



Stowford School Uniform Policy

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1. Introduction

At Stowford School we pride ourselves in being smart, well presented and ready for learning. We wish to promote an atmosphere which encourages effort, enjoyment and a celebration of the achievements of all our children. We have high standards and expectations and this is reflected in the pride taken in our uniforms and the feeling of belonging they create. All children are expected to dress in full uniform. Our uniform:

- helps to create a sense of community and belonging towards the school giving an identity to be part of and proud of: children learn, practise, play and succeed together.
- reduces distractions: children are focused on learning.
- makes everyone equal: children come to school looking the same way; no child has to feel awkward about the clothes they have or don't have.
- is professional: children look smart and are ready to learn.

By creating a common identity amongst all children, regardless of background, a school uniform can act as a social leveller. It can reduce bullying and peer pressure to wear the latest fashions or other expensive clothes. Uniform should not, however, be so expensive that it places an unreasonable burden on families. Parents should not have to consider the cost of a school uniform when choosing a school for their child. It is therefore important to us to ensure that our uniforms are readily available and affordable.

2. Equality & Diversity

The Equality Act 2010 prohibits discrimination against an individual based on the protected characteristics, which include sex, race, religion or belief, and gender reassignment. To avoid discrimination, our school will:

- avoid listing uniform items based on sex, to give all children the opportunity to wear the uniform they feel most comfortable in or that reflects their self-identified gender
- make sure that our uniform costs the same for all children
- allow all children to have long hair (though we reserve the right to ask for this to be tied back)
- allow children to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons
- allow children to wear headscarves and/or other religious or cultural symbols
- allow for reasonable adaptations to this policy on the grounds of equality. Parents should contact the Headteacher with any questions about the policy or requests for adaptations. These will be considered on a case by case basis.

3. Cost of School Uniform

Westcountry Schools Trust and Stowford School have a responsibility to make sure that our school uniform 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 items with a logo or a unique fabric/colour/design) cannot be purchased from a wide range of retailers and that this limits parents' ability to 'shop around' for a low price.

In line with our responsibility, we will ensure that required uniform items:

- are available at a reasonable cost
- provide the best value for money for families.

We will do this by:

- carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics/logos are necessary
- limiting items with distinctive characteristics/logos as far as possible, and to low-cost or long-lasting items
- considering cheaper alternatives to school-branded items with logos
- avoiding specific requirements for items children could wear on non-school days, such as coats, bags and shoes
- avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- considering alternative methods for signalling differences in groups for interschool competitions, such as creating posters or labels
- making sure that arrangements are in place for parents to acquire second-hand uniform items
- avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents of any changes
- consulting with parents and children on any proposed significant changes to the uniform requirements and carefully considering any complaints about this policy

Note that quality second-hand/pre-loved items of uniform are readily available in the main school foyer. There are no fixed prices for these items – all are available for a donation to the Stowford Friends (Parent/Teacher Association). The donation can be any amount which is affordable for the family.

4. Uniform Requirements

Stowford School Uniform List (See Appendix A)

- Navy sweatshirt or cardigan (with* or without embroidered school logo)
- Plain white polo or navy polo shirt (with* or without embroidered school logo)
- Grey shorts or trousers
- Grey pinafore or skirt
- Blue and white checked dress in the summer term.
- Plain grey or black socks (not over the knee) or plain grey or black tights

Items marked with a * can be bought online from School Trends or at Lawsons in Ivybridge. Other items can be bought from high street shops and supermarkets.

Please note skirts should be an appropriate length and of a style which allows sitting comfortably on the floor. When shorts are worn, they should also be of an appropriate length. We ask children to wear their shirts tucked into their skirts, shorts or trousers and to take a pride in their personal appearance.

P.E. Uniform (See Appendix A)

Children will need to wear P.E. uniform to school on P.E. days:

- Black or navy shorts
- White T-shirt (with or without embroidered school logo)
- White ankle socks (separate from those worn with school uniform)
- A pair of non-slip trainers – velcro fastenings are essential for younger children
- Navy or black plain jogging bottoms and school sweatshirt for outdoor lessons in cold weather and for Wild Tribe

For health and safety reasons children are not permitted to wear earrings for P.E. Your child's teacher will advise you when P.E. lessons take place so that earrings can be removed.

All clothing MUST be named. Children can become upset as a result of lost clothing; please help by naming everything.

Jewellery, Hair Ornaments, Make-up and Nail Varnish

Children may only wear one stud earring in each ear; jewellery including items such as hooped earrings, necklaces or bracelets are not permitted

For health & safety reasons, children may not participate in PE if wearing earrings. Children must be able to remove earrings themselves or must not wear them on day of P.E. Please note: Teachers are not permitted to remove earrings.

If hair is long enough to be tied back, then it should be. Hair bands, ribbons/bows or 'scrunchies' should be small, plain and either blue or black to match our uniform. Hair bands should not have large flowers or other decoration attached.

Extreme hairstyles are not appropriate for school. The use of styling products should be kept to a minimum and children should not have decorative patterns cut into their hair or have hair coloured or dyed.

Make up and nail varnish should not be worn to school.

Footwear

For health and safety reasons we do not allow children to wear shoes with platform soles or high heels. All children are required to wear plain black shoes without logos as stated in the uniform list. If boots are worn these should also be plain black. If boots are large and prevent children from sitting comfortably on the floor they may be asked to change into their P.E. shoes whilst inside the school building.

Because we spend a lot of time outdoors, it is also important for all children to have a named pair of wellies that are kept in a named carrier bag.

5. Expectations for our School Community

Pupils

Pupils are expected to wear the correct uniform at all times (other than specified non-uniform days)

while:

- on 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 & 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/carers are also expected to contact the Headteacher if they wish to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their child's protected characteristics, or if they wish to raise a concern regarding the cost of the school uniform.

Parents are expected to lodge any complaints or objections relating to the school uniform in a timely and reasonable manner. Stowford School is committed to working closely with parents/carers to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome. Where a mutually acceptable resolution cannot be reached, formal complaints will be dealt with in accordance with the Trust Complaints Policy.

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 does not improve.

In cases where it is suspected that financial hardship has resulted in a child not complying with the uniform policy, staff will take a mindful and considerate approach to resolving the situation.

6. Monitoring of the Policy

This policy and its implementation will be monitored to ensure that it:

- is appropriate for the school's context
- Is implemented fairly across the school
- takes into account the views of parents/carers and pupils
- offers uniform requirements that are appropriate, practical and safe for all children

Where significant changes to the uniform requirements are proposed, children and parents will be consulted and their views taken into account.

At every review period, this policy will be ratified by the Trust Board.

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

- Behaviour policy
- Equality information and objectives statement
- Anti-bullying policy
- Complaints policy



Stowford School Uniform List

School Uniform (required)	
Jumper/cardigan	Navy (with or without embroidered school logo)
Shirt	Plain white or navy polo shirt (with or without embroidered school logo)
Trousers	Grey
Shorts	Grey – knee length
Skirt	Grey – knee length
Pinafore	Grey – knee length
Dress	Blue and white checked dress (summer term only)
Socks/tights	Socks – white, grey or black (knee high) Tights – grey or black
Shoes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black, sensible, covered, flat shoes • Trainers, boots or strappy/open-toed shoes are not permitted (boots should only be worn outdoors in inclement weather)
Coat	Any coat – weatherproof, sensible and without any obvious branding
	Book Bag (with* or without school logo)
	Clear water bottle (with* or without school logo)

*available from School Office

P.E. Uniform (required)	
T-shirt	White T-shirt (with or without embroidered school logo)
Top	Navy sweatshirt or cardigan (with or without embroidered school logo)
Shorts	Black or navy shorts - plain
Trousers	Navy or black plain jogging bottoms for outdoor P.E.
Footwear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trainers • Wellies for outdoor use (in a named carrier bag)

All items should be clearly labelled with the child's full name

Non-logo items can be purchased from local shops and supermarkets.

Items with the Stowford School logo are available locally in Ivybridge (see Lawsons in Fore Street, Ivybridge, PL21 9AE). To purchase uniform online, items with the school logo are available at 'School Trends' (www.schooltrends.co.uk/uniform/StowfordSchoolPL210BG).

Pre-loved items of school uniform are available from the rail in the school foyer for a donation to Stowford Friends (Parent/Teacher Association). The donation can be any amount which is affordable for the family.