PORTICO
ACADEMY TRUST

opening doors, unlocking potential

Uniform Policy

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Next Review Date: October 2027

Person Responsible: Mark Aggus

Introduction

Throughout this guidance, 'parents 'should be taken to include all those with parental responsibility, including guardians and carers.

Our policy on school uniform
It is for the school to decide:
- rules around appearance
- whether there should be a school uniform policy and if so, what that should be
- how the uniform should be sourced

These duties are placed upon all Trustee Boards by statute to ensure that school policies promote good behaviour and discipline amongst the pupil body.

We strongly encourage the wearing of uniform as it can play a key role in:
- promoting the ethos of a school
- providing a sense of belonging and identity
- setting an appropriate tone for education

Inclusion
All children deserve to thrive academically and socially. At West Leigh Junior School we adapt our curriculum to ensure it is accessible to meet different needs and high expectations are maintained for all. Inclusion runs through everything we do; it is not a bolt on. We are a community school which strongly believes that we have a duty to provide for the varying needs of our children in order to ensure that they are ready for the next stage of education and beyond.
We have high expectations of **all our pupils**. We firmly believe that with high quality teaching and effective engagement from parents **every child** can meet their academic potential. We are also passionate about the children's social and emotional development and believe that all children should be offered opportunities to ensure that they leave our school with high aspirations for their future. We believe that all our children have an equal entitlement, and should have an equal opportunity to be supported and challenged to maximise their potential, therefore our curriculum is bespoke and allows children to make progress in a variety of ways.

Every child within our school can thrive and we do everything we can to make sure that happens. That means we:
- provide lessons that meet the needs of every child;
- make reasonable adjustments to lessons and our school environment;
- provide staff training to expand our expertise.

We think about both the long term and the short term. Our ambitions for our children include for them to:
- have personal, spiritual, moral and cultural awareness to learn and achieve;
- have good friendships and relationships;
- live a healthy and independent life;
- be successful in work;
- feel safe and secure.

Requirements for Trustees
West Leigh Junior School will ensure that in developing and implementing their uniform policy, they comply with the Human Rights Act 1998 and Equality Act 2010 and take into account key considerations such as safeguarding requirements and the health and safety of pupils.

We have considered how comfortable the uniform is for our pupils and will take a sensible approach to allow for exceptions to be made during extreme weather.
We will ensure that our uniform is suitable and safe for pupils who walk or cycle to school, for instance, by allowing pupils to wear a coat which they could be visible in when it is dark.
We have chosen a PE kit which is practical, comfortable, appropriate to the activity.

Other factors to consider
Outside of our responsibilities to comply with all relevant legislation, we have considered other relevant factors. For instance, manufacturing items of clothing can have a significant impact on the environment and in response we will be able to offer pre-loved items to support this.
We have considered the environmental impact of our uniform and have considered how any branded items are sourced. We have also considered the negative social impact of allowing children to wear items with expensive branded logos and the impact of that influence on young people.

Reviewing the policy
We will review our policy at appropriate intervals to ensure that it is still fit for purpose.
Reviewing the policy does not necessarily result in changes being made.

Cost considerations
Buying a school uniform can be expensive and can place an unreasonable burden on families. Our uniform options have been considered so as not to be so expensive as to leave pupils or their families feeling unable to apply to, or attend, a school of their choice, due to the cost of the uniform, and in certain circumstances the school can provide assistance. We offer pre loved sales of uniform throughout the year.

Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act
Since September 2026, the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act in England has legally required schools to limit mandatory branded uniform items to a maximum of three, excluding ties. This cap includes all branded items for school, PE and after-school activities, aiming to reduce costs.
We have identified three items as part of our school uniform that must be branded, as listed below. All other uniform items may be unbranded alternatives. Girls may choose to wear plain black trousers instead of a pinafore dress or skirt.
These items are:

- gold short-sleeved or long-sleeved polo shirt with logo
- cardigan, jumper or gilet with logo
- yellow round-necked PE t-shirt with logo

Human rights, equality and discrimination considerations
When making decisions about our uniform policy, we have regard to our obligations under the Human Rights Act 1998 and the Equality Act 2010. We have considered the impact of our policy on pupils who share a protected characteristic.
The relevant protected characteristics we have considered when developing and implementing our uniform policy include:
Gender, religion or belief, race (including colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin), disability, gender reassignment.

We aim for our uniform policy to be as inclusive as possible, and have been considerate in the implementation of our uniform policy so that all pupils are able to wear the uniform.

Religion or beliefs

Some religions and beliefs require their members to conform to a particular dress code or to otherwise outwardly manifest their belief. We ensure we are sensitive to the needs of different cultures, races and religions and act reasonably in accommodating these needs, without compromising important school policies, such as school safety or discipline. It should be possible for most religious requirements to be met within our school uniform policy and we will act reasonably through consultation and dialogue in accommodating these.

Discrimination
In developing and implementing our school uniform policy, we have considered our obligations not to discriminate unlawfully. For example, whilst we can designate different uniform requirements for boys and girls, each gender may choose to wear items from across the uniform requirements.

Even when this policy has been agreed, we will be willing to allow for some individual variations to the uniform policy, where necessary to avoid indirect discrimination. For instance, reasonable adjustments must be made, as appropriate, for pupils with a disability.

Complaints and challenges to the school uniform policy
Disputes about school uniforms should be resolved locally and should be pursued in accordance with the school's complaints policy. Parents should lodge their complaints and objections with the Principal. A school uniform should be inclusive, where the subject of a complaint is due to a pupil's protected characteristic, we will carefully consider requests to vary our uniform policy.

Pupil non-compliance
This will be carried out in accordance with the school's published behaviour policy.
We will deal with pupil non-compliance in a proportionate and fair way.

School Uniform
We encourage a good standard of dress at all times and want children to represent the school positively. We ask all pupils to wear our school uniform as we feel this promotes a sense of belonging and identity and helps develop pride in the school.

Summer Uniform

- Black tailored trousers or shorts
- Gold short-sleeved polo shirt with logo (MANDATORY)
- Cardigan, jumper or gilet with logo and yellow tramlines (MANDATORY)
- Yellow gingham summer dress, playsuit/all in one or school skirt
- Plain black or white socks
- Plain black trainers or shoes - no logos

Winter Uniform

- Pinafore, skirt or black tailored trousers
- Gold long sleeved polo shirt with logo (MANDATORY)
- Cardigan, jumper or gilet with logo and yellow tram lines (MANDATORY)
- Black tights or socks

PE Kits

- Plain black PE shorts (athletic style shorts must be of a reasonable length to ensure modesty and appropriateness) or school logo PE shorts

- Plain black PE leggings
- Plain black sports joggers
- West Leigh zip-up tracksuit top
- Yellow round-necked t-shirt with logo (MANDATORY)
- Plain black trainers (no coloured logos or trim)
- School tracksuit (optional) or plain dark sweat top and trousers
- Plain black or white socks

Swimming

- Black swimwear (no bikinis or board shorts) - e.g. black swimsuit, swimming trunks or unisex one-piece swimsuit
- Swimming hat

Our full uniform is available from School wear Centre on Hamlet Court Road.

Pre loved Uniform
The school office holds our pre loved uniform sale very half term and pre loved uniform is available on request.

Please ensure that all clothes and belongings are clearly labelled with your child's full name to aid the return of lost property. Please remember to do this each time you replace an item of clothing.

Other Uniform Guidelines

We will accept smart, black trainers, plain with no logo as well as black shoes.

We expect children to come to school with clean, brushed hair. Hair bands are to be in school colours. Hopefully hair braiding will not be done during term time. If it is, the hair must be tied back neatly off the face and not swing around and without beading on the end. All those children with long hair are to tie it back during the school day. Hair products should not be worn in hair during the school day, please. If a child gets very hot in PE or on the playground the product drips into eyes and hurts. We also need to ensure that no hair product disrupts the clarity of the swimming pool water. We would be grateful if hair products were kept exclusively for weekends and holidays.

No bracelets, necklaces or rings should be worn because of the risk of injury to the wearer or to another child. We follow the Local Authority Health and Safety advice on the wearing of earrings during physical education and swimming. Children will have to remove their own earrings and place them in a small named container. After the physical activity, including swimming, they must replace their own earrings.

Since each class has some form of physical activity at varying times during the week, we advise that earrings are not to be worn in school at any time. If the child cannot remove their own earrings we ask that they are removed at home on the days they have PE or swimming.

Watches can be worn in school but again, will have to be taken off before any activity.

We respectfully ask that ear piercing is done at the beginning of the summer holiday and we would prefer no more than one earring to be worn in each ear during school time.