



SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY

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Statement of intent

Ridgmont Lower 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

2. Roles and Responsibilities

The governing body is responsible for:

- Establishing, in consultation with the headteacher 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.

The headteacher is responsible for:

- Enforcing 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 body.

Staff members are responsible for:

- Ensuring that pupils 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.

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.
- Looked After Children (LAC) and Previously Looked After Children (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 **OPTIONAL** 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, e.g. by offering sew- or iron-on logo badges for jumpers that can be bought at retailers instead of requiring special branded jumpers.

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 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 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 body, 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

For items with the school's logo, our current school uniform supplier is My Clothing and their website is

www.myclothing.com

The school will retender the uniform contract every five years*, whether changes to the uniform are made or not. The governing body will be able to demonstrate how uniform is procured at the best value for money. The headteacher will work to ensure that the items are procured as cheaply as possible without compromising on the quality, e.g. by requesting standard-style items from the supplier rather than more intricate and unique designs.

***NEXT REVIEW DATE : FEBRUARY 2029**

7. Uniform Assistance

To claim school uniform assistance, parents should be eligible for free school meals (FSM); please note this is different to the Universal Infant Free School Meals. Eligibility is determined by checking original documents from the relevant authority, detailing receipt of the benefit and the address of the pupil.

Families who meet the criteria should contact the school office.

The school holds pre-loved items of school uniform for parents to access; access to these uniforms is available to all. We strongly encourage all our families to make use of this facility. It supports the planet by encouraging a more eco-friendly approach to clothes, makes good use of clothes children quickly grow out of and if parents opt to make a donation to the school, helps to raise funds. Parents are invited to donate their child's uniform when they no longer need it.

8. School Uniform. Reception to Year 4.

Our school colour is royal blue. The school uniform is as follows:

Item	Optional or required	Branding	How to acquire	Cost per item from school supplier
Regular school uniform				
Bright Royal blue sweatshirt or cardigan	Optional	School logo on right-hand side	www.myclothing.com	£11.00
Bright Royal blue sweatshirt or cardigan	Required	None	Available from regular retailers	Typically from £4.00
White polo shirt	Optional	School logo on right-hand side	www.myclothing.com	£7.00
White polo shirt	Required	None	Available from regular retailers	Typically from £2.50 for a twin-pack or £6.00 for a 5-pack.
Blue school fleece	Optional	None	Available from regular retailers	Typically from £6.00
Blue school fleece	Optional	School logo on right-hand side	www.myclothing.com	£15.00
Winter Coat	Optional	School logo on right-hand side	www.myclothing.com	£22.00
Micro-fleece lined jacket	Optional	School logo on right-hand side	www.myclothing.com	£16.00
Grey trousers or grey skirt	Required	No branding	Available from regular retailers	Typically from £6.00 for a twin pack
Grey pinafore dress ¹	Optional	No branding	Available from regular retailers	Typically from £8.00 for a twin pack
Sensible, plain black shoes ²	Required	No branding	Available from regular retailers.	N/A
Plain black, white or grey socks	Required	No branding	Available from regular retailers.	N/A
PE kit				
Plain white round necked t-shirt	Optional	School logo on right-hand side	www.myclothing.com	£6.50

Plain white round necked t-shirt	Required	No branding	Available from regular retailers.	Typically from £2.50 for a twin pack
Plain black shorts	Required	No branding	Available from regular retailers	Typically from £3.00 for a twin pack
Accessories				
School book bag	Required	None	Available from regular retailers	
School book bag	Required	School logo	www.myclothing.com	£7.00
Drawstring PE bag	Optional	School logo	www.myclothing.com	£5.00
Drawstring PE bag	Optional	None		Typically from £4.50 for a twin pack
Rucksack	Optional	School logo	www.myclothing.com	£9.00

¹ - The all-in one pinafore dresses are also acceptable

² - Shoes must not be lace-ups unless your child can do their own laces independently

Trainers and plimsolls are not considered suitable footwear.

Skirts must be knee-length.

Black jeans are not permitted.

Modesty shorts – should be either navy, black or dark grey.

Parents are responsible for ensuring their child has a named PE kit in school at all times.

Nursery Children

Nursery children are encouraged to wear school uniform with the exception of formal trousers and/or skirt, which may be substituted with grey, navy or black jogging bottoms.

Summer Uniform (Optional)

Grey shorts and white polo shirt

Light blue and white gingham dress/playsuit/polo shirt/school dress

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. All jewellery must be removed during PE lessons.

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

The school reserves the right to make a judgement on where pupils' hairstyles or hair colours are inappropriate for the school environment; however, will ensure that any such judgements do not discriminate against any pupil by virtue of their protected characteristics. Each individual pupil's scenario will be taken into account where any judgements on appropriateness are to be made, and parents will always have the freedom to complain via the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.

Long hair must be tied up.

The following hairstyles are not considered appropriate for school:

- Brightly-coloured, dyed hair.
- Headwear with bold patterns or colours.
- Excessive hair accessories.

Makeup

The school rules on makeup are as follows:

- No nail varnish on finger nails
- Temporary tattoos are not permitted

However, these are permitted on a non-uniform day.

9. Labelling

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

Any lost clothing will be placed to the lost property 'bin' located in the corridor outside the library. We will regularly sort through the items, giving parents/carers an opportunity to retrieve any items before they are recycled.