

Moorside Primary School



Uniform Policy

MOORSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL

PURPOSE, VISION & VALUES



Our Purpose

Moorside Primary is a school at the heart of our diverse community in the West End of Newcastle.
We pride ourselves in belonging to a caring school community where everyone is welcome.
We strive to deliver an outstanding education for all our children.
We help everyone to become caring and active citizens.
We encourage everyone to thrive and achieve their full potential.

Our Vision

We want everyone in our school to work together to make us as good as any school can be.
We want to create new opportunities for everyone to succeed.
We want to create a culture which broadens all of our horizons.
We want everyone to be able to tackle the challenges we will face in an ever-changing world.
We want all of our children to effectively engage with each other and with our community.

Our Values

We all believe...

Our local community deserves a school they can be proud of.
We are a caring community where everyone is welcome.
We all value, respect and support each other.
Our community has the right to be safe and healthy.
Our children should have the chance to enjoy and be enthused by their time in our school.

We all agree...

Everyone will always try their best and take pride in all that they do.
Everyone will demonstrate good manners at all times.
Everyone will respect each other and show consideration.
Everyone will respect and care for our environment and resources.
Everyone will celebrate each other's successes and achievements.

Child-friendly expectations are to be used in class and around school.

They are:

Learn and let others learn.
Celebrate what makes us special and respect our diversity.
Look after each other and our environment.
Solve problems calmly and cooperatively.



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 all 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.

At Moorside Primar School our policies are regularly reviewed. This reflects current practice within school and all related government guidance and statutory requirements.

It is our school policy that all children should wear school uniform when attending school, or when participating in school-organised events during or outside normal school hours. We provide a complete list of the items needed for school uniforms in our school prospectus and on our website. The costs of these items are kept as low as possible with our supplier's focus always on value for money. Branded items are not required, other than our school sweatshirts. PE kit is provided free of charge. When non-uniform is more appropriate, Parents/Carers will be informed.

Our policy on school uniforms is based on the notion that wearing them:

- promotes a sense of pride in the school;
- engenders a sense of community and belonging towards the school;
- is practical and smart;
- identifies the children within the school;
- prevents children from coming to school in fashion clothes that could be distracting in class;
- makes children feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance;
- is regarded as suitable wear for school and good value for money by most parents/carers;
- is designed with health and safety in mind;
- sets an appropriate tone for education.

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 children the opportunity to wear the uniform they feel most comfortable in.
- Make sure that our uniform costs the same for all children.
- Allow all children to have long hair, although we reserve the right to ask that long hair be tied back when participating in specific lessons with specific equipment.
- Allow all children 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 children to wear headscarves and/or other religious garments.
- Allow children 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 children or their Parents/Carers to get in touch with the Head Teacher, who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Limiting the cost of school uniform

Our school has a duty to make sure that the uniform we require is affordable and is 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/Carers.

We will do this by:

- Following the statutory limits for compulsory branded items of uniform and PE kit.
- Carefully consider whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary and limit these items where possible.
- Limiting compulsory branded items to low-cost and/or long-lasting items.
- Considering cheaper alternatives to compulsory branded items, such as plain sweatshirts that are the same colour as our branded sweatshirts.
- Avoiding specific requirements for items such as coats, bags and shoes/trainers that children could also wear on non-school days.
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class groups.
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities including (but not limited to) sport, music and drama.
- Avoid requiring different branded items for particular times of the year, such as a branded dress in summer and a branded skirt in winter.
- Making sure that opportunities to acquire second-hand items in a timely manner are accessible to parents and carers of both current and prospective children 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 children on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about uniforms 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.

Expectations for school uniform

We believe that uniforms are an important part of school life and that they play a key role in:

- Promoting the ethos of our school.
- Providing a sense of belonging and identity.
- Setting an appropriate tone for education.

We are also very aware that children grow quickly, and uniforms can prove to be costly, so we have developed a range of options which should provide a suitable alternative for each family.

What is our School Uniform?

- Black, Purple or Royal Blue Sweatshirt, with or without Moorside logo.
- White or royal blue polo shirt or shirt
- Grey or black trousers/shorts/skirts.
- Black shoes-no heels or open toed sandals

For PE

Please note the PE kit is provided free of charge to children from school though not the footwear

- White t-shirt with or without Moorside logo.
- Blue shorts.
- Blue jogging pant.
- Plain training shoes.

Jewellery

On health and safety grounds we do not allow children to wear jewellery in our school. The exception to this rule is earring studs in pierced ears. We ask the children to either remove these objects during PE and games, or cover them with a plaster, to prevent them from causing injury. This is also the case with religious jewellery that is worn, we ask that in the interests of health and safety they are removed for physical activities.

Hijabs

For health and safety reasons, children who wear a hijab for religious observance must wear a short, close-fitting sports hijab during PE lessons and physical activities. This helps to reduce the risk of entanglement or injury while ensuring children can participate safely, comfortably and respectfully. We ask parents/carers to choose hijabs carefully and take in to consideration the length of the hijab and the size so that children can always access their learning safely.

Where to purchase or acquire it

Our embroidered/logo sweatshirts can be purchased from the School Office. All other items of uniform can be bought from most supermarkets or clothing shops in the city centre.

Each term we hold a school fair where we sell pre-loved uniform. We will always work sympathetically and discreetly with families who require support to ensure children come to school in the correct uniform.

Expectations for our school community

Children

Children 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 represent the school (if required).

Parents/Carers

Parents/Carers are expected to make sure their child has the correct uniform and PE kit (that has been provided), and that every item is:

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

Parents/carers are also expected to contact Ms Hall, Head Teacher 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/Carers 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/carers to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

Staff

Staff will closely monitor children to make sure they are in correct uniform. They will give any children and families breaching the uniform policy the opportunity to comply but will follow up with the Head Teacher if the situation does not improve.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with by the Head Teacher.

In cases where it is suspected that financial hardship has resulted in a child not complying with this uniform policy, staff will take a mindful and considerate approach to resolving the situation and the child will not miss classroom teaching because of a sanction. This is in line with the statutory guidance.

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/Carers, and children.
- Offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all children.

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 five years.

Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

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