewellery e.g. rings, necklaces or bracelets may be worn by pupils. However, traditional watches are permitted and are the responsibility of the pupil. Exemptions to the rules may be made for items of specific religious significance or medical information. This should be discussed with the Headteacher or her representative.

Children with pierced ears are required to wear small studs for safety reasons, especially in physical activities, to prevent injuries like torn earlobes or snagged piercings. The small, close-to-the-ear design of studs is safer than dangling earrings, which can get caught and cause accidents for the wearer or others.

Religious artefacts, watches, hair slides, should always be removed by pupils before participating in physical activity. They must be handed in to the class teacher prior to the activity.

The wearing of sensory aids such as spectacles or hearing aids will be determined by the nature of the activity. Therefore, activities involving physical contact would not be appropriate. A balanced judgement should be made as to whether wearing the item constitutes greater or lesser risk to the wearer and other children in other activities.

- Make up is not permitted
- The wearing of nail polish and/or acrylic/gel nails is not permitted

7. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

8. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

Behaviour policy

Equality information and objectives statement

Anti-bullying policy

Complaints policy