

Polehampton CE Infant and Junior Schools

Uniform Policy



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Introduction

At Polehampton Church of England Infant and Junior Schools, our vision is "Let your light shine" (Matthew 5:16). Jesus reminded us in Matthew’s gospel that we are lights for the world. As we seek to follow him, we can share his light with others and change the world. Supported by our school values of gratitude, friendship, perseverance, forgiveness, honesty and compassion, we seek to help pupils make positive choices in all they do. We follow our Christian values to enable everyone in our school community to let their light shine.

At Polehampton Church of England Infant and Junior Schools, a clear uniform policy allows pupils to let their lights shine in a formal, fair and inclusive environment. This policy lists the specific uniform requirements of Polehampton CE Infant and Juniors Schools. It also clarifies why our schools believe that school uniform is an important part of the school ethos of high standards and achievement as well as instilling a sense of pride, well-being and equality within our school family. This policy has been written in line with the latest [government guidance](#).

It should be noted that all references to ‘parents’ should be read as ‘parents or carers’.

Aims and objectives

This policy aims to provide details of the uniform requirements for Polehampton and the measures the school has taken to adhere to statutory requirement and non-statutory guidance.

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Our policy on school uniform is based on the notion that school uniform reflects our high expectations, and the policy seeks to meet the following core aims in line with DfE guidance:

- To promote of the school's ethos and core values.
- To foster a sense of community, belonging and identity toward the school.
- To set an appropriate tone for education.

In addition, the below have also been identified by the school as key aims:

- To promote of a sense of pride in the school.
- To act as a visual demonstration of high standards throughout the school.
- To provide practical, smart and suitable attire for school.
- To more easily identify the pupils of the school, aiding safeguarding.
- To prevent pupils from coming to school in apparel or accessories that could be a distraction from learning.
- To allows pupils to feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance.

In line with our vision to "let your light shine", we believe that high expectations of presentation and a clear uniform policy helps pupils feel a stronger sense of community and help them develop a deep understanding of being part of something greater than themselves, developing the confidence to let their lights shine.

General statement on uniform, logos and costs

Our school takes pride in the appearance of our pupils. School uniform helps to reinforce the school's identity and reinforces a respect for the school. The school will notify parents if a pupil is not following school policy.

The school will actively work to ensure uniform costs are kept as low as possible and support families if, at any time, cost is a barrier to the purchase of correct uniform. This includes periodic cost analysis reviews. Parents who require support should contact the school office to discuss options for support.

Roles and responsibilities

The governing body monitors and reviews the school Uniform Policy. It is the governors' responsibility to ensure that the school uniform meets all regulations concerning equal opportunities.

We ask all parents who send their children to our school to support and uphold the school Uniform Policy. We believe that parents have a duty to send their children to school correctly dressed and ready to learn each day. If the school has an issue or concern with any aspect of a pupil's appearance, parents will be contacted to resolve the issue.

Specific clarification as to what can and cannot be worn

In order to ensure all pupils feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance, the school has outlined specific areas which require additional clarification. Polehampton will take no responsibility for loss or damage to any device or personal item brought into school.

Regardless of what is worn, please ensure it is all labelled. You would not believe what items go missing!

Footwear

Footwear is often the most debated issue amongst schools and families across the country with regard to uniform expectations. For that reason, parents should pay close attention to what is outlined as appropriate footwear:

- At Polehampton, we wish for pupils to look smart. Therefore, footwear must meet this criteria and be smart and appropriate for school.
- Footwear must be flat and closed toe (for health and safety reasons).

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- Footwear must be solid black in colour.
- Footwear does not have to be leather, but it is strongly encouraged as it looks smart, is hard-wearing and easily cleaned. Trainers may be worn if they meet all other criteria in this list (i.e. solid black – no coloured ticks etc.).
- Boots may only be worn if they are low-ankle boots, plain black and without any chains, embellishments or other accessories.
- Plimssoles are not suitable to be worn as main school shoes.

Smart watches and similar worn devices

Whilst we want to support the fitness and healthy lifestyle of pupils, we also have a duty to protect pupils with regard to safeguarding and digital safety. Therefore, smart watches (or similar) that have any of the following features are not permitted to be worn or carried in school:

- Smart watches or similar with a camera function.
- Smart watches or similar with an e-SIM that allows the device to be connected to mobile internet.
- Smart watches or similar that have gaming functions enabled.

In addition, parents/carers should note the following:

- Pupils in Reception to Year 5 are not permitted a mobile phone on site.
- Pupils in Year 6 (who have signed permission) must hand their mobile phones in to the school office (turned off) at the beginning of the school day, so their device cannot connect to their smart watch despite it being on site. These must be collected at the end of the school day.

The school cannot except responsibility for loss or damage to any item brought in to school, including those left with the school office.

Jewellery

On health and safety grounds, we do not allow children to wear jewellery in our school. The exceptions to this rule are small plain gold or silver studs in pierced ears, small discreet watches and small objects of religious significance. We ask the children either to remove these objects during PE and games, or cover them with 'micro pore' tape in line with our health and safety requirements, to prevent them from causing injury. Pupils should not wear earrings if they are attending swimming lessons. Due to the length of time required for piercings to stay in the ear after being pierced, we recommend waiting until the summer break to get your child's ears pierced.

Hair

The school encourages its pupils to have sensible hair designs which do not distract other children from their learning. Hair accessories, such as hairbands, bows and clips, should be discreet and black, white, brown, navy or grey in colour. Large bows or coloured hair accessories are not permitted. **Long hair (below shoulder length) should be tied up at all times.** Extreme hair (e.g. brightly-coloured hair) is not permitted.

Nails and makeup

We do not allow pupils to wear nail varnish or makeup in school.

Uniform exceptions due to religion or belief

The school is inclusive of children from all backgrounds and faith communities. We encourage our pupils to be curious and take an active interest in others' cultures. If there are specific reasons, for example on religious grounds, why parents want their child to not follow the Uniform Policy, the school will work with the family to identify an appropriate way forward, agreement or compromise. Examples of religious grounds may be requesting that a pupil wear different clothes to those outlined in the Uniform Policy, wear/carry specific religious items or not conform to the Uniform Policy

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in ways such as a pupil not cutting their hair. Parents should discuss these arrangements with the Headteacher to ensure that all parties can discuss openly and understand the other person's requirements.

There may be times when the school has good reason for restricting an individual's freedoms (a genuine health and safety or security considerations, for example), and the restriction of an individual's rights to manifest their religion or belief may be justified. We will be sensitive to the needs of different cultures, races and religions and act reasonably in accommodating these needs, without compromising important school policies, such as school safety or discipline. We believe that it should be possible for most religious requirements to be met within our Uniform Policy, and will seek to engage with families and understand their needs when making specific exceptions to the Uniform Policy.

Uniform for Physical Education (PE)

Our PE kit consists of a house t-shirt and black shorts. Children should wear a t-shirt in their house team colours (blue/green/yellow/red). Pupils must have appropriate footwear (including plimssoles or trainers) for PE lessons (these must be different to a pupil's school shoes). In the colder months, parents may wish for their child to wear a tracksuit (jumper/zipped jacket with no hood and jogging bottoms). These must be black and plain.

When children are representing the school for inter-school competitions, the school will provide children with school branded kit where at all possible.

Please see the 'uniform specifications' section for photographs of the appropriate PE kit.

Uniform for Forest School

Wellies and all-in-one outfits are required for Forest School sessions for our infant children.

Wellies and additional warm clothing are required for Forest School sessions for our junior children.

Sourcing uniform

Our uniform can be purchased through one of our chosen online suppliers:

- Goodies
- My Clothes

These companies have options available for all items listed as part of our required uniform, particularly clothing with the school logo. However, parents may also purchase clothing from their own chosen supplier. Most items of uniform required are readily available from supermarkets or department stores.

DfE's cost of school uniform requirements and second-hand uniform

The Department for Education (DfE) issued [requirements for schools](#) regarding the cost of school uniform, uniform sustainability and overall choice and availability of uniform. In the requirements, the DfE states that schools should ensure that their uniform supplier arrangements give the highest priority to cost and value for money (including the quality and durability of the garment). The suppliers we have chosen ensure that this criteria is met. In addition, we have conducted school uniform cost checks, and have concluded that our uniform expectations are in line with government averages and meet the requirements of the statutory DfE requirements.

The DfE requirements also states that schools should ensure that second-hand uniform is available for parents to purchase. Second-hand uniform is available from the school's Parent Teacher Association (PTA). Please email the PTA (contact details on the website) with a list of your uniform requirements, and the PTA team will respond with their stock and costs. Please note that second-hand uniform is only available thanks to the generosity of our parents as they leave the school.

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Pre-loved / second-hand uniform may also be available from local second-hand selling websites (i.e. Facebook Marketplace), which parents may wish to source uniform from. These sites are not associated with the school, and the school will take no responsibility for or profit from any items purchased on these sites.

Uniform expectations

It is the expectation that at all times, shirts will be tucked in and buttons will be done up (the top button may be left undone). Pupils should, in line with our values, ensure they model the highest standards at all times, and this includes with uniform.

Extreme weather amendments to uniform

Children may also be allowed other variations of their uniform in extreme weather. What is allowed at different times will be communicated to families at those specific times.

Uniform specifications

The following information and photographs outline the specific requirements for uniform.

Infant School uniform

Everyday uniform	Summer options	PE Kit - to be worn on PE days
Grey or black skirt or pinafore dress	Navy, grey or black shorts	Red T-shirt
Grey or black trousers	Red checked dress or shirt	Black shorts
White blouse, shirt or polo shirt		Trainers (Velcro for infant children) - should be neutral colours
Red cardigan, jumper or sweatshirt - can have school logo		Black jogging bottoms (winter)
Black, white or grey socks		
Grey or black tights		
Black flat shoes		

Junior School uniform

Everyday uniform	Summer options	PE Kit - to be worn on PE days
Grey or black skirt or pinafore dress	Grey or black shorts	Black shorts
Grey or black trousers	Red checked dress or shirt	T-shirt and sweatshirt in House Colours - can have a school logo
White shirt, blouse or polo shirt		Trainers - should be neutral colours
Navy cardigan, jumper or sweatshirt - can have school logo		Black jogging bottoms (winter) Leggings are not permitted, unless for cross country.
White or grey socks		Swimming hat in House Colours (summer)
Grey or black tights		
Black flat shoes		

Uniform accessories

- For the infant school, book bags should be brought to and from school every day.
- Children in at the junior site may bring a book bag or a **small** rucksack or bag into school.
 - Please note that only one key chain or labelling device is suitable on bags or rucksacks.

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