



School Uniform Policy

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Last reviewed on:	September 2022
Next review due by:	September 2025

Overview:

Read Academy has a policy that all children should wear the school uniform; this helps to create a sense of community and identifies everyone as belonging to Read Academy.

School uniform standards are high at Read Academy.

Parents/Carers are expected to ensure that students arrive at school in correct uniform and that on the rare occasion where for medical reasons uniform cannot be adhered to, then a note is provided clearly explaining any temporary change from this code.

We have a strict uniform policy for the simple reason that it enables every child to attend school in an equal and fair way. We strongly believe that this basic equality is a fundamental right of children in education and that this is vital to a caring and safe learning environment.

Limiting the cost of school uniform:

Read Academy 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
- Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics where possible for example, by only asking that the blazer, worn over the jumper, features the school logo
- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost or long-lasting items.
- 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 different uniform requirements for different year/class/house 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 students on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy

Expectations for school uniform:

Read Academy provides parents/carers and students with a picture guide of our school uniform expectations. This can be found available on the school website and/or upon request at the school office.

RAPTA - Read Academy's School Uniform Reuse & Recycle Shop:

We appreciate that school uniform items can be expensive. Thousands of clothes end up in landfill every year and encouraging families to use second hand clothes can reduce waste and bring down emissions from manufacturing new garments.

To support families, we have aimed to make our uniform cost effective and will have second-hand uniform available for purchase. All uniform items are in great condition and sold at heavily discounted prices.

Read Academy alongside the PTA team open a 'reuse and recycle' uniform shop throughout the academic year which allows parents/carers who wish to be able to obtain school uniform for their child(ren).

The school also keeps school uniform which has not been returned to its rightful owner and ends up in lost property. We welcome donations in the future for those that outgrow or no longer need branded uniform pieces.

Expectations for our school community:

Students:

Students 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)

Parents/Carers:

Parents/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 senior leadership team 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 uniform will be dealt with in accordance with our school's complaints policy.

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

Staff

Staff will closely monitor students to make sure they are in correct uniform. They will give any students 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 the senior leadership team.

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

Senior development leaders

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 and students
- Offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all students

The school 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.

Monitoring arrangements:

This policy will be reviewed every three years by the senior leadership team or sooner if necessary. At every review, it will be approved by the Headship team.