Walton on the Naze Primary School

School Uniform Policy

Date policy adopted: Summer 2026

Due for review: Summer 2027

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CONTENTS

1.0 Confirmation that the School Uniform Policy has been discussed and adopted by the full governing body

2.0 Introduction

3.0 Aims

4.0 Legal Duties under the Equality Act 2010

5.0 Limiting the cost of school uniform

6.0 Expectations for school uniform

7.0 Expectations for our school community

8.0 Links to other policies

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1.0 Confirmation that the School Uniform Policy in respect of Walton-on-the-Naze Primary has been discussed and formerly adopted by the full governing body

Chair of Finance and Premises (incorporating Health and Safety) Committee:

Print name: Mrs Ann Bryant

Date: 22nd June 2026

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2.0 Introduction

2.1 Children Wellbeing and School Bill September 2026

The Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill 24-25, that is anticipated to come into effect in September 2026, will ban schools from requiring parents to buy more than three branded items as part of the school uniform. Secondary and Middle schools will be able to require an additional branded item if one of those items is a branded tie. The government is clear that these items should be limited to low-cost and long-wearing items only.

This means, for the first time, no school in England will be able to require unnecessarily large numbers of branded items, so no parent will be unfairly disadvantaged.

The law is expected to come into force in **September 2026**.This should be considered within this policy and any transition period, this will give schools time to amend supplier contracts, update their uniform policies, and consult with parents.

2.2 Current guidance April 2024

For the interim period the Department for Education (DfE) states in its guidance on School Uniforms, updated in April 2024,

"We strongly encourage schools to have a uniform, as it can play a key role in:

• promoting the ethos of a school,
• providing a sense of belonging and identity,
• setting an appropriate tone for education.

It is our school policy that all children wear school uniform when attending school, or when participating in school-organised events outside normal school hours. Some items of uniform can be bought via the school office, whilst others are easily available, at very competitive prices, at local shops and supermarkets. A complete list of the items needed for school uniform including those for Physical Education, can be found in this policy.

3.0 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
- Help to create a sense of community and belonging to the school
- Identify the pupils with the school
- Support our commitment to inclusion

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4.0 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, belief or disability and gender reassignment.
To avoid discrimination, our school will:

- Avoid listing uniforms 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 request changes to swimwear for religious reasons
- 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 contact the school about the policy and respond to any requests.

5.0 Limiting the cost of school uniform

In accordance with DfE Statutory Guidance on the cost of school uniforms and also the values and culture of our School, this Policy reflects the importance of value for money, but also environmental sustainability.

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 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 items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost or long-lasting items, considering the Children Wellbeing and School Bill 2026 requirements
- Considering cheaper alternatives to school-branded items, such as logos that can be ironed on, as long as this doesn't compromise quality and durability
- Avoiding specific requirements for items pupils could wear on non-school days, such as coats, bags and shoes

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- Keeping the number of optional branded items to a minimum, so that the school's uniform can act as a social leveller considering the Children Wellbeing and School Bill 2026 requirements
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class groups such as PE kit colours
- 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 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

6.0 Expectations for school uniform

6.1 Our school's uniform

Blouse/shirt/polo shirt	white
Pinafore dress/skirt	navy, grey or black
Trousers/shorts	navy, grey or black
Jumper/cardigan	navy
Summer wear	blue/white gingham check dress

We also request that sensible black footwear is worn, no high heels or strappy sandals. Children may change into trainers at playtime if they wish.

In colder months, if boots are worn, additional footwear must be provided to use inside the school building.

6.2 Where to purchase uniform

School sweatshirts with an embroidered school motif are available from the school office. Also, on sale are cardigans and polo shirts with the embroidered school emblem.

A uniform order form can be downloaded from the school website.

We have chosen uniform colours, which are readily available through a variety of local and chain store outlets at reasonable prices.

7.0 Expectations for our school community

7.1 Pupils

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

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- 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), unless otherwise instructed by the school.

Pupils are also expected to contact the headteacher if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics.

7.2 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 the headteacher if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to:

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

Parents 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 unform will be:

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

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

7.3 Staff

Staff will closely monitor pupils to make sure they are wearing the 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 does not improve.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with by the headteacher.

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.

7.4 Governors

The governing body 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 and pupils

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- offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical, affordable and safe for all pupils

The governing body will also make sure that the school's uniform supplier arrangements give the highest priority to cost and value for money, for example by avoiding single supplier contracts and by re-tendering contracts at least every 5 years.

8.0 Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

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

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