

Consett Junior School

School uniform policy



Approved by:

Alison Fraser – Chair
of Governros

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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 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 Mr. Paul Dixon, Headteacher, 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.

We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that have to have a school logo or a unique colour 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
- › Accepts unbranded items, such as plain gold polo shirts, plain white t-shirts.

We will do this by:

- › Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary
- › Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics where possible only the school jumper needs a badge
- › 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 leveler – only the school jumper
- › Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups
- › Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- › Support parents in accessing 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 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

- Royal Blue Sweatshirt/Cardigan
- Grey or Black Skirt or Trousers
- Yellow Polo Shirt
- Black or Grey Shorts
- Blue/White Gingham Dress
- Black Shoes (These should be appropriate for school – no heels or boots)

If the winter weather is poor, we would happily encourage children to arrive in wellies etc. and change once here.

We would hope children wear a branded Sweatshirt or Cardigan (Although understand that these may cost a little more money)

We actively encourage to seek good value for money when purchasing other school clothing.

PE Outfit

We have adapted our PE uniform policy in light of changes made during Covid times. It became noticeable how much curriculum time children were using to change – therefore we made the decision to allow children to come to school in PE kit on those days' children have the subject.

- We expect children to wear a plain white t-shirt (It does not need the school logo)
- Black/Dark Blue shorts, leggings and joggers
- School sweatshirts or cardigans can be worn – PLEASE NO Hoodies, these are dangerous for PE and would have to be removed.
- Suitable footwear – such as trainers would be very beneficial for PE.

All children, at some point in the year, will have the opportunity to swim – this is funded by the school. Children will need appropriate swim wear and a towel for these sessions. (Children are welcome to wear goggles, but are not provided by the school)

Jewellery and hairstyles

- Make-up, jewellery, hair die, and nail varnish are not appropriate for school and we will contact you should your child come to school wearing them.
- The wearing of earrings is not encouraged in school, anything larger than a small stud earring would not be allowed. In addition, guidelines have been issued to schools which say that any earrings should be removed for PE, including swimming, or covered securely by plasters or tape, this includes studs.
- Long hair should be tied back and coloured or shaved hair is not acceptable.

We will remind parents, via our website and school 'Weduc' app regarding the times of the year for PE and Swimming.

4.2 Where to purchase it

Branded School clothing can be purchased from our online supplier Tots to Teams. The link below will take you directly to our web page.

Free Delivery is available to schools. There is a small charge for Uniform to be delivered to private addresses. Add details including:

Unbranded items such as polo shirts and plain white t-shirts can be purchased from most high street retailers.

We do have a very small amount of second hand uniform in school – we do periodically pass on good quality sweatshirts to the Willowburn Charity shop in Consett – where they can be purchased for a small nominal donation.

If any families are struggling, we would encourage that they contact the school office straight away – we will do our best to help.

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)

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 the School Office 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.

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 Governing Body Finance Committee 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. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed every 2 years by the Headteacher. At every review, it will be approved by Finance Committee

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

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