



School Uniform policy

Stelling Minnis CEP School

Stelling Minnis Church of England Primary School is committed to offering a primary education of the highest quality to each child. The school deliberately sets out to create the right environment for all pupils, to allow them to develop in the way and at the pace appropriate to them. As a controlled Church of England School, we provide a secure, happy and stimulating learning environment where Christian faith leads our way. We aim to foster a true and lifelong desire to learn by presenting children with a wide and challenging curriculum set firmly within the guiding principles of Christian values, which we teach and model through all aspects of school life. Our specific Christian values are Love, Respect and Perseverance.

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1. Purpose and aims of a Uniform Policy

A school uniform:

- Gives our children a sense of unity, belonging and pride in our school, which assists in building the caring, family ethos the school is so proud of.
- Ensures that our children are safely dressed for school activities and the environment.
- Minimises competition between the children to wear more expensive or fashionable clothing and the pressure on parents to purchase this type of clothing, whilst encouraging equity among pupils.
- Clearly identifies Stelling Minnis CEP School pupils from other children who may encounter our school.
- Fosters and enhances the public image of the school.

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 sex, race, religion or belief, 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 pupils to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons
- Allow pupils to wear headscarves and other religious or cultural symbols

- Allow for adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents to get in touch with the headteacher, who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests

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 on the cost of school uniform.

We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that have 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' 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 or long-lasting items
- 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 leveler
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- 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 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

A feeling of school unity is enhanced by the wearing of a uniform. The Governors and Staff expect that children wear school uniform, as listed below. Branded items are available via the School Office.

- school branded green cardigan or sweatshirt
- white shirt, polo shirt or blouse, or a green gingham dress in summer
- dark grey skirt or dark grey trousers or black trousers
- black shoes
- Tights or socks white, black or grey

In hot weather children may wear a suitable sunhat.

For Physical Education:

- Black Plimsolls for indoor
- Plain Trainers for Outside ,
- yellow T-shirt
- plain black or plain grey shorts or plain black or plain grey leggings

In cold weather children may wear jogging bottoms/ tracksuit in plain black or grey

For Farm School/ Outdoor Learning:

We ask that Wellington Boots are kept in school. When visiting the farm in the winter months, we ask children to wear extra layers and clothes that may get muddy.

Jewellery

Children can become very distressed when they lose or break jewellery. Jewellery can also be an item that is a fashion statement or can cause inequity amongst the pupils. Jewellery such as necklaces, rings, bracelets etc. must not be worn to school. (Medic alert bracelets are of course allowed in school). Inexpensive, simple wrist watches can be worn.

Earrings:

- In the interest of safety, earrings should be of the small sleeper or stud variety.
- Earrings must be removed for PE sessions. The taping of ears is not acceptable for health and safety reasons.
- If a child cannot remove their own earrings it should be done so at home on the day the child has PE. Staff are not permitted to remove earrings. Children will take part in a related activity if their earrings are not removed on such days.
- If a parent is considering having their child's ears pierced they should be encouraged to do so at the very start of the summer break, as in most cases they are unable to remove them for the first six weeks.
- Make-up and /or coloured nail polish is not appropriate in school.

Hairstyles and accessories

Hair should be neatly groomed and kept out of the eyes. Shoulder length or longer hair should be kept tied back from the face. Simple hair bands should be used. Large bows, flowers and jewellery on hair bands are not appropriate for school wear. Plain bands and small bows (preferably school colours) are acceptable. Extremes of hair styles such as tram lines, Mohicans and coloured hair are not appropriate for school.

Our pupils should only bring their school book bags and PE bags to school. Back packs are allowed but these should not be too large as they can become a hazard in the corridor and classroom.

Pupils are encouraged to bring their own named plastic water bottles to school to sip from throughout the day. They should be a suitable size to not take up too much room on a desk and not be easily spilt. These should be filled with water only, unless the child has a medical problem requiring them to drink something else. Pupils should take their water bottles home every night to be cleaned.

All kit and school uniform must be clearly named.

4.2 Where to purchase it

School branded sweatshirts, cardigans, T-shirts and schoolbags are available to purchase from the school office.

All other uniform can be purchased from any provider.

Our uniform is provided at a 'not for profit' price by the school. If the purchasing of school uniform is an issue please speak to the headteacher.

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
- 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.

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 good condition

Parents are also expected to contact the headteacher 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 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 to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

5.3 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 doesn't improve.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with in accordance with our school behaviour policy.

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

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 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, for example by avoiding single supplier contracts and by re-tendering contracts at least every 5 years.

6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing body.

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

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