

School Uniform Policy

Lemington Riverside Primary School



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1. Aims

This policy aims to:

- Set out our approach to requiring a uniform that is of reasonable cost and offers the best value for money for parents and carers
- Explain how we will avoid discrimination in line with our legal duties under the Equality Act 2010
- Clarify our expectations for school uniform

2. 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 (though we reserve the right to ask for this to 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 Mr. Heeley, Headteacher, who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests

3. Limiting the cost of school uniform

Our 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 have, for the past number of years, made a number of adaptations to ensure our school uniform is affordable, comfortable and easily purchasable for all families.

We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that have to have a school logo or a unique fabric/colour/design) cannot 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:

- Providing a free school uniform starter pack for children who join our school as a new pupil and a uniform top-up bundle every September for all pupils who attend the school.
- Provide a branded school water bottle for all children free of charge.
- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary
- Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics where possible for example, by allowing parents/carers to purchase uniform items that do not feature the school logo so that a wide range of retailers can be used so that you get best value for money.
- 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 leveler
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents to acquire second-hand uniform items (a free 'pre-loved' uniform service is always available at the school. Parents/carers can request specific sizes, discretely, by speaking to the school office, attendance and welfare officer or contacting the school via telephone or email.
- 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 and carefully considering any complaints about the policy.

4. Expectations for school uniform

4.1 Our school's uniform

All children at Lemington Riverside are expected to wear the following school uniform (please note, items with the logo on are available at Elite Embroidery, but clothing items without the logo on are perfectly acceptable):

- Royal blue school jumper, cardigan or hoodie.
- Plain white or blue polo shirt.
- School trousers or skirt (grey or black).
- Black school shoes or trainers.

The following items are optional and can be purchased from Elite Embroidery:

- School tie.
- Reading bag.
- PE kit bag.
- School ruck-sack.

The following items are optional and can be purchased from the school office:

- Replacement Lemington Riverside water bottles.

Our PE kit for all children is:

- A plain white t-shirt.
- Plain shorts or jogging bottoms.
- Comfortable trainers or plimsolls.

Jewelry and hairstyles:

- One stud earring per ear is permitted – children should be able to remove their ear rings independently for PE lessons. We request parents/carers get children's ears pierced outside of term time wherever possible to avoid disruption to the PE curriculum.
- No other jewelry items are permitted.
- At Lemington Riverside, we believe all of our children are individual and have no additional rules around hair styles.

4.2 Where to purchase it

- Elite Embroidery (Front Street, Bells Close, NE15 6XY), is located a five minute walk from Lemington Riverside. Elite Embroidery stock all of our uniform items that contain a school logo such as jumpers, cardigans and hoodies. You can also purchase book bags, ties and PE kit bags from Elite Embroidery. Replacement water bottles can be purchased from the school office,
- All uniform items, as long as they match our school colour requirements, can be purchased from any high street retailer. Tesco and Asda are notable for stocking affordable, good quality school uniform items.
- Parents/carers are encouraged to donate any second hand uniform in good condition back to the school so that it can be passed on to new families requiring uniform. Please ensure items are washed before donating them.

5. Expectations for our school community

5.1 Pupils

Pupils are expected to wear the correct uniform at all times (other than specified non-school uniform days) while:

- On the school premises
- Travelling to and from school
- At out-of-school events or on trips that are organised by the school, or where they are representing the school (if required)

Pupils are also expected to contact Mr. Heeley, Headteacher, if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics.

5.2 Parents and carers

Parents and carers are expected to make sure their child has the correct uniform and PE kit, and that every item is:

- Clean
- Clearly labelled with the child's name
- In good condition

Parents are also expected to contact Mr. Heeley, Headteacher, if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to:

- Their child's protected characteristics
- The cost of the uniform

Parents are expected to lodge any complaints or objections relating to the school uniform in a timely and reasonable manner.

Disputes about the cost of the school uniform will be:

- Resolved locally
- Dealt with in accordance with our school's complaints policy

The school will work closely with parents to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

5.3 Staff

Staff will closely monitor pupils to make sure they are in correct uniform. They will give any pupils and families breaching the uniform policy the opportunity to comply, but will follow up with the headteacher if the situation doesn't improve.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with by the child's department leader.

In cases where it is suspected that financial hardship has resulted in a pupil not complying with this uniform policy, staff will take a mindful and considerate approach to resolving the situation.

5.4 Governors

The governing board will review this policy and make sure that it:

- Is appropriate for our school's context
- Is implemented fairly across the school
- Takes into account the views of parents and pupils
- Offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all pupils

The board will also make sure that the school's uniform supplier arrangements give the highest priority to cost and value for money, for example by avoiding single supplier contracts and by re-tendering contracts at least every 5 years.

6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed every two years by the Headteacher or School Business Manager. At every review, it will be approved by a sub-committee of the Governing Body.

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

- Behaviour policy
- Equality information and objectives statement
- Anti-bullying policy
- Complaints procedure.