



Merry Hill Infant School and Nursery

School Uniform Policy

Name/Title of responsible committee/individual:	Governing Body
Date issued:	October 2022
Review frequency:	3 years
Target audience:	All stakeholders

The Governing Body shall conduct the School with a view to promoting high standards of educational achievement.

Merry Hill Infant School and Nursery is committed to eliminating discrimination, advancing equality of opportunity and fostering good relations between different groups. These factors were considered in the formation and review of this policy and will be adhered to in its implementation and application across the whole school community.

The School will promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and will actively challenge pupils, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including 'extremist' views.

Version	Date	Notes
V1.0	March 23	Approved by Full Governing Body

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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

Our policy is based on the belief that school uniform:

- Represents a sense of pride in belonging to our school and the wider Merry Hill community
- Is practical, comfortable, smart and easy to wear
- Supports our commitment to inclusion
- Considered good value for money

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 sex, race, religion or belief, 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 have long hair (though we reserve the right to ask for this to be tied back)
- Allow all pupils to style their hair in the way that is appropriate for school yet makes them feel most comfortable
- Allow pupils to wear headscarves and other religious or cultural symbols
- Allow for adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents to get in touch with a member of the School Leadership Team (SLT), who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests

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 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
- Provides the best value for money for parents/carers

We will do this by:

- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary and limiting them to low-cost or long-lasting items, where possible
- Avoiding specific requirements for items pupils could wear on non-school days, such as coats
- 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

4. Expectations for school uniform

4.1 Our school's uniform

Our school uniform is simple, yet smart, please see the table on next page:

<p>Nursery Children:</p> <p>Yellow t-shirt/polo shirt*</p> <p>Grey jumper, sweatshirt* or cardigan</p> <p>Black elasticated-waist jogging trousers/leggings (No buttons or zips, if possible)</p> <p>Elasticated-waist shorts (summer term only)</p> <p>Yellow gingham dress (summer term only)</p> <p>Sensible shoes – with Velcro, not laces or buckles, (No shoes with open toes or heels and not ‘Crocs’ or fashion boots)</p> <p>The Nursery uniform is based on the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It allows your child to be dressed for an active, fun and safe session where they can use sand, water, play dough, glue, paint, etc. without worrying about getting their clothes messy. 2. It aids independence when getting changed for PE and using the toilet 3. It allows your child to play outside throughout the year. 	<p>Infant School Children:</p> <p>Yellow polo shirt*</p> <p>Grey jumper, sweatshirt* or cardigan</p> <p>Grey trousers, skirt or pinafore</p> <p>Grey shorts (summer term only)</p> <p>Yellow gingham dress (summer term only)</p> <p>Sensible shoes – with Velcro, not laces or buckles, (No shoes with open toes or heels and not ‘Crocs’ or fashion boots)</p> <p>*these items are available with the school logo from our school uniform supplier but are not compulsory and can be brought from any major retailer.</p>
<p>PE Uniform:</p> <p>White PE T-shirt</p> <p>Black PE shorts</p> <p>Black tracksuit or jogging bottoms (winter term)</p> <p>Elastic fronted or Velcro plimsolls (not trainers)</p> <p>Spare pair of socks</p> <p>A PE bag will be given to every child when they start school, courtesy of Friends of Merry Hill.</p>	<p>Waterproof Clothing for Outdoor Play:</p> <p>Warm waterproof coat with hood</p> <p>Hat, scarf and gloves</p> <p>Wellington boots (to stay at school)</p> <p>Sun hat (summer term)</p>
<p>All items of clothing to be clearly labelled with your child’s name</p>	

Jewellery

For obvious health and safety reasons, jewellery and watches should not be worn to school. For safety, children who have their ears pierced should only wear plain studs, not sleepers, hoops or dangling earrings. Studs must be removed for PE or covered with micropore tape. A roll of tape should be placed in your child's book bag.

Hair

All children with long hair must have their hair tied back for school. Please use small, plain hair bands.

Headscarves/Hijab

These may be worn for religious reasons.

Accidents and Changing

We do have some extra clothing in case of accidents. However, if your child is happier to change into clothing they recognise, a spare set kept in their yellow book bag would be useful. If we do provide your child with clean clothing, please return this to us as soon as it has been washed.

Hot weather

In hot weather, please ensure your child has a named sunhat that covers their face and preferably neck as well. We ask parents to apply sun cream before school that will last for the duration of the school day.

Water bottles

Please make sure your child brings in their bottle of water each day. Staff will refill bottles during the day if needed or offer a cup of water should they forget their bottle. Water bottles can be purchased via Scopay, our online communications and payment system.

Book bags

School book bags are available for purchase via Scopay.

Lost Property

We will endeavour to return all lost property to your child. All unnamed children's property will be placed in one of the school's lost property boxes, these can be found in Nursery, outside the library (in the Key Stage 1 building) or on the front playground by the shelter.

4.2 Where to purchase it

Branded school uniform can be purchased from Mapac.

Address: 6 Mowat Estate, Sandown Road, Watford, Herts WD24 7UZ

Tel: 01923 255525

Website: www.mapac.com

Email: sales@mapac.net

All other uniform can be purchased from any major retailer at competitive prices.

Book bags and water bottles are available from the School.

Friends of Merry Hill hold termly second-hand uniform sales alongside their coffee mornings or in the school shelter. Dates will be advertised in the school diary dates.

Hertfordshire County Council do not currently offer uniform grants but should you be experiencing financial hardship and require assistance please contact a member of SLT.

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.

Pupils are also expected to contact a member of the School Leadership Team if they want to request an amendment to 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 are also expected to contact a member of the School Leadership Team if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to:

- their protected characteristic
- the cost of the uniform

Complaints or objections about the school uniform will be dealt with in accordance with our school's complaints policy.

5.3 Staff

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

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with by a member of the School Leadership Team. 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 support the Headteacher to make sure that it:

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

Contracts will be retendered at least every 5 years.

6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years by the Governing Body.

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

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