Christchurch Learning Centre

School Uniform Policy

Approved by:	Mr P Gavin	**Date:**	Autumn 2026
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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 all 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, sexual orientation, disability, race, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity 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
- Make sure that our uniform costs the same for all pupils
- Allow all pupils to have long hair, although we reserve the right to ask that long hair 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
- Allow pupils to wear headscarves and/or other garments in order to uphold specific religious beliefs and practices
- Allow pupils with sensory or physical needs to make reasonable adaptations to their uniform, depending on their specific needs
- Allow for reasonable adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents/carers to get in touch with a member of staff, 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 uniforms.

We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that need to have a school logo attached or be in a unique fabric or style) cannot be purchased from a wide range of retailers, and that requiring many such items limits parents/carers' ability to shop around for the best price.

We will therefore make sure our uniform:

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

We will do this by:

- Limiting compulsory branded uniform items to one item: the CLC jumper.
- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary, and limiting these items where possible.
- Limiting compulsory branded items to low-cost and/or long-lasting items.
- Considering cheaper alternatives to compulsory branded items, such as logos that can be ironed on, as long as this does not compromise quality and durability
- Avoiding specific requirements for items such as coats, bags and shoes/trainers that pupils could also wear on non-school days. See more information in section 4.1
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities including (but not limited to) sport, music and drama
- Avoiding requiring different branded items for particular times of the year, such as a branded dress in summer and a branded skirt in winter

- Considering alternative methods for signaling differences in groups for interschool competitions.
- Considering alternative approaches, including loaning compulsory items such as sports kit for competitions.
- Making sure that opportunities to acquire second-hand items in a timely manner are accessible to parents and carers of both current and prospective pupils.
- 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 uniform in line with the school's complaints policy
- Avoiding single-supplier contracts, to make sure generic items can be purchased from a range of retailers
- Continuing to review this policy, to ensure the cost of our uniform is reasonable and provides the best value for money

4. Expectations for school uniform

4.1 The CLC uniform consists of:

- White or blue shirt/blouse – that comply with uniform requirements of mainstream schools.
- Black or grey trousers/skirt – that comply with uniform requirements of mainstream schools.
- Black footwear
- CLC branded jumper

The CLC jumper is the only compulsory branded item. All pupils are provided with a complimentary CLC jumper upon admission.

All uniform should be suitable for the school environment, fit for purpose and provide appropriate coverage.

PE Kit

Pupils should wear:

- Black shorts or jogging bottoms
- Plain white T-Shirt
- Suitable trainers

The following items are not considered suitable clothing:

Jeans or ripped clothing, cropped, low cut or excessively revealing tops: very short skirts or shorts; clothing displaying offensive or inappropriate wording, images or logos; sliders, open toed foot wear or high heels: and any clothing or footwear that presents a health and safety risk. This list is not exhaustive.

Safety and practical Activities

For health and safety reasons, pupils may be required to remove coats, hoodies, bags, tie back long hair and remove or secure jewelry, piercings or other items where these could present a safety risk. This may include subject areas such as: PE, Food Technology and other practical activities. Any requirements or individual requests will be appropriate to the activity and individual circumstances.

Outdoor and specialist activities

Pupils should wear clothing and footwear that is appropriate and safe for the activity being undertaken. For those pupils engaging with our Duke of Edinburgh activities, CLC may be able to provide access to the required clothing and equipment subject to availability and appropriate sizing.

4.2 Where to purchase or acquire it

Generic uniform items including shirts/blouses trousers/skirts, PE kit and footwear, can be purchased from a range of clothing retailers and/ or supermarkets.

Pupils are provided with one CLC jumper upon induction. Replacement jumpers can be purchased through the school office. Where cost may present a barrier parents /carers are encouraged to speak to a member of staff so that appropriate support can be considered.

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 a member of staff 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 ensure that their child arrives to school in the correct uniform and PE kit, ready to engage with learning. Collaboration between school and parents will ensure pupils have a positive start to the day without unnecessary barriers or challenge. Parents and carers should also strive to ensure that every item is:

- In accordance with our uniform policy and expectations
- Laundered regularly to avoid uniform breaches or cleanliness related concerns
- Clearly labelled with the child's name
- In good condition

Parents/carers are also expected to contact a member of staff 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/carers are expected to lodge any complaints or objections relating to the school uniform in a timely and reasonable manner in accordance with the school's complaints policy.

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 families breaching the uniform policy the opportunity to comply, but will follow up with the Senior Leadership Team if the situation does not improve.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with in accordance with our 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 and the pupil will not miss classroom teaching because of a sanction. This is in line with the statutory guidance.

5.4 Governors

The Management Committee will review this policy to ensure 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 Management Committee 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 every two years by the Headteacher or sooner if there are changes to legislation or statutory guidance. Following each review, the policy will be approved by the Management Committee.

7. Read in conjunction with

This policy should be read in conjunction with our:

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