



Arden Primary School



At Arden Primary School we believe that our children, whatever their needs, deserve a broad and imaginative curriculum that enables them to become independent and resilient learners who develop into respectful citizens of the future with high aspirations.

SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY

Reviewed by	Approval date	Review date
Full Governing Board	July 2026	July 2028

1. INTRODUCTION AND PRINCIPLES

At Arden Primary School, we take pride in being smart, comfortable and ready for learning. Our school uniform supports a shared identity and ensures pupils are smart, ready to learn and prepared for all aspects of school life, including outdoor learning through OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) playtimes.

The Department for Education (DfE) recognises that uniform:

"can play a key role in promoting the ethos of a school, providing a sense of belonging and identity and setting an appropriate tone for education."

Our policy is guided by the following principles:

- Promotes pride and belonging
- Supports equality and inclusion
- Is practical and safe
- Represents good value for money
- Does not create unnecessary barriers for families

In line with statutory guidance: *"Schools and their governing boards must have regard to this statutory guidance... [to] ensure the cost of school uniforms is reasonable and provides the best value for money."*

2. AFFORDABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY

Arden Primary School is committed to ensuring uniform is affordable for all families. We will:

- Keep branded items to a minimum
- Ensure most items can be purchased from high street retailers or supermarkets
- Provide access to second-hand uniform through a Sustainability Swap Shop
- Signpost families to low-cost purchasing options, including local pop-up shops

This reflects DfE expectations that: *"the purpose of the guidance is to ensure the cost of school uniform is reasonable and secures best value for money."*

Families experiencing financial difficulty or other barriers to meeting uniform expectations are encouraged to contact the school for support.

Arden Primary School recognises the environmental benefits of reusing and recycling uniform items and actively promotes the purchase and exchange of second-hand uniform wherever possible.

3. EQUALITY AND INCLUSION

This policy complies with the Equality Act 2010.

Arden Primary School will:

- Make reasonable adjustments where required (e.g. disability, medical needs)
- Respect religious and cultural dress requirements where possible
- Consider individual circumstances sensitively

The Governing Board has a duty to: *comply with the Equality Act 2010 and take into account key considerations such as safeguarding and the health and safety of pupils.*

4. SCHOOL UNIFORM EXPECTATIONS

4.1 Core uniform requirements

Pupils should wear:

- Royal blue sweatshirt, cardigan or fleece (logo optional)
- Plain white polo shirt or shirt
- Grey trousers or shorts
- Grey skirt or pinafore
- Blue and white gingham dress

Skirts and shorts should be an appropriate length and of a style which allows children to sit comfortably on the floor.

4.2 Footwear

- Pupils may wear either plain black shoes or plain black trainers with no visible logos or additional colours
- All pupils should bring a pair of named wellies for OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) to be kept in school

4.3 PE Kit

- Plain white t-shirt
- Plain black shorts
- Plain black jogging bottoms
- A pair of trainers
- No jewellery

4.4 Book bags and school bags

- Children do not need to bring lots of equipment to school. We do not have the space within classrooms or lockers to store large bags, and overflowing lockers pose a health and safety risk.
- Pupils require a book bag or a small rucksack and a drawstring bag for their PE kit which can remain in school.

4.5 Items not permitted

To ensure clarity and consistency, the following items are not part of the Arden Primary School uniform or PE kit and must **not** be worn:

- Cycling shorts
- Leggings
- Jeans or denim items
- Branded or logo sportswear
- Sandals or crocs
- Trainers (other than plain black trainers with no additional colours or logos)
- Shoes with platform soles or high heels

Please note: open or 'dolly' style shoes are not practical for outdoor play. Parents are asked to provide suitable footwear in line with our OPAL play provision.

5. APPEARANCE, JEWELLERY AND HAIR

5.1 Jewellery

For health and safety reasons:

- No bracelets, necklaces, rings or dangly earrings
- Only small stud earrings are permitted
- Earrings must be removed for PE

5.2 General appearance

The following are not permitted:

- Make up
- Nail varnish or false nails
- Large or unsafe accessories
- Visible body piercings (other than small stud earrings)

5.3 Hair and hairstyles

- Long hair must be tied back for health and safety and hygiene reasons
- Hair accessories should be small, plain, and in school colours (blue, white or grey)
- Hairstyles should be suitable for a primary school environment and should not include patterns shaved into the hair or brightly coloured dyes.

These expectations ensure that appearance:

- Does not cause distraction
- Supports safety and hygiene
- Maintains a consistent and inclusive environment

These expectations support a consistent, inclusive and non-competitive environment. They help reduce peer pressure associated with branded clothing and support equality between pupils, in line with Department for Education guidance that schools should consider uniform requirements which minimise costs and reduce pressure to wear expensive or heavily branded items.

6. NON-UNIFORM AND FLEXIBLE ARRANGEMENTS

Non-uniform days may be permitted at the discretion of the school. The school will ensure that expectations on these days remain:

- Appropriate
- Inclusive
- Free from discrimination

7. SUPPORT, EXCEPTIONS AND ADJUSTMENTS

If a family cannot comply with the uniform policy due to financial reasons, medical reasons or religious or cultural needs, they should make contact with the school. Support and adjustments will be considered fairly and sensitively.

8. IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS

Arden Primary School takes a supportive and proportionate approach to uniform expectations.

In line with Department for Education guidance, schools must ensure policies are applied fairly and reasonably, while promoting good behaviour and discipline.

8.1 The responsibility of parents

We believe that one of the responsibilities of parents is to ensure that their child has the correct uniform and PE kit, that it is clean, in good condition and that the child's name is written on all items. If a parent has difficulties for any reason with fulfilling this request, they are asked to speak confidentially to a member of the school's pastoral team to discuss the issues. Parents should be assured that we will do all we can to help.

We are pleased to offer parents the opportunity to purchase second-hand uniforms at various times throughout the year through our Sustainability Swap Shop. This initiative allows families to conveniently access affordable, quality school uniforms. We hope this provides a helpful solution for parents while also promoting sustainability within our community.

Children who arrive at school wearing non-school uniform clothing will be loaned an appropriate item from our nearly new stock to wear for that day. The same system will apply for children who do not have a PE kit. Parents will be contacted to discuss the matter to ascertain if there are any financial or other barriers to the correct uniform being worn.

8.2 Communication of Expectations

The uniform policy is communicated clearly to parents through the school website, induction materials and regular reminders in newsletters.

8.3 Responding to Breaches of Uniform Policy

Where a pupil does not meet uniform expectations, staff will respond sensitively and seek to understand the reason. Immediate support will be provided where appropriate so that the pupil can fully access learning.

Arden Primary School maintains a stock of uniform items, including footwear such as black shoes. These may be provided to pupils who arrive in incorrect or unsuitable clothing, ensuring that no child is excluded from learning time and that dignity is preserved.

Parents or carers will be informed of any concerns, either verbally or in writing. Communication will be supportive in tone and will aim to identify and address any barriers to meeting expectations. Where necessary, families will be given time to resolve issues and additional support will be offered, including access to the Sustainability Swap Shop (second-hand uniform) and guidance on low-cost options.

If concerns persist, further contact will be made with parents and a meeting may be arranged to agree next steps. This reflects the school's commitment to working in partnership with families and addressing concerns through supportive communication and early intervention.

8.4 Principles for Managing Non-Compliance

The school will always act fairly, consistently and with appropriate flexibility. No pupil will be disadvantaged due to financial difficulty, medical need or protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010.

Parents are expected to ensure their child attends school correctly dressed and ready for learning. The school will work in partnership with families to resolve any concerns in a supportive and respectful manner, in line with statutory expectations that parents are responsible for securing their child's education and schools should engage constructively with families to support attendance and behaviour.

8.5 Safeguarding and Inclusion

In all cases, the school will take into account safeguarding, wellbeing and individual circumstances. No child will be prevented from accessing education due to uniform issues alone where this would be unreasonable.

9. GOVERNANCE AND REVIEW

The Governing Board will monitor this policy through Headteacher reports, feedback from parents and pupils and monitoring visits.

This ensures the policy is fair, affordable and in line with statutory guidance.

10. SUPPORTING FAMILIES

Arden Primary School supports sustainability and affordability through a Sustainability Swap Shop (for second-hand uniform) and ensuring items required for school can be purchased in local high street retailers or supermarkets. This aligns with DfE expectations that schools should support access to second-hand uniform and cost-effective options.

11. THE ROLE OF GOVERNORS

The governing board supports the Headteacher in implementing the school uniform policy. It considers all requests from parents regarding the uniform policy and liaises with the Headteacher to ensure that the policy is implemented fairly and with sensitivity. **It is the Governing Board's responsibility** to ensure that the school uniform meets all regulations concerning equal opportunities. The Governing Body ensures that the school uniform policy enables children to dress sensibly in clothing that is hardwearing, safe and practical.

12. REFERENCES

Department for Education (2021), *School Uniform: Guidance for Schools*.

Department for Education, *Developing a School Uniform Policy*.

Department for Education, *Behaviour in Schools*.

Department for Education, *A Guide for Parents on School Behaviour and Exclusion*.

Education Act 1996.

Equality Act 2010.