



Kensworth CE Academy

‘With God by our side, we can move mountains’

School Uniform Policy

Date policy agreed:	21st March 2024
Date policy to be reviewed:	February 2025

Signed by:			
Mrs Sarah Dryden	Headteacher	Date:	21st March 2024
Mr Tom Renphrey	Chair of governors	Date:	21 st March 2024
Date for review:	February 2025		

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Our Vision

We carry God's love in our hearts as we aspire to greatness, achieve our goals and stretch our limitless imaginations. Our Christian values empower us to love learning; are the foundations that shape our school community and create future citizens. Feeling happy and safe, we will progress. 'For nothing will be impossible with God' Luke 1:37

'With God by our side, we can move mountains'

Kensworth CE Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our children and young people and expects all staff, volunteers, and visitors to the school to share this commitment.

Statement of intent

Kensworth CE Academy believes that a consistent school uniform policy is vital to promote the ethos of the school and provide a sense of belonging and identity for all pupils, regardless of their protected characteristics or socio-economic circumstances.

This policy lays out the measures the school has taken to ensure a consistent, fair and inclusive uniform policy, and to implement a uniform that reflects the needs of all pupils and is affordable and the best value for money for the school and pupils' families.

We believe that pupils learn most effectively and achieve their best outcomes when they are comfortable, able to be themselves, and dressed in such a way that sets an appropriate tone for education.

1. Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Education Act 2011
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Equality Act 2010
- The UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)
- Data Protection Act 2018
- Education (Guidance about Costs of School Uniforms) Act 2021

This policy has due regard to all relevant guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- DfE (2021) 'Cost of school uniforms'
- DfE (2021) 'School Admissions Code'
- DfE (2021) 'School uniforms'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Complaints Procedures Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Tendering and Procurement Policy

2. Roles and responsibilities

The governing board is responsible for:

- Establishing, in consultation with the headteacher and school community, a practical and smart school uniform that accurately reflects the school's vision and values.
- Ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible and inclusive and does not disadvantage any pupil by virtue of their protected characteristics or socio-economic status.
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of parents, pupils, and the wider school community regarding changes to the school's uniform.
- Ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible and affordable.
- Demonstrating how best value for money has been achieved in the uniform policy.
- Ensuring compliance with the DfE's 'Cost of school uniforms' guidance.
- Processing and approving all eligible School Uniform Assistance Application Forms.

The headteacher is responsible for:

- Enforcing the school's uniform on a day-to-day basis.
- Ensuring that teachers understand this policy and what to do if a pupil is in breach of the policy.

- Listening to the opinions and wishes of the school community in regard to the school's uniform and making appropriate recommendations to the governing board.

Staff members are responsible for:

- Ensuring that pupils dress in accordance with this policy at all times.
- Ensuring that pupils understand why having a consistent and practical school uniform is important, e.g. school identity.

Parents are responsible for:

- Providing their children with the correct school uniform as detailed in this policy.
- Informing the headteacher if their child requires a more relaxed uniform policy for a period of time, including why.
- Ensuring that their child's uniform is clean, presentable and the correct size.

Pupils are responsible for:

- Wearing the correct uniform at all times, unless the headteacher has granted an exemption.
- Looking after their uniform as appropriate.
- Understanding and respecting why a school uniform is important to the school, e.g. school identity and community.

3. Cost principles

The school is committed to ensuring that its school uniform is affordable and accessible to all pupils and does not place an unreasonable financial burden on parents.

In accordance with the 'School Admissions Code', the headteacher will ensure that the school's uniform policy does not discourage parents from applying for a place for their child.

The school will assess the overall cost implications of its uniform policy regularly, including prior to making any changes to the school uniform. When evaluating whether costs are reasonable and proportionate, the school will take into account the opinions and situations of:

- Economically disadvantaged parents.
- Parents with multiple children who are, or will be in the future, pupils at the school.
- Parents of younger children, as they are likely to grow quickly and require new sets of uniform more frequently.
- Parents of pupils with protected characteristics that may impact their ability to access the uniform due to costs.
- 'Looked after children' (LAC) and 'previously looked after children' (PLAC).

The school will evaluate the cost of its uniform based on the overall collection of uniform items that parents would need to purchase for a pupil, rather than on the cost effectiveness of individual items; this will include consideration of the fact that parents will need to purchase multiples of certain items, e.g. shirts and socks, to ensure their child can come to school in clean uniform every day.

The school keeps variations in school uniform for different groups of pupils, e.g. year group-specific items or house colours, to a minimum where possible to ensure that pupils can get the most wear out of their uniform possible and that parents can pass some items down to younger siblings.

The school keeps branded uniform items to a minimal level that is reasonable for all members of the school community. The school defines a branded uniform item as any item of clothing that cannot be purchased at a range of retailers, including by virtue of logos, colours, design and fabrics. Where the school decides to require an item of branded clothing, it will conduct an assessment to ensure prices are kept as low as possible.

The school is committed to meeting the DfE's recommendations on costs and value for money. Every care is taken to ensure that our uniforms are affordable for all current and prospective pupils, and that the best value for money is secured through reputable suppliers.

The school will not amend uniform requirements regularly and will take the views of parents and pupils into account when considering any changes to school uniforms.

4. Equality principles

The school takes its legal obligation to avoid discriminating against any protected characteristic unlawfully very seriously and aims to ensure that the uniform policy is as inclusive as possible so that all pupils are supported to access a school uniform which is comfortable, suitable for their needs, and reflects who they are.

The school will ensure that parents and pupils are consulted over any changes to school uniform.

The school ensures that pupils who are required to follow certain dress requirements, e.g. by virtue of their membership of a particular religious or cultural group, are afforded flexibility to allow them to wear a uniform that adheres to their requirements as far as possible.

The school endeavours to meet all requests for amendments to the uniform for these purposes; however, will ensure that the needs and rights of individual pupils are weighed against any health and safety concerns for the entire school community.

Parents' concerns and requests regarding religious clothing are dealt with on a case-by-case basis by the headteacher and governing board, and always in accordance with the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.

The school ensures that the needs of pupils with SEND and/or sensory difficulties are considered in the uniform policy, e.g. ensuring soft, stretchy fabrics, and avoiding intricate buttons or hard seams; however, where the needs of these pupils cannot be met in the standard uniform policy, individual adaptations to the uniform will be considered and permitted wherever possible.

5. Complaints and challenges

The school endeavours to resolve all uniform complaints and challenges locally and informally, in accordance with the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.

To make a complaint, parents should refer to the Complaints Procedures Policy and follow the stipulations outlined.

If a complaint is received, the school will work with parents to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

Governors are willing to consider reasonable requests for flexibility to allow a pupil to accommodate particular social and cultural circumstances.

6. School uniform supplier

Our current school uniform supplier is:

JS Sports & Schoolwear
22 Neville Road
Luton
Beds LU3 2JQ

Tel: 01582 494401

Email: sales@myuniformshop.co.uk

Website: www.myuniformshop.co.uk

The headteacher will work to ensure that the items are procured as cheaply as possible without compromising on the quality, e.g. by requesting standard-style items from the supplier rather than more intricate and unique designs.

7. Uniform assistance

The school supports vulnerable families in meeting the costs of uniforms. Any families requiring uniform assistance should contact the school office office@ken.dsamat.co.uk.

To be able to claim school uniform assistance, parents should be eligible for Free School Meals.

The school's PTA holds regular 'pre-loved' school uniforms sales for parents to access and donate. Parents are invited to donate their child's uniform when they no longer need it, including winter coats.

If families are having difficulties providing any aspect of the school uniform, then they should contact the school office in the first instance.

8. School uniform Details

Item	Required/ Optional	Branding	How to acquire	Cost per item from school supplier
Regular school uniform				
Red jumper or cardigan	Required	School logo on left-hand side	Branded jumper and cardigan available from school supplier and second hand from PTA when available.	£17.99 + delivery*
White polo shirt	Required	N/A	Available from school supplier, second hand from PTA sale and available from regular retailers.	N/A
Grey trousers or a grey skirt or pinafore	Required	N/A	Available from school supplier, second hand from school office and available from regular retailers.	N/A
Sensible, plain black shoes	Required	N/A	Available from regular retailers.	N/A
Grey or white socks	Required	N/A	Available from regular retailers.	N/A
PE kit				
Plain white t-shirt	Required	N/A	Available from regular retailers.	N/A
Plain black shorts or jogging bottoms	Required	N/A	Available from regular retailers.	N/A
Plain black hoodie or sweatshirt	Required	N/A		
Accessories				
School book bag	Optional	School logo	Available from school supplier.	£6.00 + delivery*

Pupils who are wearing skirts must also wear grey tights or white socks, and skirts must be knee-length.

A red gingham dress is also optional during the summer term as are short grey trousers.

Trainers are not considered suitable footwear unless for PE or Forest School.

*** Price as of March 2024**

Parents are responsible for ensuring their child wears their PE kit to school on the appropriate days. PE kit can be worn on Forest School days with appropriate footwear such as old trainers or wellingtons.

Jewellery

Permitted jewellery:

- One pair of stud earrings – no other piercings are permitted.
- A smart and sensible wristwatch – smart watches are not allowed.

Jewellery is the responsibility of the pupil and not the school. Lost or damaged items will not be refunded. All jewellery must be removed during practical lessons, including PE lessons and science experiments.

School bag

Pupils must use an appropriately sized waterproof bag to carry their books and equipment.

School bags featuring inappropriate images, slogans or phrases are not permitted.

The school encourages pupils to bring non-valuable bags to school. The school will not be liable for lost or damaged school bags.

Hairstyles

The school reserves the right to make a judgement on where pupils' hairstyles or hair colours are inappropriate for the school environment; however, will ensure that any such judgements do not discriminate against any pupil by virtue of their protected characteristics. Each individual pupil's scenario will be considered where any judgements on appropriateness are to be made, and parents will always have the freedom to complain via the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.

Pupils with long hair must ensure that this does not impede their vision, cover their face, or provide a health and safety risk. Long hair must be tied up.

Makeup

The school rules on makeup are as follows:

- Makeup is not permitted.
- False nails and nail extensions are not permitted.
- Nail varnish may not be worn.
- Temporary tattoos are not permitted.

9. Adverse weather

All pupils are required to wear weather-appropriate clothing that covers as much of their skin as possible during adverse weather conditions.

For hot temperatures, this includes wearing:

- Appropriate PE kit – parents will be advised via Class Dojo.
- Tops that cover the shoulder area.

- Sunglasses with UV protection when outside, where possible.
- Sunhats.

Pupils are advised not to wear any jumpers during heatwaves.

For cold temperatures, this includes wearing:

- Scarfs, gloves, coats, and hats when they are outside.
- Warm jumpers that conform to the school's uniform policy.
- Trousers, or thick tights with skirts.
- Wellington boots for outside wear during snowy conditions.

10. Labelling

All pupils' clothing and footwear should be clearly labelled with their name.

Any lost clothing will be taken to the classroom. If it is not named and remains unclaimed, it will be donated to the pre-loved uniform sale.

11. Monitoring and review

This policy is reviewed annually by the chair of governors and the headteacher.

The scheduled review date for this policy is February 2025.