

Aspire School Uniform Policy

We believe that school uniform can play an important part in school life, and for some pupils it;

- is practical and distinctive to the school;
- reduces distractions in the classroom
- makes children and feel equal to one another in terms of appearance to reduce peer pressure and bullying to wear the latest fashions or expensive clothes
- promoting a sense of community, pride and belonging towards the school;
- Supporting health and safety;

However, we also know that for some children, wearing specific clothes can be uncomfortable, restrictive and create sensory overwhelm, all of which reduce engagement with school activities and have a negative impact on wellbeing.

Therefore, our uniform requirements can be adapted to meet the needs of our individual pupils, with comfort and wellbeing being an equal priority to the points listed above. Where adjustments and adaptations are required, these should be discussed with class teacher or the Aspire Family Liaison Officer (FLO), and all reasonable requests will be granted.

Uniform Description:

Our school uniform is a bottle-green jumper with grey or black trousers, skirt or shorts and a green or white polo shirt. Alternatively a green summer dress can be worn.

We have an obligation under the Human Rights Act 1998 to protect and to accommodate the rights of individuals to display their religious or cultural dress. Requests can be made to the school for adaptations to uniforms based on social or cultural grounds e.g. for pupils to wear other items of clothing, other than or in addition to the specified school uniform.

We have a moral duty to keep costs low for parents and carers. Therefore, we will ensure our school uniform is affordable and provides the best value.

Our school's legal duties under the Equality Act 2010

Under the [Equality Act 2010](#), schools have a duty to make reasonable adjustments to ensure that disabled pupils are not placed at a substantial disadvantage compared to non-disabled

pupils, and can participate in all aspects of school life. The Act considers autism to be a disability. To avoid discrimination, Aspire School allows all pupils to adapt the uniform requirements to meet their sensory needs and differences, and reduce the anxiety and dysregulation they may experience when dressing for school each morning.

The [Equality Act 2010](#) prohibits discrimination against an individual based on the protected characteristics, which include age, sex, 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 or that most reflects their self-identified gender
- Make sure that our uniform costs the same for all pupils
- Allow all pupils to style their hair in a way that is appropriate for school and makes them feel most comfortable. It is not permitted to have stripes, names, patterns or logos cut into the hair. Hair should be natural in colour.
- Allow pupils to wear headscarves and/or other religious garments. These should be plain in black, white, grey or school colour

Other Criteria:

- On the grounds of health and safety, pupils are not allowed to wear jewellery at school, except a watch, one plain small round stud with no design or decoration worn at the bottom of each ear lobe. The exception to this will be to reflect religious requirements.
- Earrings must be able to be removed by the pupil for PE lessons, or by the parent/carer on the day of PE. We encourage parents/carers who wish to have their child's ears pierced to have this done at the start of the summer holidays so they are healed before the new term starts. The schools cannot take responsibility for any jewellery bought into school, worn by pupils or in their belongings
- Pupils should not have nail varnish, false nails or tattoos

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 uniform.

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

We will make sure our uniform:

1. Is available at several stockists
2. Is widely available in supermarkets and other shops
3. Is available at a reasonable cost

4. Provides best value for money for parents/carers

We will do this by:

5. Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary
6. Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics
7. Providing an iron on badge which can be added to non-branded clothing
8. Keeping the number of optional branded items to a minimum, so that the school's uniform can act as a social leveller
9. Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
10. Enabling children to wear PE kit in inter Trust competitions and make available suitable branded school kit for inter-school competitions
11. Offering 'uniform recycling events' to support our Trust aims to become more sustainable, promote care for the environment and ensure our uniform has a second life
12. Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents/carers of any changes
13. Consulting with parents/carers and pupils on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy
14. Considering carefully any 'event' days in schools and what children could be asked to wear such as World Book day, Red Nose day and so on so that these do not provide a financial burden for parents

Non uniform days and 'event' days

We give careful consideration in our schools to the clothing which could be worn on non-uniform days and 'event' days such as World Book Day.

- Pupils are allowed to have dyed hair for event days (such as red for Red Nose day) if they wish to do so.
- Footwear should continue to be appropriate for school i.e. no high heels
- Jewellery should continue to be limited for health & safety reasons
- Clothing should be modest e.g. no crop tops

Swimming lessons

There is no school swimming uniform; however, children are required to bring:-

- Swimming trunks
- One-piece swimsuits (two-piece swimsuits are not allowed)
- A suitable towel (must be dry and large enough for your child)
- Goggles if preferred
- Swim cap if preferred

Off site visits and school trips

Pupils should continue to wear their school uniform for off site visits/trips, unless this has been specified differently in the trip arrangements.

Any further questions relating to this policy should be directed to the Office manager/FLO