

School uniform policy

Leighton Middle School



Approved by:	FGB	Date: April 2024
Last reviewed on:	April 2024 updated Sept 26	
Next review due by:	April 2027	

Contents

1. Aims	2
2. Our school's legal duties under the Equality Act 2010	2
3. Limiting the cost of school uniform	2
4. Expectations for school uniform	3
5. Expectations for our school community	4
6. Monitoring arrangements	5
7. Links to other policies	5
Appendix 1	6

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 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 following consultation with the SEN team/Head of Year.
- 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 pupils form tutor in the first instance, 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 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 for example, by only asking that the jumper/cardigan, features the school logo
- › Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost and/or long-lasting items, such as ties
- › Avoiding specific requirements for items pupils could wear on non-school days, such as coats, bags and shoes as long as they are appropriate for school activities.
- › 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 year/class/house groups
- › Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- › Considering alternative methods for signalling differences in groups for interschool competitions, such as creating posters or labels
- › 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

4. Expectations for school uniform

4.1 Our school's uniform

- › A tie, jumper/cardigan are branded items required.
- › White polo shirt with a green line is branded for summer uniform but can be replaced by a white shirt and tie.
- › We will accept generic items instead of branded ones for trousers, shorts and shirts, as long as they meet Leighton Middle school standards (as detailed on the website).
- › Appropriate swimwear, no bikinis.
- › One single small plain stud in each ear to be allowed.
- › Natural coloured hair, no additions to hair e.g. braids, coloured or plaited. No short hair cuts or designs/patterns cut into the hair
- › Sensible flat formal shoes (black, leather or leather look, not boots, this is an important safety consideration on a site with many sets of stairs and steps). Trainer style shoes are not accepted or shoes with logos.
- › Plain coat for winter months to be dark in colour.
- › Items which are only required in specific circumstances or at certain times of the year. These will be shared with parents e.g. gum shield, football boots when needed.

4.2 Where to purchase it

- “Wear 2 School” of North Street is the official supplier of all our school uniform, but you can purchase clothes elsewhere. We will supply a comprehensive uniform list to all our new pupils and their parents/carers. It is also on the school website. **It is essential that all items of clothing and equipment are clearly marked.** Nametapes are available from “Wear 2 School” and other suppliers.
- Our reception has a limited supply of second-hand uniform which can be purchased.
 - Second-hand uniform sales are held at various times throughout the year and will be details will be shared with parents.
 - Local sales of uniform are sometimes available. Details will be shared with parents/carers

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 should speak to their Form Tutor if they have questions about their uniform.

5.2 Parents and carers

Parents and carers are expected to make sure their child has the correct uniform (just because it is labelled as “school uniform” it does not mean it meets our expectations) and PE kit, and that every item is:

- Clean
- Clearly labelled with the child’s name
- In good condition
- Follows school expectations as detailed on our website

Parents/carers are also expected to contact the Form tutor in the first instance 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 Head of Year if the situation doesn’t improve.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with by through the school 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. The school has a supply of correct uniform that pupils use if they are no in correct uniform.

5.4 Governors

The governing body 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 body 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 three years by the Deputy Headteacher. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing body.

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

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

Appendix 1

Leighton Middle School Uniform

Updated Apr 2024

Our pupils all wear the school's uniform. This is smart and practical and gives the children a sense of belonging and of being important members of the school community. The only jewellery pupils may wear is a named watch and a single small plain stud in the lobe if ears are pierced. Studs must be removed during PE. We would prefer for pupils not to wear studs as we consider them dangerous. No other piercing is permitted in school. If a child's hairstyle is such that it is unsafe for particular activities, it must be tied back. No close cut hair, patterns or designs are allowed. Natural hair colour only; dip-dyed hair is not permitted. No pupil may wear make-up of any kind, including nail varnish and false nails.

School white shirt or blouse (suitable for a tie)

School tie from Wear 2 School

Grey V-neck pullover or cardigan with Leighton Middle School logo available from Wear 2 School

Black (not grey) tailored knee length skirt or tailored black trousers

Socks should be plain black, white or grey, with no visible logos, branding, patterns or designs. For example, plain black ankle socks or plain white sports-style socks are fine, but socks with Nike/Adidas logos, football badges, characters, stripes or other patterns are not part of our uniform.

Sensible flat formal shoes (black, leather or leather look, not boots, this is an important safety consideration on a site with many sets of stairs and steps). Trainer style shoes are not accepted or shoes with logos.

Plain coat for winter months.

Black (not grey) knee length, tailored shorts can be worn any time of the year. Shorts should not be cargo or skinny fit and should not have pockets on the sides of the shorts.

If appropriate – Black/grey hijab

Summer term only:

Polo shirt with green stripe on collar available from Wear2School or white shirt (long or short sleeved) and tie.

Sports Wear:

Swimming Trunks/Costume (one piece) – School will advise you when your child will swim

Green Polo Shirt

Black Shorts – they should be mid-thigh length

Emerald Socks

Trainers

School Rugby Jersey - School green (recommended)

A pair of shin pads

Gum Shield for use in Hockey and Rugby (recommended)

Football Boots with safety studs - **PE staff will inform pupils when they will need football boots. Boys will need football boots and a gum shield for the start of Year 5 in September.**

Plain black sweatshirt/tracksuit top and jogging trousers may be worn in colder weather (recommended)

If appropriate – Sports hijab, black leotard and leggings for under school kit

Earrings must be removed for PE in line with Central Bedfordshire Council Policy.

“Wear2School” of North Street is the official supplier of all our school uniform, but you can purchase clothes elsewhere. We will supply a comprehensive uniform list to all our new pupils and their parents. **It is essential that all items of clothing and equipment are clearly marked.** Nametapes are available from

“Wear2School” and other suppliers. <https://wear2school.shop/>