

The Darent Federation of Schools

Uniform Policy



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Uniform Policy

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1. Policy Statement and Principles

This policy has been written in line with the Department for Education's *School Uniform Guidance* and reflects our commitment to affordability, equality, sustainability and inclusion.

The Darent Federation of Schools believes that a school uniform:

- promotes a sense of pride in the school and belonging to the school community
- supports positive behaviour and readiness to learn
- ensures pupils feel equal to their peers
- is practical, safe and appropriate for school activities
- represents good value for money for parents and carers

2. Statutory Guidance and Affordability

This policy has been developed in accordance with the Department for Education's statutory and non-statutory guidance on school uniform.

In line with this guidance, the Federation:

- places affordability and value for money at the centre of uniform decisions
- ensures uniform requirements do not act as a barrier to attendance, inclusion or participation
- keeps compulsory branded items to a minimum
- ensures uniform items are durable, practical and suitable for everyday school life
- actively promotes second-hand uniform to reduce cost and environmental impact

Participation in school activities, trips or events will not be dependent on a family making a financial contribution. Parents and carers are encouraged to contact the school if support is required.

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3. Equality, Inclusion and Reasonable Adjustments

The Darent Federation is committed to ensuring this policy complies fully with the Equality Act 2010.

- Reasonable adjustments will be made for pupils with disabilities, medical needs or sensory needs
- Uniform expectations are flexible to accommodate religious or cultural dress requirements
- Requests for variation will be considered sensitively and on an individual basis

Where a uniform requirement may disproportionately affect a pupil with a protected characteristic, the Federation will work with families to agree an appropriate and reasonable adjustment.

Head coverings worn for religious reasons should be plain black or white.

4. General Expectations

- All clothing should be clearly labelled with the child's name
- Uniform should be clean, safe and in good repair
- Hairstyles should be appropriate for a school setting and should not present health, safety or learning concerns

Hair and Accessories:

- Long hair should be tied back for health and safety reasons
- Hair accessories should be plain and in school colours (red, black or neutral)
- Hairstyles or colours that are extreme or non-natural are not permitted

5. Jewellery, Make-up and Cosmetics

For health and safety reasons, jewellery should not be worn in school. The only exceptions are:

- small, plain stud earrings
- watches
- jewellery worn for religious or cultural reasons

Physical Education (PE)

In line with Association for Physical Education (AfPE) guidance:

- all jewellery, including earrings, must be removed for PE lessons
- staff are not permitted to remove earrings or tape them over
- parents are encouraged to arrange new piercings at the start of long school holidays

Make-up and cosmetics are not permitted, unless for a specific event authorised by the Executive Headteacher.

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6. Uniform for Specific Activities

For activities such as PE, Forest School, swimming or educational visits, parents will be informed in advance of any additional or alternative clothing required.

7. Branded Items and Supply Arrangements

The Department for Education defines a branded item as any item that:

- carries a school logo, or
- is available only from a specific supplier due to distinctive colour, design, fabric or trademark

The Federation keeps compulsory branded items to a minimum and reviews requirements regularly to ensure they remain necessary, affordable and proportionate.

Where branded items are required:

- written agreements are in place with suppliers
- suppliers are selected through appropriate value-for-money processes
- arrangements are reviewed and re-tendered at least every five years
- no cashback, commission or financial incentives are received by the Federation
- any cost savings achieved are passed directly to parents and carers

The Federation is aware of forthcoming DfE expectations regarding limits on compulsory branded items and will review its arrangements in advance of any statutory changes.

8. School-Specific Uniform Requirements

The Federation uniform requirements remain unchanged and are detailed below.

Sundridge & Brasted CE Primary School

Branded items (school tartan skirt, tie, jumper/cardigan with logo, PE polo shirt with logo) must be purchased from Price & Buckland.

Second-hand uniform is available through the school to support affordability and sustainability.
(Full uniform list remains as currently published on the school website.)

Kemsing Primary School

Branded items (sweatshirt/cardigan and white t-shirt or polo with logo) are available from School Brigade Clothing Ltd or My Clothing.

The PTA operates a second-hand uniform scheme, with proceeds supporting the school.
(Full uniform list remains as currently published on the school website.)

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9. Roles and Responsibilities

Parents and Carers

Parents are expected to:

- ensure their child attends school in the correct uniform
- ensure clothing is suitable, labelled and well maintained
- contact the school if support or reasonable adjustments are needed

Governors

The Governing Body:

- ensures the policy complies with statutory guidance
- monitors affordability and equality considerations
- reviews the policy annually

Executive Headteacher

The Executive Headteacher is responsible for:

- implementing the policy fairly and consistently
- considering individual requests and adjustments
- reporting to governors on the effectiveness of the policy

10. Complaints, Non-Compliance and Review

Complaints

Concerns or complaints regarding the uniform policy should be raised in accordance with the Federation's published Complaints Policy.

Where concerns relate to the supply or quality of uniform items purchased from an approved supplier, parents should first contact the supplier directly. If concerns remain unresolved, these may be escalated through the school's complaints procedure.

Non-Compliance

The Federation recognises that there may be circumstances where pupils are unable to comply fully with uniform expectations.

- Where non-compliance is linked to financial hardship, schools will take a supportive and considerate approach
- Pupils will not be removed from lessons or denied access to education due to uniform issues arising from hardship
- Any sanctions related to uniform will be proportionate and aligned with the school's Behaviour Policy

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Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Governing Body to ensure it remains compliant with Department for Education guidance and continues to meet the needs of pupils and families within the Federation.

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11. Uniform for Sundridge & Brasted

Items specific to Sundridge & Brasted, (school tartan skirt, tie, jumper/cardigan with logo, PE polo shirt with logo) need to be purchased directly from Price & Buckland via <https://www.pbuniform-online.co.uk/sundridgeandbrasted> All other items are available in high street shops.

The school has a supply of second-hand school uniform items available in order to encourage sustainability and to support families with uniform costs.

Children may choose from any of the uniform items listed below:

- **Winter Uniform: October through to April (Terms 2, 3 and 4)**
 - School red knitted jumper/cardigan with school logo
 - White shirt, short or long sleeve with tie collar
 - School red and black striped tie (elasticated for KS1 and long for KS2)
 - Reception children ONLY may wear a plain white polo shirt and no tie
 - Grey trousers/grey shorts/school tartan pleated skirt
 - Yea 6 may wear a plain black skirt (rather than the school tartan skirt)
 - Black tights or white socks with skirts
 - Plain black or grey socks with trousers
 - Plain black school shoes (no boots, no trainers unless for PE and for safety, no open toe sandals)
 - Plain black or red hair bands or ties and plain clips should be used

- **Summer Uniform: (optional) May through to October (Terms 1, 5 and 6)**
 - Grey shorts or red checked dress (no white panels)
 - Plain black or grey socks with shorts
 - Black tights or white socks with dresses
 - Plain black school shoes (as above)
 - Plain black or red hair bands or ties and plain clips should be used.

- **PE Kit:**
 - Red school polo shirt, with school logo
 - Red school PE sweatshirt, with school logo
 - Black shorts
 - Sports trainers
 - Plain black tracksuit bottoms or joggers or sports leggings for colder weather
 - Children may choose to wear either shorts or tracksuit bottoms for comfort and cultural preferences.

- **For outside wear:**
 - Plain warm coat preferably with hood and zip fastening.

If parents are experiencing financial hardship and struggling to pay for new uniform they should speak to the Executive Headteacher in confidence and the school will always support the family in purchasing uniform items.

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12. Uniform for Kemsing

Items specific to Kemsing, (sweatshirt/cardigan and white t-shirt/polo shirt with the school logo) need to be purchased directly from [School - Brigade Clothing, LTD](#) or [My Clothing](#)

All other items are available in high street shops.

The PTA holds a supply of second-hand school uniform items available in order to encourage sustainability and to support families with uniform costs. The PTA run second-hand uniform sales and monies raised support the school.

Children may choose from any of the uniform items listed below:

- **Winter Uniform: October through to April (Terms 2, 3 and 4)**
 - Red sweatshirt or cardigan with school logo
 - White polo shirt with or without school logo
 - Grey long trousers or grey shorts or grey skirt or tunic
 - Plain black or grey socks with trousers
 - Socks (plain white or grey) or tights (red or grey) with skirt or tunic
 - Plain black shoes (no boots, no trainers unless for PE and for safety, no open toe sandals)
 - Plain black or red hair bands or ties and plain clips should be used.

- **Summer Uniform: May through to October (Terms 1, 5 and 6)**
 - Grey shorts or red check dress (no white panels)
 - Plain black or grey socks with shorts
 - Socks (plain white) or tights (red or grey) with dresses
 - Plain black shoes (as above)
 - Plain black or red hair bands or ties and plain clips should be used.

- **PE Kit:**
 - White polo with or without school log or white t-shirt with or without school logo
 - Red shorts
 - Black plimsolls **or sports trainers**
 - Plain black or red tracksuit or sports leggings for colder weather
 - Children may choose to wear either shorts or tracksuit bottoms for comfort and cultural preferences.

- **For outside wear:**
 - Plain warm coat preferably with hood and zip fastening.

If parents are experiencing financial hardship and struggling to pay for new uniform they should speak to the Executive Headteacher in confidence and the school will always support the family in purchasing uniform items.