Uniform Policy

Approved by	**The Full Governing Body**
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CONTENTS

1. Aims 2
2. Our school's legal duties under the Equality Act 2010 2
3. Limiting the cost of school uniforms 2
4. Expectations for the school uniform 4
4.1 Our school's uniform 4
4.2 Where to purchase it 5
5. Expectations for our school community 5
5.1 Pupils 5
5.2 Parents and carers 5
5.3 Staff 5
5.4 Governors 6
6. Monitoring arrangements 6
7. Links to other policies 6

We are proud of our school uniform; please support us by following our uniform expectations.
We expect all our children to wear our school uniform, as it helps them feel part of the school and ensures their school wear is practical.

1. Aims

- 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 the school uniform

2. Our school's legal duties under the Equality Act 2010

The Equality Act 2010 prohibits discrimination against an individual on the grounds of protected characteristics, including 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 allow all pupils 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/carers to get in touch with the 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 uniforms

Our school has a duty to ensure that the uniform we require is affordable and in line with the Department for Education (DfE) statutory guidance on the cost of school uniform.

We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that need 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/carers' 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:

- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary

- Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics where possible by only asking that the jumper or cardigan features the school logo.
- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost and/or long-lasting items.
- 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 leveller
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different years/class/house groups
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents/carers to acquire second-hand uniform items.
- 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 the policy. If a child has a medical condition that is complicated by fasting, e.g., diabetes, the child will not be permitted to fast at school.

4. Expectations for the school uniform

Maple Grove Primary school – Uniform expectations

We are proud of our school uniform; please support us by following our uniform expectations. We expect all our children to wear our school uniform as it helps them feel part of the school and ensures that the clothes they wear to school are practical. Please make sure all clothing is marked with your child's name. All our logoed uniforms, including our fleeces, are available from our online supplier, PL school wear, who will deliver directly to your door or you can visit their shop at Hemel Hempstead. All other items can be purchased from high street retailers.

Heads

Long hair should be tied back. Discreet blue hair accessories only.

Religious headwear should be blue/black.

Sensible haircuts and hairstyles appropriate for a school environment.

Bodies—uniform,

Blue sweatshirt or cardigan with school logo.

Blue polo shirt.

Grey or black, white ankle/long socks or tights.

Grey/black skirt/trousers or shorts. Nursery children may wear blue/grey or black tracksuit bottoms.

Shoes/smart trainers – black or darker colours – (no heels, strappy sandals or boots). Children need to be able to take their shoes on and off themselves.

Bodies– P.E kit

Blue shorts

Blue t-shirt (logo optional).

Black/Blue jogging bottoms or leggings.

Black trainers/ plimsolls.

Blue tracksuit jumper.

One-piece swimming costume, swimming trunk or shorts and towel. Goggles if needed.

All P.E. is to be named and in a bag also named.

Jewellery and watches

No jewellery, please - Children should not wear jewellery to school. The only exceptions are plain stud earrings (must be removed for PE) and Religious jewellery. Children may wear small, inexpensive analogue watches at their parent's discretion. These must also be removed for PE and are the child's responsibility.

Coats and hats

Waterproof coat complete with hood in school at all times. Warm coat for the colder weather as our playground is very exposed.

Sun hats slogan free are the preferred option.

Other equipment

- Nursery children should use school book bags with the school logo.
- Y.R. to Y3 should use school book bags with the school logo. Please use only one novelty tag/keyring per book bag to help children identify their bag.
- Years Y4 to Y6 are welcome to use either the school or rucksacks, but they must be a suitable size so that we can store bags in the space we have available, and we ask that they are plain with no branding; or adornments.
- School PE bags, royal blue with the school logo and string handles, should be used.
- Any water bottles with a sports cap to avoid spillages can be used. Lunch boxes are also to be a suitable size, and we ask that they are plain with no branding; or adornments.
- Wellington boots are only to be kept in school for Y.N. and Y.R.
- For Y.N. and Y.R a spare pair of clothes, including underwear, should be brought into school in a drawstring bag.
- We provide all stationery, so no pencil cases are required.
- All items should be named to be quickly returned if lost.

4.2 Where to purchase it

- All our logoed uniforms, including our fleeces, are available from our online supplier, PL schoolwear, 23 Bennetts Gate Hemel Hempstead, HP3 8EW. CALL: 01442 501 411. EMAIL: hemel@plschoolwear.co.uk
- All other items can be purchased from high street retailers.
- We have a uniform exchange scheme at school, and second-hand uniforms are available, both obtainable from the school office.

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 the 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/carers are also expected to contact the 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.

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 following the school's behaviour policy.

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/carers and pupils
- Offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all pupils

The board will also ensure 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 re-tendering contracts at least every 5 years.

6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the full governing board.

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

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