
UNIFORM POLICY

Although there is no legislation dealing specifically with school uniform, the Department for Education (DfE) recommends that all schools adopt a uniform or dress code. It is therefore our policy that all children wear uniform when attending school or when participating in an organised event outside normal school hours.

We believe that school uniform helps to develop the sense of belonging and community.

In the Ashington Learning Partnership, we aim to promote each child's right to express their gender and personality in whichever way feels right for them. To support this aim, our uniform policy is gender neutral. This means that, whilst we expect all of our children to wear school uniform, the rules for boys and girls are the same and we do not insist that they wear specific items of clothing.

Aims and objectives

Our policy for school uniform is based on our belief that school uniform:

- Is gender neutral
- Promotes a sense of pride in the school and trust
- Promotes positive behaviour & discipline
- Protects pupils from social pressures
- Nurtures cohesion & promotes good relations
- Engenders identity with & support for the school ethos
- Is practical and smart & designed with Health & Safety in mind
- Is widely available & represents good value for money
- Ensures rapid identification of pupils
- Is in accordance with the majority of parents' wishes

Procedures

The Ashington Learning Partnership uniform for Bothal and Central Primaries consists of:

- White polo shirt
- Navy sweatshirt or cardigan with school logos
- Charcoal grey tailored school trousers or knee-length skirt
- Black or grey socks or grey tights
- Black shoes (see below)
- In summer: a blue/white checked school dress with white socks or charcoal grey shorts with grey socks may be worn

There is evidence to suggest that participation and enjoyment of sport is enhanced where pupils feel comfortable about their PE clothing. Therefore, all our pupils are expected to wear the following:

- Royal blue polo shirt (with logo)
- Royal blue football shorts
- Royal blue football socks
- Trainers (with non-marking soles)
- Navy tracksuit (optional for Outdoor / Winter)

Footwear

Black shoes must be worn. We believe that it is dangerous for children to wear shoes that have platform soles, high heels, ugg type boots, open toed footwear or mules and we do not allow the wearing of such. Trainers are not acceptable for school as they are damaging, in the long term, to growing feet and only appropriate for sports or leisurewear. They are **not** in keeping with the smart appearance of a school uniform. Please note black shoes with sports logos are also prohibited.

Hair

Occasionally pupils wear personal items to school which constitute a Health and Safety hazard. Some hair accessories can be dangerous in an activity which involves physical contact. Hair decorations should be simple and practical. Please note the wearing of JoJo Bows and other large accessories is prohibited. We encourage the 'tying back' of long hair at all times but insist on it in practical or physical lessons for safety reasons.

Hairstyles should not be 'extreme' with drastic colour changes, shaved patterns or areas, tramlines etc.

Jewellery

We believe that the wearing of jewellery constitutes a Health & Safety hazard. Only a watch will be permitted, which should be removed during practical or physical lessons. Watches, as with any other valuables, are brought to school at the owner's own risk and are not covered under any school insurances. *No piercings are allowed.*

Make-up

Make-up and nail varnish is not permitted in primary school where pupils wearing it will be asked to remove it.

Mobile Phones and I-Pods

Mobile phones and other personal electronic devices are allowed in school but must be handed in to the office at the start of school and collected at the end of the day. Any ICT equipment used for videoing or any other inappropriate use during the school day will be confiscated. Recording or sharing inappropriate materials may result in a report to the police. Please refer to the Personal Electronic Device Policy for further information.

The Role of Parents

We ask all parents who send their children to our schools to support the uniform policy. It is the responsibility of parents to ensure that their child has the correct uniform and that it is clean and in good repair. The help, support and co-operation of parents in implementing this policy is greatly appreciated. It has been written with the safety of your child in mind.

If a parent feels that they are unable to adhere to the policy due to financial constraints, the Business Manager should be consulted. Help that can be given includes the donation of second hand uniform if available, or allowing more time to purchase the required items. Northumberland County Council does not currently offer clothing grants.

Policy compliance

Staff will regularly check that these guidelines are being observed and complied with. The Executive Principal may ask a pupil to go home briefly to remedy a breach of the school's policy on appearance or uniform. This will be for no longer than is necessary to remedy the breach. This is not an exclusion, but an authorised absence. However, if the pupil continues to breach uniform rules in such a way as to be sent home to avoid school, or takes longer than is strictly necessary to effect the change, the pupil's absence may be counted as unauthorised absence. Exclusion will only be considered if the pupil's

disregard of uniform policy is persistent and defiant.

The Human Rights Act 1998 protects the right to ‘manifest one’s religions or beliefs’. We will therefore act reasonably and sensibly when accommodating requirements of different cultures, races and religions. We will also carefully consider any requests to vary the policy to meet the needs of a pupil because of a temporary or permanent medical condition, disability or special need. If any such situations arise, the Head of School should be consulted.

We will consult pupils and parents on any proposed changes to uniform at least one term before changes are expected to take place. Once the changes have been made we will have a transitional period of at least one term for the phasing out of the old uniform and the introducing of a new one.

More information about uniform policies is available at <https://www.gov.uk/school-uniform>

Chair of ALP:

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