



William Austin Infant School

School Uniform Policy

September 2023

Introduction

It is our school policy that all children wear school uniform when attending school or participating in school organised events, such as trips and other activities associated with the school. It is designed to be practical and suitable for the age of the children. We ask children to wear their t-shirts or shirts tucked into their skirts or trousers and to take pride in their personal appearance. Some items need to be purchased directly from the school (sweatshirt or cardigan with school logo and book bag) whilst others are easily available, at very competitive prices, at local shops including supermarkets. A complete list of the items needed for school uniform including those for Physical Education, is included in this policy.

Aims and Objectives

Our policy on school uniform is based on the belief that school uniform:

- Promotes a sense of pride in our school;
- Helps to create a sense of community and belonging towards the school;
- Identifies the children with the school;
- Supports our commitment to inclusion;
- Is practical, smart and designed with health and safety in mind;
- Is considered good value for money by most parents.

Jewellery, Hair Decorations, Make-up and Nail Varnish

For health and safety reasons we do not allow children to wear jewellery. The exceptions to this rule are stud earrings in pierced ears, and small objects of religious significance. Children are required to remove any items during PE lessons to prevent them from causing injury to themselves and others. Please note, school staff are not permitted to remove earrings. Hair bands, ribbons/bows or scrunchies should be plain. Large hair accessories are not permitted e.g. hair bands with large flowers. Make-up and nail varnish should not be worn to school. Extreme hairstyles are not appropriate for school.

Footwear

For health and safety reasons children need to wear footwear that is appropriate for school. All children are required to wear plain black shoes with easy fastenings. These shoes should be unbranded and free from logos (no stripes or ticks). All school shoes should be flat (no platform soles, wedges or raised/high heels), and have no patterns or overly elaborate buckles, bows or other embellishments.

Boots can be worn to school providing that they are no higher than ankle bone height, and do not have fluffy or furry cuffs that fold over. Ankle or knee high boots are not to be worn indoors. Children will be asked to bring a suitable pair of shoes with them to change into.

The Role of Parents

We believe that one of the responsibilities of parents is to ensure that their child has the correct uniform and PE kit, and that the child's name is written on all items. If a parent has difficulties for any reason with fulfilling this request they are asked to speak confidentially to a senior member of staff or the family worker to discuss the issues. Parents should be assured that we will do all we can to help. Children who arrive at school wearing non-school uniform will be loaned an appropriate item to wear for that day. Parents will be contacted to discuss the matter. The school welcomes children from all backgrounds and faith communities. If there are substantiated reasons, for example on religious grounds, why parents want their child to wear clothes that differ from the school uniform, the school will consider such requests sympathetically.

The Role of Governors

The governing body supports the headteacher in implementing the school uniform policy. It considers all representations from parents regarding the uniform policy and liaises with the headteacher to ensure that the policy is implemented fairly and with sensitivity. It is the governors' responsibility to ensure that the school uniform meets all regulations concerning equal opportunities. Governors ensure that the school uniform policy enables children to dress sensibly, in clothing that is hardwearing, safe and practical.

The school encourage parents to apply for Pupil Premium funding if they are in receipt of certain benefits. Forms are included in the school admission pack and/or available from the school office. At the request of governors, those pupils in receipt of pupil premium funding will qualify for financial help from the school towards the provision of school uniform.

There is a local charity based in the Town Centre who operate a uniform exchange service and sell good quality used uniform. Parents can enquire at the school office or check the school website for more details.

School Uniform List

Our school uniform colour is a combination of purple and dark grey/black. Most items can be bought from high street shops or supermarkets. Embroidered sweatshirt and cardigans and school book bag are required items of uniform. Please refer to the list below:-

For girls:

- Purple sweatshirt with school logo or purple cardigan with school logo required (only available to purchase from the school office)
- Dark grey or black skirt/pinafore dress/ trousers
- White blouse or white polo shirt*
- Plain white short or knee length socks or
- Plain dark grey or black tights
- Purple and white checked / striped summer dress with white cardigan (optional in Summer Term only)
- Girls may wear black or white leggings under skirts or dresses
- Shalwar Kameez (dark grey or black shalwar and white kameez)
- Black school shoes (with easy fastenings e.g. velcro) – no branded footwear

For boys:

- Purple sweatshirt with school logo (required to purchase from the school office)
- Dark grey or black trousers
- White shirt or white polo shirt*

- Dark grey or black shorts (optional in Summer)
- Black or white socks only, bright coloured socks are not permitted.
- Black school shoes (with easy fastenings e.g. velcro) – no branded footwear

* Plain white polo shirts are acceptable as school uniform but should you wish to purchase a white polo shirt with the school logo, these are available from the school office.

Optional summer uniform (to be worn in the **Summer Term only**)

- Purple and white checked / striped summer dress with white cardigan (optional for Summer Term only)
- Dark grey or black shorts (optional for Summer Term only)

Parents or carers who wish their children to wear a turban, skull-cap or topi should keep to the school colours of either purple, dark grey or black.

Parents or carers who wish their children to wear a head covering (hijab) should ensure it is a 'ready-made' elasticated type that is of shoulder length and can be slipped on and off easily. It should be plain purple, dark grey, black or white in colour.

All children must have a William Austin Infant school book bag which is only available to purchase from the school office. Back packs or ruck sacks are not acceptable.

Children in Year R will need a pair of wellington boots in school for outdoor work.

P.E Kit

Children are required to wear their P.E. kit to school on the day their class has P.E.

Girls and boys wear:

- School jumper or cardigan
- Plain Black shorts / tracksuit bottoms
- Plain white t-shirt or polo shirt (additional to their school uniform polo shirt)
- A pair of plimsolls – Velcro fastenings are helpful for younger children.
Branded sportswear is not accepted.

For health and safety reasons, children are not permitted to wear earrings for PE. Your child's teacher will advise you when PE lessons take place so that earrings can be removed.

NB. The school has used the DfE non-statutory guidance on school uniform and agrees with the guidance given in the DfE booklet which states:

'The school uniform plays a valuable role in contributing to the ethos of a school and setting an appropriate tone. The Department strongly encourages schools to have a uniform as it can instil pride; support positive behaviour and discipline; encourage identity with, and support for, schools' ethos; ensure pupils of all races and backgrounds feel welcome; protect children from social pressures to dress in a particular way; and nurture cohesion and promote good relations between different groups of pupils. The Department also encourages schools to have a very clear position about appearance such as hair colour, style and length and the wearing of jewellery and make-up.'

Reviewed June 2023

Next Review Summer 2025 for Autumn 2025