



Anchorsholme Academy School Uniform Policy



Adopted by Governors/HT: HT
Implementation date: Jan 2023
Review period: Annually
Last review date: Jan 2023
Person responsible for policy: Headteacher

Statement of Intent

Anchorsholme Academy 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.

- **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
- Education (Guidance about Costs of School Uniforms) Act 2021

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:

- Behaviour Policy
- Complaints Procedures Policy

- **Roles and Responsibilities**

The Governing Board is responsible for:

- Establishing, in consultation with the Headteacher and school community, 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/carers, 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.

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The Headteacher is responsible for:

- Enforcing the school's uniform on a day-to-day basis.
- Ensuring that staff 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 board.
- Allowing exemptions as appropriate, e.g. for a pupil who has a broken arm and requires a loose-fitting top.

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.
- Discussing with parents/carers the reasons why a pupil may be in breach of this policy.

Parents/carers 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 and providing evidence of the reason for this.
- 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.

- **Cost Principles**

Anchorsholme Academy 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.

In accordance with the 'School Admissions Code', the Headteacher will ensure that the school's uniform policy does not discourage parents from applying for a place for their child. 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 consider 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.
- LAC and PLAC.

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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 does not have variations in school uniform for different groups of pupils, apart from house colours for PE t-shirts. This is to ensure pupils can get the most wear out of their uniform as possible and that parents can pass some items down to younger siblings.

The school keeps branded uniform items to a minimal level that is reasonable for all members of the school community. The school does not enforce branding on any item of uniform. 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 works with multiple suppliers to obtain the best value for money possible. The school does not enter into exclusive single supplier contracts or cash-back arrangements. More information on supplier processes can be found in the 'School uniform supplier' section of this policy.

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.

- **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 uniforms 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 will ensure that parents/carers and pupils are consulted over any changes to school uniform, which may include parents/carers of pupils, who:

- Are transgender, including non-binary pupils.
- Have SEND and/or sensory needs.
- Are of a religious or cultural background that has dress requirements.

The school implements a gender-neutral uniform, meaning that pupils are not required to wear specific items based on their gender, and may wear any of the uniform items listed in the 'School Uniform' section of this policy regardless of the legal sex recorded on the school's records. Transgender pupils are supported to access the uniform that best reflects their gender expression.

The school endeavours to ensure 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 pupil and 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 Board.

Parents of pupils with SEND and/or sensory difficulties may wish to buy uniform from a supplier that produces soft and stretchy fabric, avoiding intricate buttons or hard seams. Where the needs of these pupils cannot be met by any uniform supplier, including supermarkets and high street retailers, individual adaptations to the uniform may be considered.

- **Complaints and Challenges**

The school endeavours to resolve all uniform complaints and challenges locally and informally, in accordance with The Sea View Trust's Complaints Policy.

To make a complaint, parents should refer to the Complaints Policy, which can be found on the school's website, and follow the stipulations outlined.

When a complaint is received, the school works with parents to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

- **School Uniform Supplier**

Many items of non-branded uniform can be purchased from supermarkets and high street retailers.

Our current school uniform supplier is:

Bispham Clothing
7 All Hallows Road
Blackpool
FY2 0AS
Telephone: 01253 276 047

Opening Hours:
Monday - Friday 9.30-5.30
Saturday 9.30 - 5.00
Closed - Sunday and bank holidays

The governing board will ensure that a written contract is in place with uniform suppliers – this does not include non-branded uniform that is available to purchase from supermarkets and high street retailers. The school will retender the uniform contract every five years, whether changes to the uniform are made or not. The governing board 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.

The school does not sign contracts with suppliers before requesting visualisations of proposed uniform, as well as fabric samples.

Where the school is proposing to change suppliers, it will reach out to suppliers by December in the determination year.

- **School's approach to PE**

Parents are asked to send their child into school wearing their PE kit on the day when they have been informed that PE will be taking place. This was introduced during the Covid pandemic to avoid too many bags being brought in. However, it was found to be a great way to maximise the amount of time spent in the lesson – without having to change in and out of their uniform, so we have adopted it for PE days. The only exception is for Foundation children, who are asked to still bring their PE kit in a PE bag, as dressing themselves is one of the core skills which they still need to learn when they join us.

- **Uniform Assistance**

The school has a good stock of pre-loved uniforms which are available on request. Parents should call the school office to let them know what item of uniform is required plus a size or approximate age and we will help where we can. A voluntary donation of £1 per item is suggested, but this is not essential. The school supports vulnerable families whenever possible. Parents are encouraged to donate good-quality uniform that is no longer needed by dropping it off at the school office.

- **Non-Compliance**

If pupils are not in the correct uniform, staff will send a reminder to parents on Class Dojo in the first instance. If the correct uniform is not worn on a second occasion, the correct uniform will be given to the child to wear throughout the school day, before changing back before home time.

- **Jewellery**

We do not permit jewellery, other than one pair of silver/gold small stud earrings.

Jewellery is not permitted during PE lessons and children must be responsible for removing their own earrings for PE lessons. If children are unable to remove earrings, they may be covered by a plaster which should be provided by the parent/carer and applied by the child. Staff cannot remove pupil's earrings.

Jewellery is the responsibility of the pupil and not the school. Lost or damaged items will not be refunded.

- **Watches**

Children can wear a plain watch as this may also help them with learning to tell the time. We do not permit SMART watches, however, as these have the potential to have messaging and photographing facilities on them, which is a safeguarding risk.

Watches are the responsibility of the pupil and not the school. Lost or damaged items will not be refunded.

- **Hairstyles**

The following hairstyles are not considered appropriate for school:

- Hair that is dyed an unnatural colour
- Hair that has shaved patterns
- Excessive hair accessories i.e. large bows

Long hair is defined as hair that is shoulder length or longer. Pupils with long hair must ensure that this does not impede their vision, cover their face or provide a health and safety risk. Long hair must be tied up and off the face during practical lessons, e.g. during PE, D&T etc. Children are responsible for tying their own hair up before practical lessons. Staff cannot tie pupil's hair up.

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 considered where any judgements on appropriateness are to be made, and parents will always have the freedom to complain via the Complaints Policy.

- **Makeup**

The following are not considered appropriate for school:

- Makeup
- False nails and nail extensions
- Coloured nail varnish
- Temporary tattoos

- **Adverse Weather**

All pupils are required to wear weather-appropriate clothing that covers as much of their skin as possible during adverse weather.

For hot temperatures, the school encourages parents to ensure their child wears:

- Loose-fitting and lightweight uniform with sleeves and collars or covered necklines
- Over the knee skirts/pinafores/dresses or shorts
- Baseball caps when outside where possible
- Parents are asked to apply sun block/high factor sun screen to their child in the morning before they arrive at school.

Pupils are advised not to wear any jumpers/cardigans during heatwaves. During periods of hot weather, the school will try to ensure that pupils are given shade and water as often as possible.

For cold temperatures, the school encourages parents to ensure their child wears:

- Scarf, gloves, coats and hats when they are outside
- Warm jumpers that conform to the school's uniform policy
- School trousers, or thick black tights with school skirts/pinafores.

- **Labelling**

Parents and carers are responsible for ensuring that ALL their child's clothing and footwear is clearly labelled with their name.

Pupils are responsible for taking care of their clothing and footwear. The school does not accept responsibility for lost items of clothing and footwear and will not provide refunds or replacements. This also extends to items lost whilst on a school trip.

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- **School Uniform**

The school uniform is as follows:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Optional or required</u>	<u>Branding</u>	<u>How to acquire</u>
Main School Uniform			
Navy Blue Sweatshirt or Cardigan	Required	Branding is optional; school logo on left chest	Branded available from Bispham Clothing
White Shirt	Required	Branding is optional; school logo on left chest	
Royal blue and gold tie	Required	No branding	
Grey Trousers or Skirt/Pinafore <i>(skirts and pinafores must be knee length)</i>	Required	No branding	
Grey or White Socks or Grey Tights	Required	No branding	
Black School Shoes/Trainers <i>(must be sensible and plain without logos)</i>	Required	No branding	
Black Hijab for Muslim Pupils or Black Turban for Sikh Pupils	Optional	No branding	
Optional Summer School Uniform (worn during the Summer Term)			
Grey Shorts or Blue and White Checked Dress <i>(shorts and dresses must be knee length)</i> Pale blue polo t-shirt	Optional	No branding	

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PE Kit			
House PE T-shirt (Colour as advised on admission)	Required	Branding is optional; school logo on front	Branded available from Bispham Clothing
Black PE Shorts or Tracksuit Bottoms/Joggers in plain black, grey or navy	Required (Joggers optional)	No branding	Plain without logos
Black PE Pumps/Trainers <i>(must be sensible and plain without logos)</i>	Required	No branding	Plain without logos
Swimming Kit (Year 5 – please check which class group is swimming)			
Swimming Costume <i>(one piece)</i> or Swimming Trunks <i>(must be above the knee and must not be baggy)</i>	Required	No branding	
Towel	Required	No branding	
Waterproof Bag	Required	No branding	
Googles	Optional	No branding	
Accessories			
Navy Blue School Book Bag	Optional	Branding is optional	Branded available from Bispham Clothing
Navy Blue School Fleece	Optional	Branding is optional; school logo on left chest	Branded available from Bispham Clothing