

Valley Primary School



Uniform Policy

Updated: October 2023

Review Date: October 2025

Our uniform policy reflects our values and reinforces our school's culture of high expectations and academic achievement. All pupils must dress according to the uniform policy. Our school uniform is important to us. It is one way in which we identify ourselves as a school community and it promotes a strong, cohesive identity which supports high standards and expectations in all areas of school life. It promotes harmony between different groups represented in the school, and it enhances security.

Smartness and high standards of appearance are expected at all times. We have a required school uniform for several reasons:

- Uniforms unite the school. Pupils make a commitment that when they put on their Valley uniform they will abide by the rules of the community.
- Uniforms reduce distractions. We are focused on achieving success. When pupils are allowed to wear their own clothing, there is the potential to talk about fashions and styles rather than learning.
- Uniforms make us all equal. Whether families have high incomes or low incomes, the pupils come to school looking the same way. No one has to feel bad about the clothes they have or don't have.
- Uniforms look professional. Pupils look neat and ready to learn.

We ask parents and carers to support all decisions by school staff regarding whether or not clothing is appropriate or inappropriate for school.

The school's Governing Body decide the policy for school uniform which is reviewed periodically and request that the policy is adhered to by all families in a consistent way.

All parents sign a Home-School Agreement when their child joins the school which says: *'Parents will ensure their child attends school daily, on time and in the correct uniform and with all the things they need.'*

Equal Opportunities

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 (although for health and safety reasons, we ask that this 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 get in touch with our Head Teacher, who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests

Valley Primary School Uniform Requirements

Dark grey pinafore dress, dark grey skirt, trousers or shorts
White polo shirt (Reception classes only)
White buttoned shirt (Years 1 - 6)
School tie (Year 1 up)
Navy blue school v-neck jumper or navy blue school cardigan with logo
White socks, grey socks or grey tights
Black Shoes
Summertime only
Blue & White gingham summer dress (optional)

PE Kit (Without Logos)
Navy blue shorts
Plain white round-neck T-shirt
Plain navy sweatshirt & jogging pants

Book Bags and PE Bags (both optional) with the school logo can be purchased in the colour of your child's House from the school's uniform supplier.

School trousers, shorts, skirts, pinafore dresses and polo shirts can be purchased from high street stores or school shops.

















Footwear

Pupils must wear closed-toed, hard-soled, **all black** plain shoes with a flat sole. Footwear with flashing lights are strongly discouraged. Boots are not allowed. Open-toed sandals should not be worn, even in the Summer Term. In the case of extreme weather, children can wear boots to school but must change into a pair of shoes on arrival to school.

Pupils can wear trainers or back plimsolls for outdoor PE lessons. Barefoot work is undertaken for indoor gymnastic and dance lessons.

Pupils in Years 3 – 6 who use the Pod during their break times can change into trainers.

Parents are kindly asked to buy shoes with Velcro straps until a time when their child can tie their shoe laces independently. Black plimsolls should be worn for PE.

Acceptable		Unacceptable	
			
			
			
			

Limiting the Cost of School Uniform

Valley Primary 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 those with a logo or of a unique design or colour may not always 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 these as far as possible. At our school, the only compulsory items of uniform with a logo are jumpers and cardigans. Some optional items also have the school logo on them.
- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost or long-lasting items
- We have considered cheaper alternatives to school-branded items, such as logos that can be ironed on, but at this stage have decided against them as they are not durable and might also single a child out as perhaps being unable to afford the standard uniform item.
- Avoiding specific requirements for items pupils could wear on non-school days, such as coats, bags and shoes
- Keeping the number of optional branded items to a minimum, so that the school's uniform can act as a social leveller.
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups, other than less expensive items such as PE shirts. We will also ensure that siblings are all placed in the same house so that uniform items can be passed down.
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents to acquire pre-loved uniform items through regular on-site sales arranged by our parents associations
- 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 (at least every five years) and carefully considering any complaints about the policy

Pre-Loved School Uniform

The school has a wide selection of pre-loved school uniform which is displayed at many events throughout the year such as parents' evenings, PTA fairs and welcome events at the beginning of the school year. Parents are free to view these items of uniform at any point throughout the school year by speaking to a member of school staff

Outdoor clothing

Pupils should bring a coat to school each day, apart from during the hotter weather. Hats, scarves and boots should not to be worn inside the school buildings. Sun hats should be worn outside during the hotter summer months.

Hairstyles

Pupils' hair should be neatly groomed and tidy at all times. Pupils may not wear designs or words cut into their hair or permanent or temporary coloured hair.

Fingernail Polish or Make-Up

Pupils are not allowed to wear fingernail polish or false nails. Make-up is not allowed.

Jewellery/Accessories

Pupils may wear a watch (with no sound effects, cameras or games) and may wear one pair of small, stud earrings which must be worn in the lower ear lobe. All studs must be removed for PE by the pupil or taken out at home. Stud earrings that cannot be removed by the pupil for PE lessons will be covered with a plaster or tape.

Please note that the school will be unable to take any responsibility for any watches or jewellery that are lost.

Naming Clothing and Property

VERY IMPORTANT – Please ensure all clothing and property is clearly marked so that items of lost clothing may be easily traced and returned. The school cannot accept responsibility for loss or damage of pupils' property and valuables. Printed name labels can be ordered from the school's uniform supplier.

Non-compliance with the Uniform Policy

It is the responsibility of all staff to ensure that the school uniform policy is adhered to. Parents and carers of pupils that do not wear the correct uniform will be contacted to discuss the reasons why the correct uniform isn't being worn. In some circumstances, pupils will be provided with the correct item of uniform, they are missing for the day. Persistent and defiant non-compliance with the policy may result in a consequence being given dependent on the individual circumstances and age of the pupil.

There may be good reasons why a pupil is not wearing school uniform. In this case, parents and carers should share the reasons with the Class Teacher either in person or by letter. The school will always be considerate and discrete in trying to establish why a pupil is not wearing the correct uniform. Pupils will not be made to feel uncomfortable, nor discriminated against, because their parents are unable to provide them with the required items of school uniform. In line with our Working Together Policy, we encourage discussion with the school at the earliest opportunity if there are any difficulties.

There will be occasions when the school decides that school uniform is not appropriate e.g. when taking part in a physical activity day, Forest School sessions, wearing different clothes as a part of a fund raising event or topic entry point activity day. Parents and carers will be notified in advance of the revised dress code on these days.

Lost Property

All mislaid items are placed in one of two lost property bins and we endeavour to return all named property. All unclaimed lost property is put out for parents periodically throughout the term and, at the end of every term, all unclaimed items of uniform are sent for recycling.

School Uniform Supplier

Our school uniform supplier is:

Graduates Schoolwear
201 High Street
Orpington
BR6 0PF

Tel: 01869 821 439

www.graduates-schoolwear.co.uk

Parents may:

- Visit the Graduates Schoolwear shop
- Order online and have the items delivered to your door where a delivery fee applies
- Complete the order form (available from the School Office or to download from the school website) and have your order delivered free of charge to the school.