



## Freegrounds Infant School Uniform Policy

### Introduction

There is no legislation that deals specifically with school uniforms. Governing bodies decide there should be a school uniform and what it should consist of. This follows from the governing body's general responsibility for the conduct of the school and for the promotion of good behaviour and discipline on the part of its pupils.

It is Freegrounds Infant School's policy that all children wear school uniform when attending school or when participating in a school organised event outside of school hours. School uniform helps to promote a feeling of belonging to a special group of people; it saves arguments about what a child wants to wear; it avoids children coming to school in undesirable fashions; and it encourages children to maintain a neat and tidy appearance.

### Aims and Objectives

To ensure that clothing worn is appropriate both for everyday school activities and to the age of the child at school. Our policy for school uniform is based on the notion of that school uniform:

- Promotes a sense of pride in the school
- Engenders a sense of community and belonging towards the school
- Is practical and smart
- Make children feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance
- Is regarded as suitable wear for school and is considered by parents as good value for money
- Is designed with health and safety in mind.

### Limiting the cost of school uniform

Our school is situated in an area of low deprivation. However, there are individual cases and pockets of deprivation within parts of the community.

Our school uniform is an important part of our identity, is a leveller to ensure consistency for all pupils wearing the same and taking pride in the sense of community and expectation of high standards it provides. 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 on the cost of school uniform.

We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that have 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' ability to 'shop around' for a low price.

We will make sure our uniform:

- Is available at a reasonable cost from a reputable provider
- Provides the best value for money for parents/care

We will do this by:

- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary
- Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics where possible for example, by only asking that the jumper/cardigan, worn over the top of the polo shirt, features the school logo and that the polo shirt does not have to
- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low cost or long lasting items, such as jumpers and cardigans
- Avoiding specific requirements for items pupils could wear on non-school days, such as coats, bags and shoes

- 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 groups
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents to acquire second hand uniform items
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents of any changes
- Consulting with parents and pupils on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy

## **The School Uniform**

### **Freegrounds Infant School's winter uniform:**

- Navy blue trousers / navy blue skirt or navy blue pinafore
- Red embroidered school logo sweatshirt or cardigan
- White polo shirt
- Navy blue / black or white socks or red or navy blue tights
- Suitable dark coloured shoes. **No trainers**

### **Freegrounds Infant School summer uniform:**

- Navy blue shorts / navy blue skirt or navy blue pinafore
- Red check dresses
- Suitable dark coloured shoes. **No trainers and no open backs or toes**

### **Freegrounds Infant School PE kit:**

- Red shorts
- White t-shirt
- Black / navy blue jogging bottoms and jumper for colder weather
- Black plimsols or trainers

### **Extra items required**

- Red school logo book bag (no back packs)
- Draw string PE bag - logo bags are available
- Children are required to bring a coat to school every day in the colder months and a shower proof jacket is advisable in summer

### **Other considerations are:**

- It is advisable that long hair is tied back so that it remains out of the child's eyes when they are working
- Haircuts of an extreme nature are not acceptable and discretion lies with the Headteacher
- Hair colouring of an extreme nature is not acceptable and discretion lies with Headteacher
- Nail varnish should not be worn
- Jewellery should not be worn
- It is inadvisable for children to wear earrings to school but small plain studs may be worn if parents feel it is necessary. Children must either be able to remove them themselves for PE or bring in micropore tape
- A watch can be worn as long as it is unable to connect to the internet and take photos. No large decorative watches
- We ask that all items are named as items are often misplaced

### **Where to purchase school uniform**

All branded items are supplied by Skoolkit. These can be ordered online via their website or purchased at their Eastleigh store.

Unbranded items can be purchased from school uniform sections of any high street retailer or supermarket.

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Second hand uniform is available for purchase from the school office and this is sometimes displayed at school events.

### **Expectations for our school community**

#### **Parents and carers**

We ask all parents who send their children to Freegrounds Infant School to support the school uniform policy. It is the responsibility of the parents to ensure that their child has the correct uniform and that it is clean and in good repair. **Please ensure all items are clearly labelled with your child's name.**

Parents should raise any complaints about school uniform with the Headteacher of the school in the first instance, and if an agreement is not reached the issue should then be raised with the governing body.

#### **Headteacher**

The Headteacher's role is to ensure that pupil comply with the uniform policy, as part of their duty to ensure day-to-day discipline at the school.

Headteachers can discipline pupils for breach of uniform policy, however Secretary of State does not consider that exclusion from school is an appropriate response where a pupil fails to comply with uniform rules.

Schools should discreetly try to ascertain if there is a reason why a pupil is not adhering to the policy. If the reason is financial, the school should refer parents to the local authority who have the power to provide help with the cost of school clothing. Pupils should not be made to feel uncomfortable, nor discriminated against, because their parents are unable to provide them with the required uniform.

#### **Governors**

It is the governors' responsibility to ensure that the school uniform meets all the regulations concerning equal opportunities, including sex discrimination, and cultural, race and religious requirements. They should also be receptive to any reasonable complaint made about the uniform by parents.

Agreed by Governors April 2023

Review by N Riches

Review bi-annually