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School Uniform Policy

Version 1

May 2025

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Nova Primary Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

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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 our 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 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 to get in touch with our 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 on the cost of school uniform.

We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that have 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' 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.
- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost and/or long-lasting items, such as ties which are only to be worn by to children in Year 6
- 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 with the exception of Year 6 children who should wear a tie
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents of any changes
- Consulting with parents and pupils on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy

4. Expectations for school uniform

Nova Primary Academy has a consistent uniform across all year groups, with a logo that embodies and best represents the school's ethos, values and learning approach. Our uniform also ensures all children gain a strong sense of belonging to the Nova Family, as well as strengthening our identity within our community. Please ensure all clothing worn in school is clearly named.

What to Wear:

Uniform details

School uniform, embroidered with the school logo in gold, can be purchased from Total Clothing, which can take up to 2 weeks for delivery.

<https://www.totalclothingshop.co.uk/nova>

However, it is also possible to buy non-branded items of uniform from local supermarkets or suppliers.

We expect that all children will be dressed in sensible school clothes in school colours. This helps to develop a sense of belonging and pride in Nova Primary Academy. School uniform details for different year groups are as follows:

EYFS and Years 1 - 5	Year 6	PE kit
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Navy jumper or cardigan• White polo shirt• Grey or black trousers, shorts, skirts or pinafores• White, grey, navy or black socks or tights• Black shoes or smart black trainers• Blue/white checked or striped dresses for girls in summer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A white buttoned shirt or polo top• A school tie (1 will be provided to each child at the school. If lost, parents will have to purchase a replacement)• A navy V-neck jumper• Grey trousers or skirt• Grey or black socks• Black shoes or smart black trainers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Black leggings, shorts or joggers• A navy t shirt• A black or grey sweatshirt <p>PE kit can be worn to school on PE day</p> <p>Headscarves may be worn for PE but they must be secured so there are no loose edges</p>

- For swimming: swimming trunks or a one-piece swimming costume or a long-sleeved costume, leggings and a swimming hat (these can be purchased from Jack Hunt or any other retail store).
- Watches/rings/chains/bracelets/earrings must be removed before the start of the lesson. If it is not possible to remove an ear stud, then it must be covered by tape. Long hair must be tied back for all PE lessons, including swimming.
- Hooded tops are not allowed for safety reasons.

Logo Jumpers and school ties, including book bags must be purchased from <https://www.totalclothingshop.co.uk/nova>

Other non-logo items can be purchased from your preferred retailer.

We do not hold lost property in school. Any lost item that is clearly named will be returned to the owner.

5. Expectations for our school community

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.

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 the Headteacher 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.

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.

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.

6. Monitoring Arrangements

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years. At every review, it will be ensured that it:

- Is appropriate for our school's context
- Is implemented fairly across the school
- Considers the views of parents and pupils
- Offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all pupils

The school will also make sure that 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. Unacceptable Clothing and Items

Hairstyles:

Pupils with long hair must ensure that this does not impede their vision, cover their face or provide a health and safety risk. Long hair must be tied up during practical lessons, e.g., during PE.

Makeup:

Make-up is not permitted.

This includes:

- False nails and nail extensions
- False Eyelashes

Shoes:

High heels, flip flops, crocs and strappy sandals are not permitted.

Coats:

Children must have a coat appropriate for the time of year. We discourage parents from sending children to school in expensive, branded coats or light coloured coats which can get dirty. Coats must be marked with the child's name.

Jewellery:

Permitted jewellery that may be worn is:

- One pair of stud earrings – No other piercings are permitted. No Hooped Earrings
- A smart and sensible wrist watch. - No smart watches

All jewellery must be removed during practical lessons e.g., PE lessons and science experiments. Children must be able to remove them independently.

Jewellery is the responsibility of the pupil and not the school. Lost or damaged items will not be refunded.

If children come to school wearing any of the above, the school will contact parents to discuss.

School cannot take responsibility for items of clothing which are lost. All lost property is available for parents to look at before and after school.