School uniform policy

Newick CE Primary School

Created by:	Laura Dobson	**Date:**	September 2026
Approved by:	Faye Lawrence	**Date:**	September 2026
Last reviewed on:	11/09/2026		
Next review due by:	September 2027		

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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, sexual orientation, 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
- Make sure that our uniform costs the same for all pupils
- Allow all pupils to have long hair, although we reserve the right to ask that long hair 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
- 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 Laura Dobson, School Business Manager, 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 (DfE) on the cost of school uniforms.

We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that need to have a school logo attached or be in a unique fabric or style) cannot be purchased from a wide range of retailers, and that requiring many such items limits parents/carers' ability to shop around for the best price.

We will therefore make sure our uniform:

- Is available at a reasonable cost
- Provides the best value for money for parents and carers

We will do this by:

- Following the statutory limits for compulsory branded items of uniform and PE kit to a maximum of:
    - 1 branded jumper or cardigan
- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary, and limiting these items where possible. For example, by only asking that only the jumper/cardigan features the school logo
- Limiting compulsory branded items to low-cost and/or long-lasting items
- Considering cheaper alternatives to compulsory branded items, such as logos that can be ironed on, as long as this doesn't compromise quality and durability
- Avoiding specific requirements for items such as coats, bags and shoes/trainers that pupils could also wear on non-school days. See more information in section 4.1
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities including (but not limited to) sport, music and drama
- Avoiding requiring different branded items for particular times of the year, such as a branded dress in summer and a branded skirt in winter
- Considering alternative methods for signaling differences in groups for interschool competitions, such as creating posters
- Considering alternative approaches, including loaning compulsory branded items such as sports kit for competitions
- Making sure that opportunities to acquire second-hand items in a timely manner are accessible to parents and carers of both current and prospective pupils, and publishing this information on our website
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications, and minimising the financial impact on parents/carers of any changes
- Consulting with parents/carers and pupils on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy, and carefully considering any complaints about uniform in line with the school's complaints policy
- Avoiding single-supplier contracts, to make sure generic items can be purchased from a range of retailers
- Continuing to review this policy, to ensure the cost of our uniform is reasonable and provides the best value for money

4. Expectations for school uniform

4.1 Our school's uniform

We suggest the following Winter uniform to be worn in Term 1*, Term 2, Term 3 and Term 4:

- Maroon jumper or cardigan (with school logo)
- Plain white shirt or polo shirt
- Grey trousers, shorts or skirt.
- Grey or white socks or grey tights.
- Sensible black shoes (no trainers, sandals or open toed shoes)
- School tie (optional)

We suggest the following Summer uniform to be work in Term 1*, Term 5 and Term 6:

- Maroon jumper or cardigan (with school logo)
- Plain white shirt or white polo shirt
- Grey trousers, shorts or skirt.
- Pink gingham dress
- Grey or white knee length or short socks.
- Sensible black shoes (no trainers, sandals or open toed shoes)

* During Autumn Term 1 either Summer or Winter uniform can be worn

For P.E. and Games, children need to wear the following for safety and hygiene:-

- Sport trainers (that allow freedom of ankle movement i.e. not the 'boot' type)
- Maroon T-shirt and black shorts
- Black joggers are acceptable in the winter with socks but **not** tights
- If an additional layer is needed then children should wear their school jumper, cardigan or fleece

All children should come to school wearing their PE kits on their allocated PE days.

Multi-coloured T-shirts, including football strips are not acceptable. For indoor P.E., dance and gymnastics the children will be in bare feet.

Please do not let your child bring valuable possessions or jewellery to school. If earrings are worn, they **must** be small studs or sleepers. These must be removed for P.E., or covered with micro pore tape, which must be supplied by parents.

Long hair must be tied back and children must not dye their hair unnatural colours. Nail polish and make up must not be worn in school.

Book Bags for KS1 children can also be purchased from Monkhouse Schoolwear (previously Sussex Uniforms).

For Forest School children need to come dressed for the weather conditions on the day. We ask that children have waterproofs, wellington boots, clothing that you don't mind them getting muddy etc. and most importantly that your child is warm for the session as Forest School takes place throughout the year.

4.2 Where to purchase it

Our branded school uniform is supplied by Monkhouse School Wear (formerly Sussex Uniforms) https://www.monkhouse.com/ they offer a fast and reliable delivery service and have a shop on the industrial estate in Haywards Heath for immediate purchase.

The School Office will keep a very small supply of essentials for emergencies. Non-branded uniform can be bought more widely, such as from high-street retailers and supermarkets.

The PTFA hold Pre-loved Uniform sales throughout the school year and items can be purchased on an ad hoc basis by contacting the School Office.

Information about Monkhouse Schoolwear (formerly Sussex Uniforms)

Monkhouse Schoolwear has been formed to give all parents the choice of where to purchase branded school uniform. As parents ourselves, we saw the tremendous need to offer a competitive edge to this restrictive market and move towards meeting parents ever increasing busy schedules, by delivering directly to your door.

Our aim is to provide you with an easy solution by buying branded and general school uniform online. These days convenience is not an option, it is a necessity and one we recognise. From the clear functional website right through to the quality products available, Monkhouse Schoolwear makes life simpler.

Because we are a locally based company, you can be sure that we are working hard for you; we will try to accommodate your requirements and in time, expand our range, to make your shopping experience even better.

Where to find Monkhouse Schoolwear:

Units 1&2 Bridge Road Business Park
Bridge Road
Haywards Heath
West Sussex
RH16 1TX

Telephone: 01444 227066 (calls charged at local rate)

Email: web@monkhouse.com

Opening times:

Monday:	9.30am – 4.30pm
Tuesday:	Closed
Wednesday:	9.30am – 4.30pm
Thursday:	9.30am – 4.30pm
Friday:	Closed
Saturday:	9.30am – 4.30pm
Sunday:	Closed

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 Laura Dobson, School Business Manager, 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 Laura Dobson, School Business Manager, 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 Faye Lawrence, Headteacher.

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 and the pupil will not miss classroom teaching because of a sanction. This is in line with the statutory guidance.

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 annually by Laura Dobson, School Business Manager. At every review, it will be approved by the Headteacher and Chair of Governors.

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

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