

SCHOOL UNIFORM & APPEARANCE POLICY

MISSION STATEMENT

Our school is at the centre of our local community and provides a safe and nurturing environment where everyone develops a sense of self-worth and achievement. We believe that every person matters!

Introduction:

It is Brookvale Primary Schools policy that all students wear school uniform when attending school, or when participating in an organised event outside normal school hours. The Governing Body of the School decides on the uniform policy or dress code, and it is the responsibility of The Head Teacher to ensure the students keep to the rules.

Aims and objectives:

Our policy on school uniform is based on the notion that school uniform:

- promotes a sense of pride in the School;
- engenders a sense of community and belonging towards the school
- is practical and smart;
- identifies the students with the School;
- prevents students from coming to school in fashion clothes that could be distracting in class;
- makes children feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance;
- is regarded as suitable wear for school and good value for money by most parents;
- is designed with health and safety in mind.

The role of Parents:

We ask all parents to support the school uniform policy. We believe that parents have a duty to send their children to school correctly dressed and ready for their daily schoolwork. One of the responsibilities of parents is to ensure that their child has the correct uniform, and that it is clean and in good repair.

If any parent would like the School to modify the uniform policy, they should make representation, in the first instance, to The Head Teacher. The School welcomes children from all backgrounds and faith communities. If there are serious reasons, for example on religious grounds, why parents want their child to wear clothes that differ from the school uniform, the School will look sympathetically at such requests.

The role of Governors:

The Governing Body supports The Head Teacher in implementing the school uniform policy. It considers all representations from parents regarding the uniform policy and liaises with The Head Teacher to ensure that the policy is implemented fairly and with sensitivity. In the event of there being any proposed changes to either the uniform or dress code, there will be an appropriate consultation of parents, students and staff.

It is the Governors' responsibility to ensure that the school uniform meets all regulations concerning equal opportunities. Governors ensure that the school uniform policy helps students to dress sensibly, in clothing that is hard-wearing, safe and practical.

Role of staff:

Staff will remind children to wear school uniform. The class teacher will speak to children who do not wear the correct uniform. The Deputy Head Teacher or The Head Teacher will speak to parents of children who persistently do not wear the correct school uniform.

Monitoring and review:

The Governing Body monitors and reviews the school uniform policy through:

- considering, with The Head Teacher, any requests from parents for individual children to have special dispensation with regard to school uniform;
- requiring The Head Teacher to report to the Governors on the way the school uniform policy is implemented.

Cost of School uniform:

Brookvale School fully endorses the principle that the School's uniform should be affordable for everyone, ensuring that no student or family is socially excluded through inability to buy. Uniform with the school logo on can be purchased through the school and the order form is available from the school website. Following extensive consultation with students and parents, the uniform for the main body of the School may be purchased from a catalogue by internet, telephone or mail order and also from a local supplier. We are committed to a regular appraisal of the uniform's cost in order to ensure that it continues to be affordable for everyone.

Health and safety:

The school requests that long hair should be tied back; this is particularly pertinent for work in P.E. or practical lessons such as cooking and science.

Footwear:

We want all children to grow into healthy adults. We believe that it is dangerous for children to wear shoes that have high heels or open toes or heels, so we discourage such footwear in our school. Neither do we allow children to wear trainers (with the exception of breaktime); this is because we think that this footwear is appropriate for sport or for leisurewear, but is not in keeping with the smart appearance of a school uniform. We ask all children to wear shoes as stated in the uniform list below.

Brookvale's Uniform:

All uniform should be **clearly labelled with the child's name**. The school cannot accept responsibility for any lost items.

Uniform	Boys	Girls
Trousers	Grey	Grey
Skirt		Plain grey skirt or pinafore dress. Summer blue and white gingham dress
Hijab		Blue, black or grey. <i>Must be removed for P.E.</i>
Polo Shirt	White with or without logo	White with or without logo
School Shoes	Black shoes no trainers	Black shoes, no boots, high heels or trainers
Socks	Grey, black or white	Grey, black or white socks. White, black or Grey tights
Sweatshirt	Blue with or without logo	Blue with or without logo
PE Kit P.E. kit should be worn for after school sports clubs. All P.E. kit should be free from any form of logo or brand name, sports team, apart from the school logo. All P.E. kit should be clearly labelled with the child's name.	Navy blue shorts, house t-shirt, black pumps	Navy blue shorts, house t-shirt, black pumps. For safety reasons Hijabs must be removed for P.E.
Games kit	Navy blue tracksuit/jogging bottoms in cold weather. Trainers.	Navy blue tracksuit/jogging bottoms in cold weather. Trainers
Swimming	Boys should wear swimming trunks or shorts. Long shorts are not permitted. Long hair should be tied back.	Girls should wear a one-piece swimming costume (no bikinis). Long hair should be tied back.

Jewellery	NO jewellery other than plain wristwatches, stud earrings and medical alert pendants. Stud earrings should not be worn on P.E. or swimming days. If children come to school wearing earrings on P.E. or swimming days they will have their earrings taped with micropore tape, for health and safety reasons. Teachers will not take responsibility for jewellery. Any requests to wear religious items will need to be placed in writing to The Head Teacher.
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General Appearance:

Children should not wear nail varnish, make up or any stick on tattoos.

Long hair should be tied back. This is particularly important in order to prevent the spread of head lice.

Hair must be natural colour and of a moderate style. Braids, dreadlocks, shaved heads or other extreme hairstyles will only be allowed on religious or cultural grounds. There should be no mohicans or tramlines. Hair decorations should be modest.

Race and equality:

Brookvale considers its uniform/appearance policy in the context of its race equality policy; its obligation to promote equality of opportunity between pupils of different racial groups; and the requirement to assess the impact of school policies on pupils drawn from different racial groups. As such requests for exemption from the uniform policy on religious grounds will be on an individual basis following a written request from parents.

Headwear will only be allowed on religious and cultural grounds and should be in black or blue.

Breaching school policy:

If your child breaks the rules when it comes to school uniform, they could be punished by The Head Teacher. More serious punishments like suspension or expulsion from the school are only considered acceptable if the pupil's disregard of uniform policy is persistent and defiant. Where a pupil repeatedly refuses to comply with school uniform policy even if they do not otherwise display poor behaviour, we believe that exclusion could be an appropriate response, depending on the circumstances of the case.

The Head Teacher may ask a pupil to go home briefly to remedy a breach of the school's rules on appearance or uniform. This should be for no longer than is necessary to remedy the breach. This is not an exclusion, but an authorised absence. However, if the pupil continues to breach uniform rules in such a way as to be sent home to avoid school, or takes longer than is strictly necessary to effect the change, the pupil's absence may be counted as unauthorised absence. A pupil will not be sent home indefinitely or for longer than is strictly necessary to remedy the breach as this could amount to an unofficial exclusion. In all such cases parents will be notified and the absence should be recorded.

When making this decision, the child's age, vulnerability, how easily and quickly the breach can be remedied, and the availability of the parent, will need to be considered. If the pupil then repeatedly infringes the school's rules on uniform or appearance, this may constitute a disciplinary offence and may be grounds for exclusion.

If a family is having financial difficulties, the school should allow for this and give the parents time to buy the right items. Pupils will not be made to feel uncomfortable, nor discriminated against, because their parents cannot provide them with the right school uniform.

Policy drawn up by: Mr J Smart (Executive Head Teacher) alongside consultation with the whole school community.

Date: June 2015

Ratified by the Governing Body

Signature _____
(Chair of the Governors)

Date: _____

This policy will be reviewed as required in consultation with all stakeholders