



Coten End Primary School

SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY

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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 age, sex, disability, race, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity, 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 a way that is appropriate for school and makes them feel most comfortable.
- Allow pupils to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons or if they are experiencing discomfort related to their sex, gender or gender reassignment.
- Allow pupils to wear headscarves and/or other religious garments.
- Allow pupils with sensory or physical needs to make reasonable adaptations to their uniform depending on their specific needs.
- Allow for reasonable adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents to get in touch with Sarah Sheepy, Headteacher, who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

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 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.

At Coten End we aim to make our uniform as flexible as possible for parents, so generic uniforms such as trousers, skirts, shirts and red jumpers and cardigans (without the school badge) can be purchased from a variety of outlets.

If anyone wishes to purchase items with the school badge on, these can be ordered online via Myclothing at <http://myclothing.com>.

We will make sure our uniform:

- Is available at a reasonable cost from a variety of suppliers.
- Provides the best value for money for parents/carers.

We will do this by:

- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary.
- Keeping the number of optional branded items to a minimum, so that the school's uniform can act as a social leveler. Items currently include polo shirts, jumpers, cardigans, the Coten End book bag, PE bag and school fleece.
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class.
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities.
- Providing Coten End sports kits for interschool competitions.
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents to acquire second-hand uniform items.
- 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

Uniform
Grey or black trousers
Pinafore dress or skirt
Grey or black trousers or shorts
Red or white polo shirt
Red sweatshirt or jumper or cardigan
Red and white summer dress/playsuit
Grey or white socks

Grey, white or red tights

Black shoes (trainers, Vans, Dr Marten-style boots, and sandals are not suitable)

A suitable coat for all weathers (any colour) – a hoodie is not an acceptable alternative for a coat

A red Coten End book bag (Reception/Key Stage 1)

PE Kit

School bag for P.E kit

Red or white round necked t-shirt.

Black PE shorts or skort

Black or navy-blue jogging bottoms

Black or navy-blue tracksuit top or sweatshirt (not a hoodie)

Black pumps/plimsolls for indoor PE

White Sports Socks

Trainers for outdoor PE (Years 1—6)

There should be no branded logos/designs on any of the PE clothing nor should children wear any football kit.

4.2 Where to purchase it

- Generic items detailed above can be purchased from a variety of high street retailers.
- Items with the Coten End logo can be purchased online via Myclothing <http://myclothing.com>.
- 'Friends' hold second hand uniform sales throughout the year should parents wish to donate uniform children may have grown out of or purchase items. We also have an online ordering service for our second-hand shop at <https://www.cotenend.zero-waste.org.uk>
- 'Friends' also hold a free winter coat swop and provide each year group with spare uniform to use should it be required through the day.

5. Expectations for our school community

5.1 Pupils

Pupils are expected to always wear the correct uniform (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) unless informed otherwise.

Pupils are also expected to contact Sarah Sheepy, 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 Sarah Sheepy, 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 not following 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 Phase leaders.

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.
- Considers 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 Katrina George. At every review, it will be approved by Sarah Sheepy, Headteacher.

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

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

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