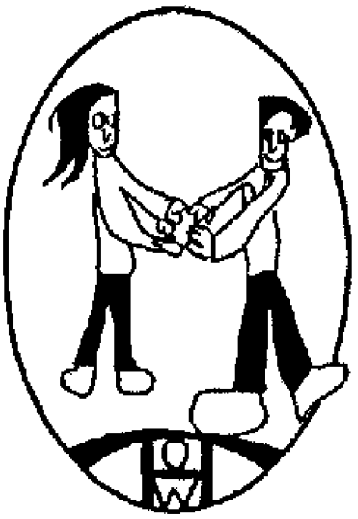
Howbridge Infant School



School Uniform Policy 2025

School Uniform Policy

Introduction

This is statutory guidance from the Department for Education. This means that the school and its governing body must have regard to it when developing and implementing our school uniform policy.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure the cost of school uniform is reasonable and secures the best value for money.

We strongly encourage children having a uniform as it plays a key role in:

- promoting the ethos of a school
- providing a sense of belonging and identity
- setting an appropriate tone for education

By creating a common identity amongst all pupils, regardless of background, the school uniform can act as a social leveller. It can reduce bullying and peer pressure to wear the latest fashions or other expensive clothes. If, however, the uniform is too expensive it can place an unreasonable burden on families. Furthermore, if a distinction can be made between those who can afford it and those who cannot, this can reduce the benefits of a uniform and has the potential to negatively impact attendance, access and participation, and lead to bullying.

Assess the overall cost implications

The school has assessed the overall cost implication of our school uniform for parents, and we are aware of how costs could mount up where multiple items of the same garment may be needed. For instance, when a child may grow out of an item quickly or where spare items are likely to be needed.

Assess the impact variations in their uniform can have

We have also assessed the impact that variations in our uniform (such as house colours or specific items of clothing for different year groups) could have on total costs and therefore we have chosen not to adopt variations in our PE kits and therefore this provides greater ability for parents to pass items down between siblings.

Avoid frequent changes

We will avoid frequent changes to uniform specifications, and we will show how any change in uniform specifications secures the best value for money or why the change is required.

If we do have to make changes to our uniform, we will take action to minimise any financial impact of any change on parents (such as allowing pupils to continue to wear the old uniform for a reasonable period).

Additional uniform for extra-curricular activities

We do not require parents to purchase additional uniforms for the purpose of any extra-curricular activity. Similarly, we will avoid requiring additional items to be used for inter school competitions.

Engage with uniform suppliers

We will engage with our existing uniform supplier on how to ensure that parents get the best value for money on their proposed uniform.

Branded items

Generic items which are widely available (including from low-cost outlets) give parents choice and allows them to control the cost of school uniforms. As such, we have therefore kept branded items to a minimum and we limit their use to low cost or long-lasting items. It is not necessary for children to wear logo branded items.

If we decide that a branded item is required, we will consider how we can maintain the benefits of a branded item whilst keeping costs low. This may involve using sew or iron on labels or limiting the branded items to longer-lasting items such as book bags rather than items that the parent may need to purchase more frequently or in larger quantities such as shirts.

PE kit

We keep the number of kit requirements for PE to a minimum and branded items are not required.

Provision of second-hand uniforms

Second-hand uniforms can benefit all parents, particularly those on low incomes. In addition, by extending the life of garments, it is more sustainable. We do have second hand uniforms available for parents. Please contact the school office for more information.

Applying for Uniform Grant

There are uniform grants available to some pupils. The eligible criteria for a uniform grant is similar to qualifying for free school meals (FSM).

https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants/free-school-meals-uniform-grant-eligibility