



**Sunshine
Academy**

School Uniform Policy

Written	September 2026
Written by	Miss S Corkindale
Ratified by Local Governing Body	October 2026
Date of Next Review	September 2027
Requirement	Statutory - Required on website



1. Introduction and Rationale

School uniform plays an important role in contributing to the ethos of Sunshine Academy and setting an appropriate tone. A uniform can instil pride, support positive behaviour and discipline, ensure pupils of all races and backgrounds feel welcome, and protect children from social pressures to dress in a particular way. Above all, research shows that school uniform supports effective teaching and learning.

This policy has been developed in line with the Department for Education's statutory guidance on school uniform and the Equality Act 2010. We are committed to ensuring that our uniform is affordable for all families and does not create barriers to accessing education.

2. Our Commitment to Affordability

Cost is our most important consideration when providing a uniform.

We are committed to ensuring that our uniform policy provides the best value for money for parents and carers.

To enable all parents and carers to afford uniform, we have adopted the following approaches:

Colours-Only Policy

Our uniform is based on a colours-only stipulation. While the school can provide branded sweatshirts if parents wish to purchase them, **parents and carers can shop around for the cheapest possible provider** from any retailer, including supermarkets and value stores, so long as the school colours are adhered to (yellow polo shirt and navy blue jumper/cardigan/sweatshirt).

Single Supplier Not Required

You are not required to purchase uniform from any specific supplier. You may purchase uniform items from any retailer of your choice, provided they meet the colour and style requirements set out in this policy.

Transition Period for Logo Changes

We understand that uniform can be costly to families. As the school logo has recently changed on our school uniform, children are allowed to wear the old school logo until they have outgrown it. There is no requirement to purchase new logo items until replacements are needed.

Branded Items

We keep branded items to an absolute minimum. Only sweatshirts/cardigans/jumpers may feature the school logo, and these are entirely optional. No other items require branding.

3. Uniform Requirements

3.1 Daily Uniform

All pupils should wear:

- Yellow polo shirt (plain, no logo required)
- Navy blue jumper, cardigan or sweatshirt (with or without school logo)
- Grey or black trousers or shorts
- Plain grey, black or blue skirt or pinafore, OR blue or yellow checked summer dress
- Flat shoes in black, navy blue or grey
- Grey, navy blue or white socks or tights

All uniform items are gender-neutral and may be worn by any pupil regardless of gender.

3.2 PE Kit

All pupils should have:

- White t-shirt (plain, no logo required)
- Black shorts
- Black pumps or trainers suitable for indoor PE

PE kit should be brought to school on PE days. Your child's class teacher will inform you of PE days at the start of each term. Children may come to school dressed in their PE kit on PE days if this is more convenient.

3.3 Footwear

Footwear should be safe, practical and appropriate for school activities.

Acceptable footwear:

- Black, navy blue or grey shoes (flat or low heel)
- Plain black trainers (no bright colours or large logos)

Unacceptable footwear:

- Shoes with heels over 3cm that could cause injury
- Shoes with excessive glitter or bright colours
- Open-toed sandals, gladiator sandals, jelly shoes, flip flops or crocs
- Brightly coloured or novelty socks or tights

If footwear is considered to be unsuitable for health and safety reasons, parents and carers will be contacted and asked to bring replacement footwear to school. If no contact can be made, the child will be provided with appropriate footwear for the day.

3.4 Jewellery

For health and safety reasons, jewellery is restricted to:

- A watch
- Small stud earrings only (one per ear)

All jewellery must be removed for PE and other physical activities. If your child has newly pierced ears and cannot remove earrings, they must be taped over during PE. The school cannot take responsibility for removing or taping earrings.

Necklaces, bracelets, rings and other jewellery are not permitted due to health and safety reasons.

3.5 Hair

Long hair must be tied back for health and safety reasons and to help prevent the spread of head lice.

Hair accessories should be small and functional. Acceptable colours for hair slides, clips or ribbons are pale yellow, navy blue, black or white.

Large hair accessories are not permitted, including large clip-on bows, flowers or oversized headbands.

We ask that hairstyles are appropriate for a primary school setting. Hairstyles that may cause disruption to learning or could be considered extreme for a primary school environment should be avoided. If you are unsure whether a particular hairstyle is appropriate, please contact the school office before making any changes.

We respect and celebrate all hair types and textures, including protective styles for Afro-Caribbean hair such as braids, locs, twists and cornrows. These styles are welcomed at Sunshine Academy.

3.6 Accessories and Appearance

The following are not permitted in school:

- Temporary or 'fake' tattoos
- False nails or nail extensions
- Make-up, including nail varnish
- Hair accessories in colours other than pale yellow, navy blue, black or white

If children arrive at school wearing these items, they will be asked to remove them. Items will be stored safely and returned at the end of the school day.

4. Items Not Permitted

To maintain a smart appearance and ensure safety, the following items of clothing are not permitted as part of school uniform:

- Jeans or denim items
- Jogging bottoms (except in Little Rays Nursery where they are permitted)
- Denim shorts or sports shorts (except for PE)
- Hooded tops or hoodies
- Clothing with large logos or slogans

5. Equality and Inclusion

5.1 Gender Equality

All uniform items listed in this policy are available to all pupils regardless of gender identity. We do not have separate uniform requirements for boys and girls. Pupils may wear any combination of the uniform items that makes them feel comfortable.

5.2 Religious and Cultural Considerations

We welcome and respect the religious and cultural backgrounds of all our pupils. Where a pupil's religion or culture requires them to wear specific items of clothing, we will make reasonable adjustments to our uniform policy.

Examples of religious or cultural dress that are permitted include:

- Headscarves (hijabs) in school colours where possible
- Turbans
- Kippot
- Modest clothing requirements

If you have specific requirements related to your child's religious or cultural dress, please contact the headteacher to discuss how we can accommodate these within our uniform policy.

5.3 Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

We will make reasonable adjustments to our uniform policy for pupils with special educational needs or disabilities where standard uniform items may cause difficulty or discomfort.

If your child has SEND and requires adjustments to uniform requirements, please contact the school's SENCO to discuss appropriate arrangements.

5.4 Cost Considerations

We are committed to ensuring that uniform costs do not create barriers to education or disadvantage any families. Please see Section 6 for the support available.

6. Support for Families

We understand that the cost of school uniform can be a burden for some families. We are committed to supporting all families to ensure every child can wear appropriate uniform.

6.1 Pre-Loved Uniform Shop

The school provides a **free pre-loved uniform shop every week**. Good quality uniform items in all sizes are available at no cost to families.

How to access the shop:

- The shop is open [insert day and time]
- All families are welcome to use the shop
- If you are unable to attend in person, the school will arrange for uniform items to be sent home discreetly
- Contact the school office to arrange collection

How to donate:

- We welcome donations of good quality, clean uniform items that your child has outgrown
- Items can be dropped off at the school office at any time
- We accept uniform in all sizes and conditions (items that are too worn will be recycled responsibly)

6.2 Financial Support

If you are struggling to provide uniform for financial reasons:

- You will be provided with second-hand uniform at no cost
- Please contact the school office in confidence - we are here to help
- Families in receipt of pupil premium funding may be eligible for additional support with uniform costs

Local authority support:

- Some families may be eligible for school uniform grants from Walsall Council
- Contact the school office for information about eligibility and how to apply

6.3 Uniform Bank

The school maintains a stock of spare uniform items that can be loaned or donated to pupils when needed. This includes:

- Emergency spare uniform if a child's clothing becomes damaged or soiled during the day
- PE kit for children who have forgotten theirs

7. Non-Compliance with Uniform Policy

We believe that all children have the right to education and that uniform should never be a barrier to learning.

7.1 Our Approach

No child will be excluded from school or sent home for not wearing correct uniform. We will always take a supportive and understanding approach.

If a child arrives at school not wearing the correct uniform:

1. **We will provide spare uniform** for the child to wear that day if appropriate and available
2. **We will send a reminder slip home** explaining the uniform policy and the reasons for it
3. **We will offer support** if there are financial or other barriers to providing uniform

7.2 Persistent Non-Compliance

If a child persistently does not wear correct uniform, we will:

1. Contact parents and carers to understand if there are any barriers or difficulties
2. Offer support through our pre-loved uniform shop or uniform bank
3. Make reasonable adjustments where necessary (e.g., for SEND or religious reasons)
4. Work with families to find solutions

We recognise that there may be valid reasons why a child cannot wear full uniform, and we will always take a compassionate and understanding approach.

7.3 Health and Safety Exceptions

In cases where uniform items pose a health and safety risk (such as inappropriate footwear or jewellery during PE), we will:

1. Contact parents and carers to bring alternative items
2. Provide appropriate alternatives from our uniform bank if parents cannot be reached
3. Ensure the child can continue to participate in all activities safely

8. Where to Buy Uniform

8.1 Freedom of Choice

You can purchase uniform from any retailer of your choice. You are not required to use any specific supplier. Suitable uniform items are widely available from:

- Supermarkets (e.g., Asda, Tesco, Sainsbury's, Morrisons)
- Value retailers (e.g., Primark, Matalan)
- Online retailers
- High street shops
- School uniform specialists

8.2 Branded Items (Optional)

If you wish to purchase items with the school logo, branded sweatshirts, cardigans and jumpers are available from:

[Insert supplier name, contact details and website if applicable]

Please note: Branded items are entirely optional. Non-branded items in the correct colours are equally acceptable and often more affordable.

8.3 Second-Hand Uniform

Our free pre-loved uniform shop (see Section 6.1) is an excellent source of good quality, affordable uniform. We encourage all families to use this service.

9. Roles and Responsibilities

9.1 The Governing Body

The governing body is responsible for:

- Approving this uniform policy
- Ensuring the policy complies with statutory guidance and the Equality Act 2010
- Reviewing the policy regularly to ensure it remains affordable and appropriate
- Considering complaints about the uniform policy

9.2 The Headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for:

- Implementing this policy consistently and fairly
- Ensuring all staff understand and apply the policy appropriately
- Making decisions about reasonable adjustments for individual pupils
- Monitoring the impact of the policy on families
- Reporting to governors on the operation of the policy

9.3 Staff

All staff are responsible for:

- Applying this policy consistently and fairly
- Taking a supportive approach to uniform issues
- Communicating sensitively with families about uniform
- Referring families to available support when needed

9.4 Parents and Carers

Parents and carers are responsible for:

- Ensuring their child wears appropriate uniform to school
- Contacting the school if they need support with uniform costs
- Ensuring uniform is clean and in good condition
- Labelling uniform items with your child's name

9.5 Pupils

Pupils are responsible for:

- Wearing their uniform correctly and with pride
- Looking after their uniform
- Bringing PE kit on PE days

10. Consultation and Review

10.1 Consultation

This policy has been developed following consultation with:

- Parents and carers [via survey/meeting - insert date]
- Staff
- Governors
- Pupils

We value the views of our school community and will continue to seek feedback on our uniform policy.

10.2 Listening to Parents

We welcome feedback from parents and carers about our uniform policy. If you have suggestions for how we can improve our policy or make uniform more affordable, please contact the school office or speak to a member of the senior leadership team.

We will consider all feedback when reviewing this policy.

10.3 Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the governing body to ensure it remains:

- Compliant with statutory guidance
- Affordable for all families
- Appropriate for our school community
- Fair and inclusive

The next review date is **September 2027**.

11. Complaints

11.1 Informal Concerns

If you have concerns about our uniform policy or how it is being applied, please speak to:

- Your child's class teacher
- A member of the senior leadership team
- The headteacher

We will always try to resolve concerns informally and quickly.

11.2 Formal Complaints

If you believe our uniform policy does not comply with the Department for Education's statutory guidance on school uniform, or if your concern cannot be resolved informally, you may make a formal complaint.

Formal complaints should be made in writing to the headteacher in the first instance, following the school's complaints procedure.

Our full complaints policy is available on the school website and from the school office.

11.3 Complaints to the Department for Education

If you have followed the school's complaints procedure and believe the school is still not complying with the law on school uniform, you can contact the Department for Education at:

- Website: www.gov.uk/complain-about-school
- Telephone: 0370 000 2288

12. Related Policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

- Behaviour Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Equality and Diversity Policy
- Complaints Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

13. Statutory Guidance and Legal Framework

This policy is based on:

- Department for Education statutory guidance on school uniform (November 2021, updated September 2022)
- Education Act 1996
- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Equality Act 2010
- Human Rights Act 1998

Appendix: Quick Reference Uniform Checklist

Daily Uniform:

- ✓ Yellow polo shirt
- ✓ Navy blue jumper/cardigan/sweatshirt
- ✓ Grey or black trousers/shorts OR grey/black/blue skirt/pinafore OR blue/yellow checked dress
- ✓ Black, navy or grey flat shoes (or plain black trainers)
- ✓ Grey, navy or white socks/tights

PE Kit:

- ✓ White t-shirt
- ✓ Black shorts
- ✓ Black pumps or trainers

Optional:

- Watch
- Small stud earrings
- Small hair accessories (yellow, navy, black or white)

Remember: All items can be purchased from any retailer - you don't need to buy branded uniform!

