School uniform policy

LAWNSWOOD SCHOOL

Approved by:	Full Governing Body	**Date:** 3 October 2024
Last reviewed:	September 2026	
Next review due by:	September 2027	

Contents

1. Aims 3
2. Our school's legal duties under the Equality Act 2010 3
3. Limiting the cost of school uniform 3
4. Expectations for school uniform 4
5. Expectations for our school community 7
6. Monitoring arrangements 8
7. Links to other policies 8

1. 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

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 age, sex, disability, race, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity, and gender reassignment.

To avoid discrimination, our school will:

- 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 a way that is appropriate for school and makes them feel most comfortable
- Allow pupils to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons or if they are experiencing discomfort related to their sex, gender or gender reassignment
- Allow pupils to wear headscarves and/or other religious garments
- Allow pupils with sensory or physical needs to make reasonable adaptations to their uniform depending on their specific needs, following consultation with our SEND team
- Allow for reasonable adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents/carers to get in touch with Martin Truscott, who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis

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 (DfE) on the cost of school uniform.

We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that need 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/carers' 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 and/or long-lasting items, such as ties
- Considering cheaper alternatives to school-branded items, such as logos that can be ironed on, as long as this doesn't compromise quality and durability
- 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 leveller
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- Considering alternative methods for signalling differences in groups for interschool competitions, such as creating posters or labels
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents/carers to acquire second-hand uniform items
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents/carers of any changes
- Consulting with parents/carers 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

One of the ways we can ensure that our pupils are respected in the local and wider Leeds community is by encouraging them to dress appropriately for the school environment.

We need parents and carers to reinforce the need to maintain standards of dress for Lawnswood pupils.

All students must wear:

- Black blazer with embroidered school badge. Students must wear blazers at all times. It is not acceptable for pupils to keep their blazers in school bags.
- A formal **white** shirt with a stiff collar, designed to be worn with a tie. The shirt must be tucked inside trousers and have the top button fastened
- Correct school tie
- Formal **black** trousers or skirt. The trousers must be black and appropriately formal school trousers. Jeans, tracksuit bottoms, skintight trousers, leggings or combat trousers are unacceptable. The skirt must be black and appropriately formal.
- Students may wear dark colour ankle length socks or plain tights in black or flesh tones.
- The V neck school jumper (grey for KS3 and black for KS4) is **optional** and is **not** an alternative to wearing the school blazer.

- A black shalwar kameez or black hijab is also acceptable
- During warm weather, we advise pupils not to bring their jumper to school.
- Coats, sweatshirts, hooded garments, hats, gloves and scarves and large belts as a fashion item must not be worn inside the school. If seen, they will be confiscated and passed on to the pupil's Year Manager for return at the end of the school week.
- School shoes that are formal and a sensible style. They must be leather and entirely **black** with **black** laces: no boots, no stiletto heels, no shoes without backs, no pumps or trainers, no logo of any kind. Dark socks or plain tights in flesh/black tones should be worn. For examples of acceptable shoe styles, please see below.

Reminders:

Students should avoid extremes of personal appearance. This includes hair colouring and haircuts.

No excessive jewellery or make up is allowed. One small necklace, one ring, one bracelet, one pair of stud earrings are acceptable.

No facial piercings are allowed for safety reasons.

Mobile phones, iPods and other musical devices and their earphones are not allowed in school. If seen, they will be confiscated and passed to the relevant Year Manager.

PE Kit and Expectations

You must bring your full PE kit for every lesson. If for any reason you cannot take part in the practical element of the lesson, you must still bring your kit. This is to ensure that you can adopt the role of umpire, official or coach in order to remain fully involved in the lesson.

All Students
Red Lawnswood PE top
Black tracksuit bottoms, sports leggings, or shorts
Red and black socks
Trainers suitable for indoor sport (no Converse, or similar)
Boots or Astroturf trainers for outdoor lessons

Optional	
Lawnswood reversible rugby shirt	Lawnswood PE sweatshirt

4.2 Where to purchase it

Visit or contact our suppliers:

Whittakers, 3/5 Town Street Farsley, Leeds, LS28 5EN

Tel: 0113 256 6020
Online shop: https://www.whittakersschoolwear.co.uk/

Rawcliffes Schoolwear Centre, 617 Roundhay Road, Oakwood, Leeds LS8 4AR

Tel: 0113 249 4025

Email: customer.service@rawcliffesleeds.co.uk
Online shop: www.rawcliffesleeds.co.uk

Help with the cost of school uniform

Students who are eligible for pupil premium may be able to apply for a grant to help with the cost of school uniform.

A student who is entitled to pupil premium funding is entitled to apply for a Pupil Premium Grant. Eligibility criteria is determined by the Department for Education and may change. Current eligibility information is available on the government website (https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pupil-premium/pupil-premium) or from reception.

To apply, please contact student reception or visit the school website to access the application form. Please complete and return this form to your child's year manager, with receipts for uniform. If eligible for this grant, we will arrange for a payment to your bank account for up to the amount of £70.

If your child is not eligible for the pupil premium uniform grant, at Lawnswood we also offer a Sustainability Shop where we sell good-quality, freshly washed uniforms. We operate a 'pay as you feel' scheme, meaning you pay what you can afford.

There are some local school uniform swap shops available as well if you look on social media. Sites such as the Leeds School Uniform Exchange (which is part of Zero Waste Leeds), LS616 Community Uniform Exchange, and Uniform 4 All North West Leeds.

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
- 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)

Pupils are also expected to contact Martin Truscott, Deputy Headteacher, if they want to request an adaptation of 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/carers are also expected to contact Martin Truscott, Deputy Headteacher, if they want to request an adaptation of the uniform policy in relation to:

- Their child's protected characteristics
- The cost of the uniform

Parents/carers 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/carers 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 their parents/carers 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 by the Deputy Headteacher or Assistant Headteacher.

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/carers 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 by the Headteacher. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

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