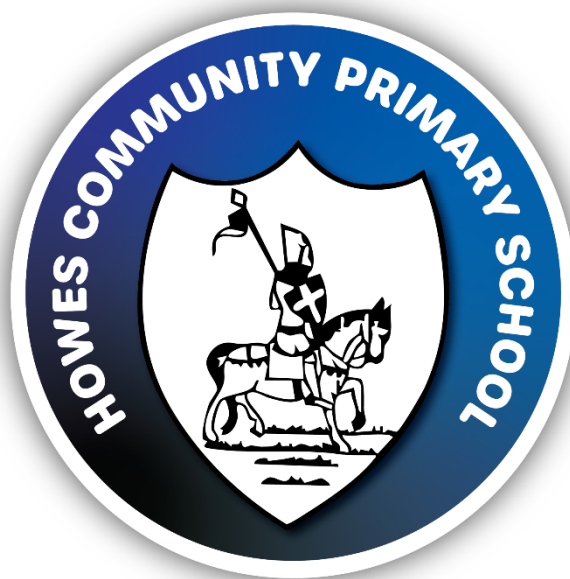


Howes Community Primary School



School Uniform Policy

Date Approved by Governing Board:	September 2026
Date of next Review:	September 2027
Policy Written by:	Mrs Zoe Cook (Headteacher)
Policy Approved:	Mr Colin Marscheider (Chair of Governors)

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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 all 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. Legislation and statutory guidance

This policy has regard to the Education Act 1996, including section 551ZA as amended by the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026; the Equality Act 2010; the Human Rights Act 1998; the Department for Education's statutory guidance on the cost of school uniforms (updated July 2026); and the Department for Education's guidance on developing school uniform policy (updated July 2026). The governing board will ensure that the policy is implemented consistently, promotes affordability and inclusion, and complies with the statutory limit on compulsory branded uniform and PE kit items.

3. 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: age, sex, sexual orientation, disability, race, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity, 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
- Make sure that our uniform costs the same for all pupils
- Allow all pupils to have long hair, although we reserve the right to ask that long hair be tied back
- Allow all pupils to style their hair in a way that is appropriate for school, and makes them feel most comfortable

- Allow pupils to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons, or if they are experiencing discomfort
- Allow pupils to wear headscarves and/or other religious garments
- Make reasonable adjustments for disabled pupils and consider adaptations for pupils with sensory, physical, medical or other additional needs, according to their individual circumstances
- Allow for reasonable adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents/carers to get in touch with Mrs Cook, (Headteacher) who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis

4. 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 (DfE) on the cost of school uniforms. Therefore, we do not expect children to wear any items with a branded logo on them as they are optional.

We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that need to have a school logo attached or be in a unique fabric or style) cannot be purchased from a wide range of retailers, and that requiring many such items limits parents/carers' ability to shop around for the best price.

Therefore we will make sure that:

- It is available at a reasonable cost
- Provides the best value for money for parents and carers

We will do this by:

- Complying with the statutory limit of no more than three compulsory branded items for primary pupils. At Howes Community Primary School, no branded items are compulsory and generic alternatives are permitted
- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary, and limiting these items where possible by making this optional and not compulsory
- Keeping branded items optional and ensuring that parents/carers can purchase generic alternatives from a range of retailers
- Avoiding specific requirements for items such as coats, bags and shoes/trainers that pupils could also wear on non-school days. See more information in section 4.1
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities including (but not limited to) sport, music and drama
- Avoiding requiring different branded items for particular times of the year, such as a branded dress in summer and a branded skirt in winter – this is parents preference
- Considering alternative methods for signalling differences in groups for interschool competitions, such as creating posters
- Making sure that opportunities to acquire second-hand items in a timely manner are accessible to parents and carers of both current and prospective pupils
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications, and minimising the financial impact on parents/carers of any changes
- Consulting with parents/carers and pupils on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy, and carefully considering any complaints about uniform in line with the school's complaints policy
- Continuing to review this policy, to ensure the cost of our uniform is reasonable and provides the best value for money

5. Expectations for school uniform

5.1 Our school's uniform

At Howes Community Primary School, no branded items or items with the school's logo are compulsory; they are all optional. Generic alternatives are permitted.

Our school uniform consists of:

- Royal blue jumper or cardigan (logo optional)
- Grey plain trousers, skirt or pinafore dress with optional choices of shorts or blue summer dress (weather appropriate)
- Plain white Polo T Shirt under the jumper or cardigan (logo optional)
- Plain black shoes or trainers (no logos)

Our PE uniform consists of:

- Plain white round neck T Shirt
- Plain black shorts, skort, leggings or tracksuit bottoms, as appropriate for the activity and weather
- Black trainers/pumps
- A plain black sweatshirt or tracksuit top may be worn for outdoor PE

Hair & Jewellery

- Long hair should be tied back for health & safety reasons
- Hair should normally be a natural colour and should not include shaved designs. The school will apply expectations relating to hair fairly and sensitively and will make reasonable adjustments where appropriate, including where hairstyles are associated with a pupil's race, religion, culture, disability or other protected characteristic
- Hair accessories should be small and match the school colours
- Jewellery must not normally be worn to school. Where an item is worn for religious, cultural or medical reasons, parents/carers should inform the school. Any necessary health and safety considerations will be assessed on an individual basis
- Children who have their ears pierced must only wear studs for Health & Safety purposes
- Nail varnish should not be worn for school
- False nails or extensions must not be worn in school for Health & Safety purposes

Additional items

- School provides all children with a book bag when they enter school in Reception which has a logo on it. This should be brought into school every day
- PE bags with the school logo on them are available but this is not compulsory. Other bags for lunch or sports equipment are acceptable but must be appropriate for school
- A pair of wellies are required only once in the lifetime of the child being in Howes Community Primary School

- Children must have suitable outdoor clothing appropriate for the weather (hats, gloves, coats)
- When a child is representing the school in a sporting event such as football, they will be loaned a school kit with the logo on it. This must be returned to the school.

5.2 Where to purchase or acquire items

Jumpers and cardigans with the school logo on them are available at the school office and payments are to be made on MCAS app. Plain PE bags and plain water bottles are also available. All other school uniform items can be purchased from local supermarkets or other clothing retailers or shops.

Clothing Coventry offers clothing and uniform items for free which can be ordered online or in person. [Clothing Coventry](#) School can support families with this and also help them to apply for a boot fund.

Every term, pre-loved clothes are available and families are welcome to take these free of charge.

Information about our pre-loved uniform provision and how families can access it is published on the school website.

6. Expectations for our school community

6.1 Pupils

Pupils are expected to wear the school uniform as set out in this policy, subject to any agreed reasonable adjustments or temporary arrangements, 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 Mrs Zoe Cook (Headteacher) if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics.

6.2 Parents and carers

Parents and carers are expected to make sure their child has the correct uniform and PE uniform, and that every item is:

- Clean
- Clearly labelled with the child's name

Parents/carers are also expected to contact Mrs Zoe Cook (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/carers are expected to lodge any complaints or objections relating to the school uniform in a timely and reasonable manner in accordance with the school's complaints policy.

Disputes about the cost of the school uniform will be dealt with in accordance with our school's complaints policy

The school will work closely with parents/carers to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

6.3 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 ensuring that the pupil can still access their learning. This is in line with the statutory [guidance](#).

A pupil will not be prevented from attending school or accessing education solely because they do not have the correct uniform. Where uniform difficulties arise, including because of financial hardship, the school will work sensitively with the pupil and family to resolve them and provide support where appropriate.

6.4 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/carers, and pupils
- Offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all pupils

The board will also make sure that any school uniform supplier arrangements give the highest priority to affordability, cost and value for money, and that supplier arrangements are reviewed and procured appropriately in line with current Department for Education guidance.

7. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the headteacher. At every review, it will be approved by the 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