# School Uniform Policy

Malvern Wells CE Primary School

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| Policy Author: | Jen Alford |
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## Statement of Intent

At Malvern Wells CE Primary School, everything we do is rooted in our Christian vision to 'Let Your Light Shine' (Matthew 5:14–16). We believe every child is uniquely created, deeply valued, and capable of becoming the very brightest version of themselves. Our school uniform is one way in which we foster a strong sense of belonging, pride and community whilst ensuring that children are comfortable, confident and ready to learn.

We believe children flourish when they feel safe, included and valued. Uniforms should never become a barrier to learning or participation. Our expectations are therefore high, but always applied with compassion, common sense and a commitment to equity. Decisions are made with the best interests of children at the heart, recognising that every family and every child is different.

This policy has been written to ensure that our approach to school uniform is fair, inclusive, affordable and fully compliant with statutory guidance.

## Roles and Responsibilities

The Governing Board will ensure that this policy reflects the school's vision and values, complies with statutory guidance and remains affordable, inclusive and practical for families.

The Executive Headteacher/Head of School is responsible for implementing this policy consistently, ensuring that high expectations are balanced with understanding and that individual circumstances are considered appropriately.

Staff will promote the uniform positively, model high expectations and work in partnership with families where support or reasonable adjustments are required.

Parents and carers are asked to support the school by ensuring children attend in the correct uniform wherever possible and by speaking with the school promptly if support is needed.

Pupils are encouraged to wear their uniform with pride, recognising that they represent both themselves and the wider Malvern Wells community.

## Equality and Inclusion

Every child should be able to access school life fully, comfortably and with dignity. The school will make reasonable adjustments where required for medical needs, disabilities, sensory needs, religion, culture or any protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010. Requests will always be considered individually, working closely with families and, where appropriate, external professionals.

## Supporting Families

The school is committed to ensuring that the cost of uniform does not become a barrier to attendance or participation. Branded items are kept to a minimum in line with Department for Education guidance. High quality second-hand uniform is available through school and financial support will be offered where appropriate.

We believe that working in partnership with families is always more effective than applying sanctions.

## Non-compliance

Where a child attends school without the correct uniform, staff will seek first to understand the reason. Financial hardship, medical needs, sensory differences or exceptional family circumstances will always be considered before any action is taken.

Our priority is that every child remains in school and ready to learn. Concerns will be addressed sensitively with parents and carers, maintaining high expectations whilst providing practical support where needed. Persistent and deliberate breaches, where support has been offered, will be managed proportionately in accordance with the Behaviour Policy.

**Affordability and Best Value**

At Malvern Wells CE Primary School, we are committed to ensuring that the cost of school uniform never becomes a barrier to a child accessing education or fully participating in school life. We recognise the financial pressures many families face and are committed to providing a uniform that represents excellent value for money whilst maintaining a smart, practical and recognisable identity for our school.

In accordance with the Department for Education's statutory guidance, the school will:

- Keep compulsory branded items to an absolute minimum.
- Ensure that the majority of uniform items can be purchased from a range of retailers.
- Consider affordability whenever uniform requirements are reviewed.
- Seek high-quality garments that provide durability and value for money.
- Minimise unnecessary changes to the uniform to allow items to be passed between siblings wherever possible.
- Maintain a good supply of second-hand uniform that is accessible to all families.

When reviewing this policy, governors will consider the views of families, the overall cost of uniform, the needs of disadvantaged pupils and any impact on equality or inclusion.

**School Uniform Expectations**

Our uniform reflects the pride we have in ourselves, our school and our community. It supports equality, removes unnecessary distractions and helps children to focus on learning whilst developing a strong sense of belonging.

Children are expected to attend school wearing the agreed uniform unless a reasonable adjustment has been agreed by the Executive Headteacher.

**Daily Uniform**

Children should wear:

- Royal blue sweatshirt or cardigan (school logo optional unless specified)
- White polo shirt
- Grey trousers, shorts, skirt or pinafore dress
- Plain grey, white or black socks or black /grey tights
- Sensible plain black school shoes

Year 6 pupils wear the school tie as a symbol of leadership and responsibility within our school community as well as a white shirt.

**PE Kit**

Children should wear:

- Plain house-coloured T-shirt
- Plain black/navy shorts
- Plain black joggers or leggings during colder weather
- Suitable trainers
- Optional School PE Hoodie

Branded PE clothing is entirely optional. Children wearing unbranded alternatives that meet the school's expectations will participate fully in all activities.

Children should arrive in the correct PE kit on allocated PE days where requested by the school.

**Jewellery, Hairstyles, Appearance and Personal Items**

We recognise that appearance can form part of a child's identity and culture. Expectations are therefore designed to be practical, inclusive and appropriate for a primary school whilst ensuring children remain safe and ready to learn.

**Jewellery**

Children may wear:

- One pair of plain stud earrings.
- A simple wristwatch.

Jewellery must be removed or safely covered before PE and other practical activities.

The school cannot accept responsibility for lost or damaged jewellery.

**Hairstyles**

Hairstyles should be neat, practical and appropriate for school.

Natural hairstyles and protective hairstyles associated with a child's race, culture or religion are welcomed and respected.

Hairstyles should not:

- obstruct vision;
- present a health and safety risk;
- include inappropriate patterns or wording.

Long hair must be tied back for PE, Forest School, practical activities and whenever necessary for health and safety.

**Headwear**

Headwear worn for religious, cultural or medical reasons is welcomed.

Caps and sun hats are encouraged during periods of hot weather.

**Make-up and Cosmetics**

As a primary school, make-up, false nails, nail extensions and temporary tattoos are not appropriate and should not be worn unless there is an agreed medical or exceptional reason.

**Adverse Weather**

The wellbeing of children will always take priority over uniform expectations.

During periods of exceptionally hot weather, children may wear cooler clothing as advised by the school. Additional measures may include:

- removing jumpers and cardigans;
- wearing sun hats outdoors;
- applying sun cream before school;
- increased access to drinking water;
- adapting outdoor activities.

During cold or wet weather, children are encouraged to wear suitable coats, hats, gloves and scarves.

The Executive Headteacher may temporarily amend uniform expectations where weather conditions make this necessary.

**Supporting Families**

We believe that every child should feel proud to wear their school uniform regardless of family circumstances.

Where families experience financial difficulty, the school will work sensitively and confidentially to provide support wherever possible.

Support may include:

- access to second-hand uniform;
- uniform assistance funding, where available;
- signposting to community support;
- agreed payment arrangements where appropriate.

Parents and carers are encouraged to speak to the school as early as possible if they require support. Conversations will always be handled respectfully and confidentially.

Our aim is to remove barriers, not create them.