



# THE WOLDS & VALE FEDERATION



# Uniform Policy

September 2023

## **Policy Statement**

At The Wolds and Vale Federation we pride ourselves in being smart, well presented and ready for learning. We believe that school uniforms are designed to break down barriers and to help every child feel they belong. A uniform can bring the school community together and develop a school identity. We encourage all our children to take pride in their personal appearance.

This policy has been written in conjunction with:

- Education (Guidance About Costs of School Uniforms) Act (April 2021)
- Department for Education Statutory Guidance (updated: November 2021)

## **Why have a school uniform?**

We believe that having a school uniform promotes:

- A sense of pride in our schools
- A sense of belonging and community
- Inclusion within our schools
- Good value for money

## **The Role of Parents**

We ask our parents that they ensure their child has the correct uniform, footwear and PE kit and that it is clean and in good repair. We also ask that all items of clothing - including shoes and coats - are named clearly.

If any parent has difficulty in providing the appropriate uniform for their child, we encourage them to speak - in confidence - to Mrs Mould or Mrs Walker, who can arrange support, if needed, in the purchasing of uniform items.

Children who arrive at school wearing non uniform items of clothing will be lent the appropriate item from a stock of spare items held in school and be asked to wear it for the day. Parents will also be contacted to discuss the matter.

## **Human Rights, Equality and Discrimination Considerations**

Our school welcomes families from all backgrounds and communities. We will not discriminate on the wearing of uniform on the basis of sex, religion or belief, race (colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin), disability or gender reassignment. If there are reasons why children need to wear clothes that are different to or adapted from the listed items, the Senior Leadership Team will consider requests sympathetically and work happily in partnership with parents to find a positive solution.

## **The Department for Education Guidance (November 2021) states:**

“Some religions and beliefs require their adherents to conform to a particular dress code or to otherwise outwardly manifest their belief. This could include wearing or carrying specific religious artefacts, not cutting their hair, dressing modestly or covering their head. Pupils have the right to manifest a religion or belief, but not necessarily at all times, places or in a particular manner. Where a school has a good reason for restricting an individual’s freedoms, for example, the promotion of cohesion and good order in the school or genuine health and safety or security considerations, the restriction of an individual's rights to manifest their religion or belief may be justified.

Schools should be sensitive to the needs of different cultures, races and religions and act reasonably in accommodating these needs, without compromising important school policies, such as school safety or discipline. It should be possible for most religious requirements to be met within a school uniform policy and a governing body should act reasonably through consultation and dialogue with accommodating these.

To avoid discriminating against those who share particular protected characteristics, (schools) should aim for their uniform policy to be as inclusive as possible.”

### **School Uniform and Equipment Providers**

Items of school uniform can be purchased online from [Edge Clothing](#).

However, to help parents with the costs of buying school uniforms, we only ask that the school sweatshirt/cardigan is branded. Other items of uniform clothing can be purchased from other stores, including supermarkets, which provide greater value for money.

We also ask that parents purchase a branded book bag for their child when they start school and replace as and when needed.

### **Pre-Worn Uniform Provision**

At both schools within the Federation, we run a Pre Worn Uniform Stall. This is available for a number of reasons:

- To help families access uniform items at reduced or no cost.
- To extend the life of uniform that children quickly grow out of
- To promote a positive eco-friendly culture of reusing and recycling

Parents are able to make contributions of good quality pre-worn uniforms which are then shared via a stall throughout the school year. Dates of these stalls will be shared with parents and carers near to each event. Parents can choose whether to make a small donation towards school funds if they wish to do so.

## **The Wolds and Vale Federation School Uniform and Equipment**

**All items of uniform including coats and shoes MUST be labelled with the child's name.**

### **General Uniform:**

**Sherburn:** Navy blue sweatshirt/cardigan with or without school logo

**Luttons:** Bright blue sweatshirt/cardigan with or without school logo

### **Both schools:**

White polo shirt

Grey or black trousers

Grey shorts

Grey or black skirts/pinafores (trousers may be worn in colder weather)

Blue checked summer dresses

Black or navy cycling shorts may be worn under summer dresses in the absence of tights.

Grey socks/tights

White socks with summer dresses

### **PE kit:**

**This should be worn instead of the usual uniform on PE lesson days.**

White round necked t shirt

Black shorts

Black/navy joggers/leggings for colder weather

Black plimsolls for indoor PE

Trainers for outdoor PE

**Sherburn:** Navy sweatshirt or cardigan with or without school logo

**Luttons:** bright blue sweatshirt with or without school logo

### **Coats**

We ask parents to ensure that their child has an appropriate coat for the weather throughout the year - warm and waterproof. All coats need to be clearly labelled with the child's name.

### **Footwear**

All children are required to wear appropriate, sensible, black shoes with their uniform. If boots are to be worn in the colder months, these, too, should also be black. All footwear should be unbranded and plain and trainers are not allowed to be worn with uniform. Shoe fastenings should be age appropriate - for example, velcro for our younger children. If shoes have laces, we encourage parents to teach their child how to tie their laces with independence.

### **Forest Schools**

All children need a pair of named wellies for use in Forest School as well as a waterproof coat. Within their Forest School kit – to be kept in school – there should also be an extra fleece for colder days and long sleeve tops/trousers to be worn in the summer months to provide protection from the sun.

## **Jewellery**

For safety reasons, children should not attend school wearing jewellery, the only exception being studs in pierced ears. Studs should be small and unobtrusive. No large or dangling earrings or sleepers should be worn.

Ears should be pierced at the beginning of the 6-week Summer holiday to allow time for the ears to heal and children to become confident with removing earrings independently before returning to school in September.

Earrings should not be worn on PE, swimming or Forest School days for safety reasons. If they are worn, children will be required to remove the earrings to prevent causing injury to themselves and/or others. Earrings must be removed by the children independently – members of staff are not permitted to remove or replace earrings. Placing plasters over earrings is not permitted.

PE is a National Curriculum subject and children should not be missing PE lessons or swimming because earrings cannot be removed due to timing of the piercing or lack of confidence of the child.

## **Hair Ornaments**

Hair ornaments should be appropriate and not large nor distracting. We ask parents to ensure that longer hair is tied back and away from the face each day to prevent distraction and for health reasons.

Longer hair should always be tied up and away from the face on PE/swimming days for health and safety reasons.

## **Complaints and Challenges to the School Uniform Policy**

Disputes regarding school uniforms should be resolved within school, where possible, and should be pursued in accordance with the school's complaints policy and procedure. Parents should be able to lodge their complaints easily and schools should consult with and work closely with parents to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.