

BARKER'S LANE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

School Uniform & Appearance Policy

All children are encouraged to wear and respect their school uniform as proud members of Barker's Lane Community School. We have an expectation of good standards of appearance and tidy dress, and personal presentation. The governors' policy is that costs are kept to a minimum with high priority given to affordability.

It is our school policy that all children are encouraged to wear school uniform when attending school, or when participating in a school-organised event outside normal school hours. We provide a list of the items for school uniform in our school prospectus, and offer good quality items of recycled uniform.

Aims and objectives

Our policy is based on the notion that school uniform:

- promotes a sense of pride in the school, supporting and promoting our ethos;
- engenders a sense of identity, community and cohesion within school;
- supports positive behaviour and a sense of respect;
- is practical and smart, ensuring children are dressed appropriately for learning activities;
- helps reduce inequalities between children
- removes peer pressure to dress in particular fashions;
- enables all children of all backgrounds to share in a common identity, which embraces their particular requirements;
- is good value for money with costs that are reasonable and affordable;
- is designed with safeguarding in mind.

Uniform

Nursery – Year 2

Royal blue sweatshirt / cardigan / zip up hoodie with a pale blue or white polo shirt. Black joggers or leggings, grey school trousers, grey shorts or grey skirt. Black shoes or plain black trainers suitable for outdoor play.

Year 3 – Year 6

Royal blue sweatshirt / cardigan / zip up hoodie with a pale blue or white polo shirt / white shirt and school tie. Grey school trousers, shorts or grey skirt. Black shoes or plain black trainers suitable for outdoor learning /play.

In warmer weather, children may also wear a blue and white checked dress if you so wish.

Some items of school uniform can be embroidered with the school logo. This is not compulsory.

Uniform Recycling Scheme

A school uniform recycling scheme is operated. This not only supports with reduced costs of uniform but also extends the life of garments, encourages environmental

sustainability and the wider benefits of this. The school office regularly advertise items of uniform available and sizes. Parents and carers are encouraged to donate any unwanted items of uniform to school for school to recycle for other families.

Physical activity / P.E. is an important part of school life, assisting with general health and the wellbeing of young people.

For indoor activities children are encouraged to wear black shorts and blue T-shirts. Bare feet for gym and dance.

For outdoor games / activities, children wear black shorts and blue T-shirts, plimsolls or trainers (change of socks). A tracksuit or jogging suit with trainers is required in colder weather.

Parents are given sufficient notice of any outdoor activity or visit which requires specific items of clothing, for example Y4-6 children may require long blue socks and shin pads for football and hockey.

Parents are respectfully asked and regularly reminded to label all items of clothing / footwear.

Extreme Weather

In the event of extreme weather, the policy may be relaxed by the headteacher. For example, in very hot weather, wearing P.E kits / lighter weight clothing or in very cold weather, additional layers or bringing alternative footwear.

Any changes of this nature are communicated to parents through the usual school communication channels.

Jewellery

For health and safety reasons we do not allow children to wear jewellery in our school. The exceptions to this rule are small stud ear-rings in pierced ears and watches. We ask the children to remove these during PE and games.

Footwear

We want all children to grow into healthy adults. We believe that it is dangerous for children to wear shoes that have platform soles or high heels, so we do not allow children to wear such shoes in our school. We also consider flimsy sandals, 'jelly' or foam shoes inappropriate footwear for school.

We encourage all children to wear black / dark coloured shoes. Trainers are not suitable to be worn all day to school. Older children may bring trainers for breaktime, which can be housed in their locker if they so wish.

Hairstyles

Extreme hair fashions are discouraged and not acceptable for school. These will be discussed with parents if the need arises. Hair decorations such as fabric plaits can be dangerous and should not be worn. Long hair should be tied back neatly. We ask for the full support of parents in these matters.

The role of parents

We ask all parents who choose to send their children to our school to support the school uniform policy. We believe that parents have a duty to send their children to school correctly dressed and ready for their daily schoolwork. One of the

responsibilities of parents is to ensure that their child has the correct uniform, and that it is clean and in good repair.

Financial Support

Financial support for families on lower incomes and qualify for certain benefits is available towards the cost of school uniform, sports kit, equipment and laptops / digital devices.

Information about this is publicised on the school website and in the school prospectus.

Equality

The school welcomes children regardless of sex, race, religion, belief or disability. If there are reasons, for example on religious grounds, why parents want their child to wear clothes that differ from the school uniform, the governing body will act reasonably in accordance with such requests. The school will also discuss possible temporary / permanent medical reasons for such requests. The headteacher will discuss such requests with parents.

The role of the headteacher

The headteacher has overall responsibility for the day-to-day running of the school, including upholding the school uniform policy.

The headteacher will decide what action to take when pupils infringe the school uniform and appearance policy. The headteacher will always try to establish why a pupil is not complying with school policy on a case by case basis and for example, will offer to loan items of uniform. Where, and when appropriate the headteacher may contact parents / carers to take a pupil home to change into uniform. This would not be deemed as an exclusion.

The role of governors

The governing body supports the headteacher in implementing the school uniform policy. It considers all representations 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 governors' responsibility to ensure that the school uniform meets all regulations concerning equal opportunities.

Governors ensure that the school uniform policy helps children to dress sensibly, in clothing that is hardwearing, safe and practical.

Complaints

Complaints about school uniform and appearance codes / policies are dealt with in accordance with the governing body complaints procedure.

Monitoring and review

This policy was reviewed in June 2024 It will be reviewed when necessary.