



# Cornerstone Multi Academy Trust

## School Uniform Policy

## 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

Any enquiries regarding the operation of our school uniform policy should be made to the head of school.

## 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. We recognise the diversity of cultures and religions of our pupils and we will take a sensitive approach when this affects uniform requirements, although priority will be given to health and safety, safeguarding and other similar considerations.

To avoid discrimination, our school will:

- Avoid listing uniform items based on sex.
- 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)
- Make any adjustments that may be needed because of disability where possible
- Allow pupils to request changes to swimwear for religious or racial reasons
- Allow pupils to wear headscarves and other religious or cultural symbols

## 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 will make sure our uniform:

- Is available at a reasonable cost
- Provides the best value for money for parents/carers

We have ensured that the bulk of the uniform can be purchased from any retailer for items such as t-shirts, trousers, skirts and dresses. For items with a logo we use Thomas Moore as the supplier. The trust reviews suppliers regularly but, as an established school uniform provider with a shop locally and an online store, and the ability to place orders through our Wisepay shop, it provides flexibility for parents in purchasing items.

**Pre-loved uniform** is a scheme that Friends of TCAT (parent association) operate which is massively supportive of families in ensuring they have uniform. They offer many items for sale at very affordable rates or as an exchange. There are also labelled bins at each school for you to deposit any items of clothing that your child no longer needs.

**Subsidised uniform** is available for those families in receipt of free school meals (FSM). The following items of uniform are available each academic year to all pupils in receipt of free school meals or the pupil premium. This offer equates to approximately £50 per year.

- One school jumper
- One PE hoody
- One PE polo shirt
- One pair of PE shorts
- One pair of PE socks

In addition, a school rucksack will be included as part of this offer at three points; at the beginning of Reception, Year 3 and Year 5.

## Expectations for school uniform

### Our school's uniform

The Cornerstone school uniform is royal blue and white with a logoed school rucksack and separate items for PE in navy blue. Uniform is compulsory for children in Years R – 6, and voluntary for children in the Nursery, although we would prefer them to wear a school jumper if possible.

The uniform is a choice of grey trousers, shorts, skirt, pinafore or, in the summer term, a skort or checked royal blue dress. With the trousers, shorts, skirt, skort, or pinafore a plain white t-shirt and royal blue logoed school jumper or school cardigan is required, although a logoed t-shirt is available and if possible we would like them to wear this.

### Footwear

All children must wear smart, formal black school shoes (not boots). Please note that we do not accept black trainers or skateboarding shoes as an alternative to smart shoes.

Children will need to change their shoes for PE or outdoor games and wear suitable footwear for the activity they are taking part in.

### PE Kit

All children will need a PE kit consisting of a logoed navy blue t-shirt with navy blue sports shorts and blue football socks. On colder days your child will need the logoed navy blue hoody with matching navy blue jogging trousers.

The colour is differentiated from the uniform to ensure that children do change and that they do not get their school uniform sweaty or dirty.

Children will need secure fitting trainers, not plimsoles, for PE. However, the trainers do not need to be of any specific colour.

Studded boots and long sports socks are required for field based games. Parents will be written to with a plan of the games sessions for the year, so know when these will be needed.

Summary of Required Uniform	
Item	Colour
<b>School Uniform</b>	
Sweatshirt/Cardigan	Royal blue with logo
Polo Shirt	White with logo
Trousers/Shorts/Skirt/Skort/Pinafore	Grey
Summer dress	Royal blue check
Shoes (no trainers or boots)	Black
Rucksack	Blue with logo
<b>PE and Games</b>	

Polo Shirt	Navy blue with logo
Shorts	Navy blue
Football Socks	Navy blue
Trainers	Free choice
Football Boots	Free choice
Hoody	Navy blue with logo
Tracksuit Bottoms	Navy blue

## Expectations from the School Community

### Pupils

Children are expected to wear the correct uniform at all times (other than specified days/events):

- All children to wear smart black school shoes and not black trainers or boots.
- All children to wear a logoed school jumper or school cardigan that should be worn to school every day.
- All children to wear a white polo shirt. A logoed polo shirt is available; this is our preferred option, although this is optional.
- If children choose to wear trousers, shorts, skirt, skort or pinafore they are to be grey. Black trousers are accepted, but the preference is grey.
- All children should have a PE kit consisting of a logoed navy t-shirt with navy sports shorts and navy socks. On colder days the children will need the logoed navy hoody with matching navy jogging trousers. We have differentiated the colour from the uniform to ensure that children do change and that they do not get their school uniform sweaty or dirty.
- Children are to wear trainers rather than plimsolls for PE. These can be any make and any colour but affordable and good quality.
- From Year 1, children are to have a pair of studded boots for use in the winter months on the field. Football boots can be of any style. Children who are doing such activities, but don't have boots will be unable to participate in the lessons. You will be informed in good time, when your child is expected to do a field-based sport. We understand there is a cost implication however, football boots in the wet, winter months are required for reasons of health and safety. Trainers are not adequate footwear and when they get muddy, the mud is transferred on to the playgrounds and indoors which creates further issues for the school.
- There are a range of other school uniform options including the reversible school fleece, a school cap for the summer, and a book bag. The book bags are provided to all new intake children, however if they are lost and need replacing then these will need to be purchased.
- In Year groups where children have access to their own locker, a Cornerstone branded school bag is a compulsory requirement of school uniform. The size of bag needed to fit inside the locker is very specific, and such, we cannot have a range of bags being brought in. If a bag is too big to fit inside the locker, and is left on the floor of the corridors, this would cause a health and safety risk.
- All children must use the school rucksack. There are 3 different types:
  - A small royal blue rucksack for children in Years R – 2
  - A small navy blue rucksack for children in Years 3 – 4
  - A large navy blue rucksack for children in Years 5 – 6
- All children are to use this rucksack to ensure that they have a bag that fits the lockers or coat hooks provided, as space is always limited. Whilst the rucksack is deliberately small it is big enough for your child's PE kit and should only be brought to school when needed. As the

rucksack is big enough for your child's PE kit, and large bags are not needed, the school rucksacks must be used.

- In addition, the children will have a book bag that is provided in Reception for their reading and library books and, if needed, they can carry their football boots in a separate boot bag.
- We do not carry a stock of spare uniform (including P.E kit). If your child is in an afterschool activity but does not have their right clothing to participate, then we will place them into the after school care provision and you will be charged at the published rates.

### **Parents and carers**

At Cornerstone we wish to ensure there is a consistent approach to school uniform and a clear understanding for all parents as to the position by the Academy Trust across all schools.

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

### **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.

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.

A headteacher, or a person authorised by the headteacher, may ask a pupil to go home briefly to remedy a breach of the school's rules on appearance or uniform. When making this decision schools need to consider the child's age and vulnerability, the ease and time it will take, and the availability of the child's parents. 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 an unauthorised absence. In either case the pupil's parents must be notified, and the absence should be recorded. If a school is considering excluding a pupil in response to breaches of uniform policy, then this must be in line with the legal requirements for exclusion.

The Executive Head and the Leadership Team, in consultation with the Trustees, will decide on the suitability of the appearance of a pupil attending a TCAT school – excessive or unconventional hair styles, of either cut or colour, are not permitted.

### **Trustees**

The trustee board will review this policy and make sure that it:

- Is appropriate for our school's context
- Is implemented fairly across the schools
- 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.

### **Links to other policies**

Updated: October 2022  
*Review: October 2024*

This policy is linked to our:

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