ABBOTSWOOD JUNIOR SCHOOL
School Uniform Policy
Approved by the FGB: 23 September 2024 **Next Review:** Autumn 2028

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1. Aims

This policy aims to:

- Set out our approach to requiring a uniform that is of reasonable cost and offers the best value for money for parents and carers
- Explain how we will avoid discrimination in line with our legal duties under the Equality Act 2010
- Clarify our expectations for school uniform

2. Our school's legal duties under the Equality Act 2010

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

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- Allow all pupils to have long hair (though we reserve the right to ask for this to be tied back)
- Allow all pupils to style their hair in a way that is appropriate for school and makes them feel most comfortable
- Allow pupils to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons or if they are experiencing discomfort related to their sex, gender or gender reassignment
- Allow pupils to wear headscarves and/or other religious garments
- Allow pupils with sensory or physical needs to make reasonable adaptations to their uniform depending on their specific needs
- Allow for reasonable adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents/carers to get in touch with the school to answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis

3. 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:

- Is available at a reasonable cost
- Provides the best value for money for parents/carers

We will do this by:

- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary
- Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics Keeping the number of optional branded items to a minimum, so that the school's uniform can act as a social leveller
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- Considering alternative methods for signalling differences in groups for interschool competitions, such as creating posters or labels
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents/carers to acquire second-hand uniform items
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents/carers of any changes
- Consulting with parents/carers and pupils on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy

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4. Expectations for school uniform

4.1 Our school's uniform

At our school, children wear their distinctive red sweatshirts with pride.

- Sweatshirts, jumpers and cardigans are red. Sweatshirts and cardigans are available with or without our school logo. White shirts or polo tops should be worn. White polo shirts are available with or without our school logo. Logos are optional and are not a requirement.
- Skirts or trousers should be grey or black. Sports trousers are not appropriate. In warmer weather, tailored shorts should be worn, not sports shorts. Red checked dresses may be worn during the summer.
- Shoes should be black. Boots can be worn in winter, but must be low heeled, plain and black. Fashion shoes with high heels and thin straps should not be worn. In the summer, white or black sandals may be worn.
- Children may wear trainers to school. However, these must be **all black.** Trainers other than black are not appropriate.
- Children should wear their PE kit to school on both of their PE/OSA days.

Sportswear

- PE kit is a plain t-shirt in red or white and shorts in black.
- T-shirts should not have logos (other than school logos - however, school logos are optional and are not a requirement).
- For safety reasons, baggy shorts and t-shirts are not appropriate.
- Children are barefoot for gymnastic activities, but should have a change of footwear for outdoor activities.
- In cold weather, tracksuits in school colours may be worn for outside activities. Abbotswood 'hoodies' are available but can only be worn for PE (not in class instead of sweatshirts).
- All children can wear their sportswear all day when they have PE or OSA.

Jewellery/Accessories

- Wrist watches are allowed in school but are worn at the owner's risk. No smart watches please.
- If ears are pierced, one pair of studs may be worn. These should either be removed by the child for PE and games or covered with tape. Children must bring their own tape for this purpose. No other jewellery is allowed.
- No false or acrylic nails because of the risk of injury during PE/at break and lunchtime.
- No make-up.

4.2 Where to purchase it

Please note: **branded uniform is optional.** Uniform can also be purchased from various retailers including Asda, Sainsbury's, Tesco and Marks and Spencer.

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Branded School Uniform is available from:

Skoolkit: Totton Shopping Centre, 1 Commercial Road, Totton, SO40 3BX

Branded School Sportswear can be purchased from:

Branding Worx: 6-8 Eling Lane, Totton, Southampton, SO40 9GA

5. Expectations for our school community

5.1 Pupils

Pupils are expected to wear the correct uniform at all times (other than specified non-school uniform days) while:

- On the school premises
- Travelling to and from school
- At out-of-school events or on trips that are organised by the school, or where they are representing the school (if required)

Pupils are also expected to contact the school office if they want to request an adaptation of the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics.

5.2 Parents and carers

Parents and carers are expected to make sure their child has the correct uniform and PE kit, and that every item is:

- Clean
- Clearly labelled with the child's name
- In good condition

Parents/carers are also expected to contact the school office if they want to request an adaptation of the uniform policy in relation to:

- Their child's protected characteristics
- The cost of the uniform

Parents/carers are expected to lodge any complaints or objections relating to the school uniform in a timely and reasonable manner.

Disputes about the cost of the school uniform will be:

- Resolved locally
- Dealt with in accordance with our school's complaints policy

The school will work closely with parents/carers to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

5.3 Staff

Staff will closely monitor pupils to make sure they are in correct uniform. They will give any pupils and their parents/carers breaching the uniform policy the opportunity to comply, but will follow up with the headteacher if the situation doesn't improve.

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In cases where it is suspected that financial hardship has resulted in a pupil not complying with this uniform policy, staff will take a mindful and considerate approach to resolving the situation.

5.4 Governors

The governing board will review this policy and make sure that it:

- Is appropriate for our school's context
- Is implemented fairly across the school
- Takes into account the views of parents/carers and pupils
- Offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all pupils

The board will also make sure that the school's uniform supplier arrangements give the highest priority to cost and value for money.

6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed at least every 4 years.

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

- Behaviour policy
- Equality information and objectives statement
- Anti-bullying policy
- Complaints policy

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