

Green Lane School



Uniform Policy

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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 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/carers to get in touch with Michael Gaskell, 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.
- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost and/or long-lasting items.
- Considering cheaper alternatives to school-branded items, such as logos that can be ironed on, as long as this doesn't compromise quality and durability
- Avoiding specific requirements for items pupils could wear on non-school days, such as coats, bags and shoes
- 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 extra-curricular activities
- 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

Our school uniform promotes a sense of belonging, equality and pride in our community. All pupils are encouraged to wear the correct uniform each day. Please ensure that all items of uniform are clearly labelled with your child's name.

Due to the special educational needs and disabilities of the children at Green Lane School, we recognise that it may not be suitable or comfortable for every pupil.

Children are welcome to attend school in comfortable, practical clothing, that link to the school uniform requirements, as we understand that those with sensory sensitivities may find certain fabrics or styles of clothing itchy, heavy, restrictive or otherwise distressing. These sensory experiences can lead to discomfort or sensory overload, which can significantly impact a child's wellbeing and ability to learn.

Because of this, we support families in choosing clothing that best meets their child's sensory, physical, and emotional needs. Our priority is ensuring that pupils feel safe, comfortable and ready to engage in their school day. Should this be the case, parents/carers should contact the school office so that any uniform change requests can be appropriately communicated to the child's class teacher and relevant senior leader.

Branded and Generic Items

We aim to keep our uniform affordable and accessible to all families.

- **Branded items available:**
Key Stage 1–3 pupils may wear a red sweatshirt and/or white polo shirt displaying the school logo. These are available through school's online shop. Branded uniform is not compulsory and equivalent plain red/white items may be purchased from any retailer, however where possible it is advised items above have the school logo.
- **Branded items optional:**
 - Pupils in Key Stage 1–3 may instead wear plain red sweatshirts/cardigans and plain white polo shirts if preferred.
- **Generic items accepted:**
 - All trousers, skirts, shorts, jog bottoms, dresses, shoes, and coats may be purchased from any supermarket or high-street shop.
 - *Key Stage 4* uniform items are entirely generic.

Uniform Expectations by Key Stage

Key Stage 1–3 (Reception to Year 9)

- **Tops:** Red sweatshirt with school logo *or* plain red sweatshirt/cardigan; White polo shirt with school logo *or* plain white polo shirt
- **Bottoms:** Black or dark grey trousers, skirts or jog bottoms
- **Summer Option:** Red/white check dress
- **Footwear:** Black shoes
- **Seasonal items:** Tracksuits and coats may be worn in colder weather (generic items accepted)

Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11)

- **Top:** Plain black cardigan or V-neck jumper
- **Shirt:** White shirt / polo shirt
- **Tie:** Red tie (optional)
- **Bottoms:** Black or dark grey trousers or skirt
- **Footwear:** Black / dark shoes. Smart Black trainers are also acceptable if this is linked to a reasonable adjustment.

PE and Swimming Kit

All Key Stages (PE Kit)

- **Tops:** White T-shirt
- **Bottoms:** Black shorts
- **Cold Weather:** Black tracksuit
- **Footwear:** Pumps or trainers

On the day of a PE lesson, pupils are able to attend school in their PE kit.

Swimming kit requirements (if applicable to the curriculum) will be communicated separately. All pupils should bring their kit on the correct days.

Jewellery, Hair, and Personal Presentation

To maintain safety and avoid discrimination in line with the **Equality Act 2010**, our expectations are as follows:

- **Jewellery:**
 - No jewellery is permitted during the school day or PE lessons.
- **Hairstyles:**
 - Hairstyles must be neat and practical.
 - Cultural and religious hairstyles are fully respected.
- **Make-up:**
 - Make-up is not permitted.

Shoes, Bags, and Coats

- **Shoes:**
 - All pupils must wear plain black school shoes or similar. Black trainers and or pumps are acceptable in some circumstances.
- **Bags:**
 - School bags should be practical.
 - Branded bags are not required.
- **Coats:**
 - Coats should be suitable for the weather.

Items Required Only at Certain Times

- **Summer:** Red/white check dress (optional, Key Stage 1–3).
- **Winter:** Black tracksuit for outdoor PE; additional warm layers such as coats or hats permitted.
- **Seasonal PE kit variations** will be communicated as needed.

4.2 Where to purchase it

Accessing Uniform

- Embroidered/branded items for Key Stage 1–3 are available directly from the school's online shop.
- All other uniform items may be purchased from high-street retailers or supermarkets.
- If you require assistance or need new uniform items, please contact the school office.

Regular swap and or second hand uniform shops are held throughout the school year. These details will be communicated separately.

Information about accessing second-hand uniform will be made available on the school website and communicated to current and prospective families.

4.3 Reasonable Adjustments to Uniform

Green Lane School recognises that, due to a pupil's special educational needs, disability, sensory processing differences, medical needs, physical needs, religion or other individual circumstances, aspects of the standard school uniform may not always be appropriate or accessible.

In accordance with our duties under the Equality Act 2010, the school will consider and make reasonable adjustments to uniform requirements where these are necessary to ensure that a pupil is not placed at a disadvantage.

As a specialist SEND school, we recognise in particular that some pupils may experience sensory differences which make particular fabrics, seams, labels, fastenings, footwear or styles of clothing uncomfortable, distressing or difficult to tolerate. For some pupils, strict adherence to uniform expectations may contribute to sensory overload, emotional dysregulation, difficulties with dressing or barriers to attending and engaging successfully in school.

Reasonable adjustments may therefore include, but are not limited to:

- alternative fabrics, styles or fits of clothing;
- removing labels or avoiding particular seams, buttons, collars or fastenings;
- wearing alternative trousers, jog bottoms, tops or other practical clothing;
- alternative footwear, including trainers or other appropriate footwear;
- adaptations required because of physical, mobility or medical needs;
- additional or fewer layers to support sensory or temperature regulation;
- adaptations to PE or swimming clothing;
- flexibility around changing clothes or wearing PE kit;
- temporary flexibility following illness, injury or changes in a pupil's needs; and
- other individual adaptations agreed with the pupil and their family.

Where possible, adjusted clothing should reflect the general colours and principles of the school uniform. However, the pupil's individual needs, wellbeing, dignity, safety, attendance and ability to access education will take priority where these cannot reasonably be reconciled with the standard uniform requirements.

Reasonable adjustments will be considered on an individual basis and, where appropriate, in consultation with the pupil, parents/carers and relevant school staff or professionals. Adjustments may be recorded within the pupil's individual plans where this would support consistency.

Parents/carers are encouraged to liaise with the child's Class Teacher where they believe their child requires an adjustment. A formal diagnosis is not necessarily required before the school considers reasonable adjustments, and agreed adjustments should not result in a pupil being sanctioned for failing to meet the standard uniform expectations.

Staff should be aware of agreed reasonable adjustments and apply the uniform policy sensitively and consistently. Where there is uncertainty about whether clothing represents an agreed or potentially necessary adjustment, staff should seek advice from the relevant senior leader rather than treating the matter initially as non-compliance.

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/Parents/Carers are also expected to contact the school office if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics.

5.2 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 appropriate condition

Parents/carers are also expected to contact the school office 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 monitor uniform expectations sensitively and consistently. Where a pupil is not wearing the expected uniform, staff should first consider whether this may be linked to the pupil's SEND, sensory, physical or medical needs, an agreed reasonable adjustment, family circumstances or financial hardship.

Staff should seek to understand and resolve the reason for non-compliance before considering further action. Pupils should not be disadvantaged or sanctioned where an agreed reasonable adjustment is in place. Persistent concerns that cannot be resolved through discussion with the pupil and family should be referred to Michael Gaskell or another appropriate senior leader.

5.4 Governors

The governing board 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 board will also make sure that the school's uniform supplier arrangements give the highest priority to cost and value for money.

6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by Michael Gaskell (SLT) or another SLT member of staff. At every review, it will be approved by the Headteacher and Governing Body.

7. Links to other policies

This policy has links to our:

- Positive Behaviour and Relationships policy
- Anti-bullying policy
- Complaints policy
- Safeguarding policy



Green Lane School

Uniform Support Flow Chart for Staff

A pupil is not wearing the expected school uniform

Stay calm, be observant and approach the situation with understanding.
Remember: every pupil is an individual.

1

Check and consider

Could there be a reason for this?

- Is there an agreed reasonable adjustment in place?
- Could it be related to the pupil's SEND, sensory, physical or medical needs?
- Could it be due to family circumstances or financial hardship?
- Is it a temporary issue (e.g. illness, injury, change in needs)?
- Has the pupil brought a note or has a parent/carer already informed school?



2

Speak to the pupil

Have a kind and supportive conversation.

- Check how they are feeling.
- Ask if there is a reason they are not in the expected uniform.
- Listen to what they say.
- Reassure them that you are there to help.



Use a calm, respectful and positive approach.

3

Identify the next steps

Based on the information, decide what to do next.



Agreed reasonable adjustment

- Check the pupil's records (e.g. One Plan, care plan).
- Confirm with SENDCo or relevant staff if needed.
- No further action required.
- Continue to support and monitor.

Pupil is following their agreed plan.



Individual need or temporary reason

- Support the pupil and take note of the reason (e.g. medical, sensory, illness, injury).
- Inform parent/carer if appropriate.
- Agree a plan and timescale if needed.

Be flexible and supportive.



No identified reason

- Remind the pupil of the uniform expectations in a calm and positive way.
- Contact parent/carer to discuss and understand the reason.
- Offer support where needed (e.g. second-hand uniform, financial support).
- Agree a plan to resolve the issue.

Work together with the family.



Ongoing concerns

- If the issue continues and cannot be resolved through discussion, refer to Michael Gaskell or a member of the senior leadership team.
- Provide information about steps already taken.
- Continue to support the pupil and family.

Escalate only when necessary.

4

Keep a record

- Log key conversations and actions on the pupil's record.
- Share with relevant staff where needed.
- Review and update as necessary.



Good communication helps us provide consistent support.

Our aim is always to remove barriers, support wellbeing and enable every pupil to feel comfortable, confident and included at school.



Inclusion
Belonging
Success



Green Lane School

School Uniform Information for Parents and Carers



Our school uniform is smart, practical and affordable.

It helps us feel part of our school, promotes equality and allows all pupils to feel comfortable and ready to learn.

Key Stage 1-3 (Reception to Year 9)



Tops

Red sweatshirt (with or without school logo) or white polo shirt (with or without school logo)

Bottoms

Black or dark grey trousers, skirts or jog bottoms

Summer option

Red/white check dress

Footwear



Black shoes or similar

Key Stage 4 (Years 10-11)



Tops

Black jumper, white polo shirt or optional red tie with shirt

Bottoms

Black or dark grey trousers or skirts

Footwear



Black shoes or similar

All Key Stage 4 uniform items are generic and can be purchased from any retailer.



Branded items

Branded sweatshirts and polo shirts with the school logo are available to purchase from our online shop (Touchline UK) or in person at the shop. They are optional – plain red sweatshirts/cardigans and plain white polo shirts are also accepted.



Buy online at:

Touchline UK – Shop by School
Green Lane School Warrington

You can also visit the shop and buy in person.



PE Kit



- White t-shirt
- Black shorts or jog bottoms or tracksuit bottoms
- Trainers
- Tracksuit may be worn in colder weather



Other items

- Coats, trousers, skirts, shorts, jog bottoms, dresses and shoes can be purchased from any supermarket or high-street shop.
- Tracksuits and coats may be worn in colder weather.
- No specific requirements for bags.
- PE kit: plain and practical (see left).



Keeping costs down

- We keep branded items to a minimum.
- We offer second-hand uniform through swap shops during the year.
- Information about accessing second-hand uniform is available on our website.
- We avoid unnecessary changes to uniform.
- We aim to ensure our uniform is affordable and good value for families.



Reasonable adjustments

We understand that some pupils may need adjustments to uniform, for example due to sensory differences, medical needs, physical needs or religious reasons. We will always work with you to make sure your child feels comfortable and included. Please contact your child's class team if you would like to discuss this.



Need help or have a question?

If you have any questions about school uniform, need support with uniform, or would like to discuss a reasonable adjustment, please contact the school or your child's class team.



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Working together

We appreciate your support in helping all our pupils look smart, feel comfortable and be ready to learn. If you are experiencing any difficulties with uniform, please speak to us – we are here to help.

Aspiration

Challenge

Independence

Resilience

Achievement for All