



The Governors and Staff of Sissinghurst (VA) Church of England Primary School believe the policies and procedures we write help us to continuously improve the school and develop our pupils to become life-long learners and valuable citizens of the future.

Our School Vision

We are a strong ‘family’, passionate about providing creative and aspirational learning opportunities. We are courageous advocates for the planet, learning to speak out for others’ locally, nationally and globally. Rooted in the strength of God, we respect, cherish and nurture the unique abilities of each member of our community.

We are dedicated to providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. Our Christian values of:

Kindness Forgiveness Courage Service

Policy Title:	Uniform Policy
Date:	September 2023
Review Date:	September 2026
Agreed by:	

At Sissinghurst our vision is that we are a strong 'family', passionate about providing creative and aspirational learning opportunities for all. As part of this offer we have designed our uniform with a variety of options which do not specify the gender of the child and which are financially accessible to all. Where families may struggle to afford the school specific items we can offer support via our pupil premium offer. We are courageous advocates for the planet and as such we have an active secondhand uniform shop run by the FOSS and the school office to ensure that uniform can be recycled and reused, we aim to source uniform from providers who had a commitment to environmental sustainability see links on page 6. Rooted in the strength of God, we respect, cherish and nurture the unique abilities of each member of our community and as such we have a uniform to ensure that everyone can feel comfortable and ready to learn.

The Governing Body and school want to create a positive learning environment for all our children so that they may take full advantage of the opportunity to progress at school without being distracted by following our behaviour policy and uniform expectations.

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

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 all pupils to have long hair (though we reserve the right to ask for this to be tied back)
- Allow all pupils to style their hair in the way that is appropriate for school and meets the school's expectations as outlined below
- Allow pupils to request changes to swimwear for religious 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 understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as 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 the amount of items with distinctive characteristics where possible
- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost
- 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 with the exception of phasing in a new uniform
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents to acquire second-hand uniform
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents of any change
- Consulting with parents, pupils and governors on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy

Expectations for school uniform

- Royal blue cardigan or jumper with embroidered Sissinghurst Primary School logo
- Royal blue polo shirt with embroidered Sissinghurst Primary School logo or royal blue or white polo shirt without logo OR White short or long sleeved shirt with Sissinghurst Primary School tie (blue and yellow)
- Navy school uniform style pinafore, skirt, trousers or shorts
- Summer option – yellow checked gingham dress with white socks
- Navy socks or tights
- Alternative option – blue and yellow tartan pinafore or skirt (phased out from Sept 24)
- Summer option (when warmer weather)– yellow checked gingham dress with white socks
- Navy or black school shoes
- Blue and yellow hair ties
- Blue or black water proof trousers or blue or black water proof all in one (YR pupils only)

PE kit

- Royal blue PE top with Sissinghurst Primary School logo (phased out from Sept 24). To be replaced with plain house colour t shirts (red, blue, green, yellow)
- Royal blue or black shorts or navy jogging bottoms
- Navy or black hooded sweatshirt
- Additional socks
- Trainers

Farm and Forest School

- Blue or Black waterproof coat
- Blue or Black waterproof trousers
- Wellies
- Hat
- Gloves

Footwear

- Sensible, black 'school-type' shoes, with black soles should be worn, without high heels
- No boots to be worn. (Pupils will need to change from boots to black shoes if worn to school during severe weather.)
- Trainers are not acceptable for everyday wear but are required for PE
- Open toe sandals or shoes without backs are not allowed for safety reasons

Hair

- Pupils should not wear extreme hair fashions, which are designed to attract attention, including dyed or streaked hair, and styles such as spikes, mohicans and images or lines cut into the hair.
- Hair bands, clips etc. should be discreet designs in colours compatible with school colours and only used in order to keep hair in place
- The use of hair gels, waxes, oils, mousses and any other styling products is **not** allowed. This also helps with health & safety in PE because some of the styling products have been coming off onto the PE mats, causing them to have a slippery surface which is obviously dangerous for any child

Jewellery

- Jewellery or symbols, as part of a religious or cultural reason can be worn

Otherwise,

- Children are only permitted to wear one pair of small earring studs for health and safety reasons. Any logo or emblem as part of the earring is not allowed.
- Children are permitted to wear watches

Tattoos and body piercings are not allowed.

Make up and nail varnish are not allowed.

Pupils are expected to follow the same Dress Code with regard to footwear, hair and jewellery on non-uniform days.

Where to purchase our uniform:

The majority of our school uniform can be purchased in high street shops or supermarkets.

School specific logo uniform items can be purchased from Philip Mans Stores in Cranbrook:

<https://schools.phillips-mans-shops.co.uk/shop/sissinghurst-primary-school/>

Second hand uniform can be purchased from our PTA FOSS second-hand uniform shop. Please contact the school office for more information. The PTA also holds sales throughout the year.

Expectations for our school community

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
- 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)

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 office 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.

3. Staff

Staff will closely monitor pupils to make sure they are in the correct uniform.

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. Our pupil premium offer includes support with uniform and school shoes.