

Richard Atkins Primary School

School Uniform Policy



**Inspiring Curiosity and
the Courage to Succeed**

Date Approved:	30th September 2026
Approved by Chair:	
Approved by Headteacher:	
Review Date:	Autumn 2027

1. Introduction

Within our school we strive to provide an atmosphere which promotes excellence, integrity, growth, courage, empowerment, curiosity and a celebration of the achievements of all our pupils. Our concern for these high standards is also reflected in the pride we take in our school uniform and the feeling of belonging it creates.

It is our school policy that all pupils wear school uniform when attending school or when participating in a school organised event outside of normal school hours.

The uniform is part of our school ethos and in coming to Richard Atkins Primary School, parents agree to support our policy.

Our policy for uniform is based on the belief that school uniform:

- Promotes a sense of pride in the school and it has a positive impact on behaviour and attitudes in school
- Develops a sense of community and belonging towards the school
- Identifies children with our school when taking part in out of school educational activities and visits
- Is practical and looks smart
- Makes children feel equal to others in terms of appearance
- Is not distracting in class (as fashion clothes can be)
- Is regarded as suitable wear for school
- Is designed with health and safety in mind
- **Provides value for money for families**
- **Is affordable and accessible for all families**

2. Richard Atkins Uniform

Daily Uniform

Tops:

- White shirt/blouse or white or purple polo shirt (with or without school logo)
- Grey jumper or cardigan with school logo
- Purple tie

Bottoms:

- Grey skirt, trousers or shorts
- Purple and white gingham dress (summer term)

Headwear:

- Plain black or grey hijab (if worn)

Footwear:

- Black school shoes (plain and of a type suitable for school - no trainers and no heels. There are lots of stairs in the school and shoes need to be both comfortable and safe)

Hosiery:

- Grey socks or tights (plain)

All pupils may choose from any of the uniform options listed above, regardless of gender.

3. PE and Games Kit

- Plain white T-shirt (with or without school logo)
- Black shorts, leggings or tracksuit bottoms
- Trainers or plimsolls

All pupils are required to change into suitable clothes for physical activities. This is to ensure their safety as well as for hygiene purposes.

4. School Bag

- Grey book bag or rucksack (with or without school logo)

Remember to mark any clothing with names. The school cannot accept any responsibility for misplaced clothing but, if clothing is clearly marked, will make every effort to see lost items are returned.

Please reduce the 'risks' by ensuring that every garment or piece of clothing (including footwear) is clearly marked with your child's name.

5. Uniform Costs and Value for Money

We are committed to ensuring that our school uniform is affordable and provides the best value for money for families.

Branded Items

In line with DfE statutory guidance, we have limited the number of compulsory branded items to ensure affordability:

Compulsory branded items:

- Grey jumper or cardigan with school logo

Optional branded items (non-branded alternatives are acceptable):

- Polo shirts (white or purple plain polo shirts without logo are acceptable)
- PE T-shirts (plain white T-shirts without logo are acceptable)
- School bags (any grey book bag or rucksack is acceptable)

This means families only need to purchase **one compulsory branded item** - the school jumper or cardigan.

Where to Purchase Uniform

Branded items:

- WearAbouts, 358 Norwood Road, London, SE27 9AA

Non-branded items: Can be purchased from any retailer, including supermarkets and high street stores.

Estimated Costs

The approximate cost of a complete uniform is:

- **Compulsory branded jumper/cardigan:** £13.99
- **Non-branded items (shirts from £3.00, trousers/skirts from £7.00, shoes from £7.00)**
- **Purple Tie:** £3.99
- **Total estimated cost: £34.98**

PE kit (all non-branded acceptable): £10.00

Second-Hand Uniform

We operate a second-hand uniform scheme to help families access affordable uniform. Second-hand uniform is available from:

- The school office

Donations of good quality, clean uniform are always welcome.

Financial Support

If you are experiencing financial difficulty in purchasing uniform, please contact the headteacher or school office in confidence. We may be able to provide support through:

- Access to second-hand uniform

6. Jewellery

For health and safety reasons we do not allow children to wear jewellery in school. The exceptions to this rule are:

- One pair of plain ear-ring studs in pierced ears
- A watch (not smart watch)

Stud ear-rings should be removed, or recently pierced ears should be taped over with a plaster (provided by parents) for PE and swimming. Watches must be removed to prevent them causing injury.

Please be aware that, for health and safety reasons, staff are not permitted to put ear studs back into a pupil's ear if a child cannot manage it by themselves.

Note: If a pupil is wearing inappropriate jewellery, they will be asked to remove it and hand it in to the office where it can be reclaimed at the end of the day.

7. Hair

We want all pupils to feel comfortable and confident in school, and we celebrate the diversity of our school community.

Hair Styles

- All hairstyles are acceptable, including those worn for cultural, religious or ethnic reasons
- We do not discriminate against any hairstyle, including Afro-textured hair worn in natural or protective styles

- Extreme styles (such as shaved patterns or unnatural colours) should be avoided as they can be distracting in the learning environment

Hair Accessories

- Hair accessories should be simple and in school colours (grey, white or purple) where possible
- Large, decorative or distracting accessories should be avoided

Health and Safety

- All pupils with long hair, irrespective of gender, are required to have their hair tied back for PE, DT and cookery lessons for safety reasons

We are committed to the Halo Code and will not discriminate against any pupil based on their hair texture or protective hairstyle.

8. Make-up

Make-up is not acceptable under any circumstances, including nail varnish. Fake tattoos are also not appropriate at school and must be removed without trace. Any pupil coming to school with make-up, nail varnish or fake tattoos will be asked to remove them immediately.

9. Inclusion and Equality

We have carefully considered and analysed the impact of this policy on equality and the possible implications for pupils with protected characteristics, as part of our commitment to meet the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) requirement to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

Equal Access

All children have equal access to wearing school uniform regardless of their race, religion, gender, gender identity, disability or ability. We ensure that the school uniform respects other policies such as equality policy and takes into consideration the needs of all groups and individuals.

Gender Identity

All pupils may choose from any of the uniform options listed in this policy, regardless of their gender or gender identity. We do not have gender-specific uniform requirements.

Religious and Cultural Needs

We welcome and respect religious and cultural dress requirements. Pupils may wear:

- Hijabs, turbans or other religious headwear (in plain black or grey where possible)
- Modest clothing in line with religious requirements (using the school colours and styles outlined in this policy)

If you have specific religious or cultural uniform requirements not covered in this policy, please contact the headteacher to discuss.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

We recognise that some pupils with SEND may find certain uniform items uncomfortable, restrictive or distressing. We will work with families to make reasonable adjustments where needed, which may include:

- Allowing alternative fabrics or styles
- Permitting trainers instead of shoes for medical or sensory reasons
- Flexibility around specific items that cause distress

If your child has SEND and requires adjustments to the uniform policy, please contact the headteacher or SENCo to discuss.

Financial Hardship

We are committed to ensuring that uniform costs do not create barriers to accessing education. Please see Section 5 for information about financial support and second-hand uniform.

Richard Atkins Primary School is committed to creating a positive climate that will enable everyone to work free from racial intimidation and harassment and to achieve their full potential.

10. Roles and Responsibilities

The Headteacher:

- Implements and monitors the policy throughout the school community as part of the duty within maintenance of day-to-day discipline in the school
- Has overall responsibility for ensuring standards are maintained
- Is responsible for any measures required for failing to follow the uniform rules, always considering individual circumstances and equality duties
- Issues letters to parents/carers as required
- Makes reasonable adjustments for pupils with SEND or other needs
- Ensures the policy provides value for money and is affordable for all families

The Governing Body:

- Authorises and approves the school uniform policy
- Ensures that the school uniform meets all regulations concerning equal opportunities and the Equality Act 2010
- Ensures that the school uniform policy helps pupils to dress sensibly, in clothing that is hardwearing, safe and practical
- Ensures the policy complies with DfE statutory guidance on uniform costs, including limits on compulsory branded items
- 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
- Reviews the policy annually to ensure it remains affordable and fit for purpose

Parents/Carers:

- Support the school uniform policy
- Ensure pupils come properly dressed and ready for their daily schoolwork every day
- Ensure all items of clothing are clearly named – this helps lost items to be easily identified and returned
- Contact the school if there are difficulties in meeting uniform requirements

- Raise any complaints about the school uniform by following the school complaints procedure

Pupils:

- Wear the school uniform when attending school, representing the school or when participating in a school organised event outside normal school hour
- Wear the school uniform with pride
- Try to keep their uniform clean and tidy
- Remember to bring their PE kit on the correct days

11. Non-Compliance with the School Uniform Policy

We understand that there may be occasions when pupils are unable to wear full school uniform due to unavoidable circumstances. We will always take a sensitive and supportive approach.

First Instance

If a pupil is not in uniform, a member of staff will discreetly talk to them to find out why and to remind them of the need to wear uniform. We understand that there may be exceptional and unavoidable situations (such as lost or damaged uniform), and we ask parents to contact us on the day to confirm the reason.

If necessary, we will contact parents/carers to bring suitable uniform to school.

Ongoing Issues

If uniform issues continue, we will:

1. Send a reminder letter home to parents/carers
2. Contact parents/carers to discuss the situation and offer support
3. Work with families to identify and resolve any barriers (such as financial difficulties or SEND needs)

Persistent Non-Compliance

In cases of persistent non-compliance without reasonable explanation, the headteacher will:

1. Meet with parents/carers in person to discuss the situation
2. Send a formal letter if the issue continues

Exclusion is not normally an appropriate response to breaches of school uniform policy. However, where breaches are persistent and in open defiance of the school's uniform policy, and where all other avenues have been exhausted, then the school may consider exclusion as a last resort depending on the circumstances of the case.

We will always consider individual circumstances, equality duties, and the best interests of the child before taking any action.

12. Complaints

If you have concerns about the uniform policy or its implementation, please:

1. Speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance
2. Contact the headteacher if the issue is not resolved

3. Follow the school's formal complaints procedure if necessary

13. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the governing body in consultation with the headteacher, staff, parents/carers and pupils. The review will include:

- Analysis of uniform costs and value for money
- Feedback from the school community
- Assessment of equality impact
- Compliance with DfE statutory guidance

Policy approved: 30th September 2026

Next review date: Autumn 2027

Appendix 1: First Reminder Letter

Date:

Dear Parent/Carer,

We noticed that your child in Class was not wearing their school uniform in school today.

Please help your child by ensuring they bring to school in the future.

I am sure you will appreciate the many advantages of wearing school uniform as listed in our school uniform policy, both for you and your child in school.

If there are any difficulties in providing uniform, please do not hesitate to contact the school office. We may be able to help with access to second-hand uniform or other support.

Thank you for your support.

Yours faithfully,
Claudia Fleary-Tayabali
Headteacher

Appendix 2: Follow-Up Letter

Date:

Dear Parent/Carer,

We noticed that your child in Class was not wearing their school uniform in school today.

I am sure you will appreciate the many advantages of wearing school uniform as listed in our school uniform policy, both for you and your child in school.

As our policy states:

'Within our school we strive to provide an atmosphere which promotes excellence, integrity, growth, courage, empowerment, curiosity and a celebration of the achievements of all our pupils. Our concern for these high standards is also reflected in the pride we take in our school uniform and the feeling of belonging it creates'.

We would therefore be very grateful if you could make sure that your child is dressed appropriately every school day.

If there is any problem preventing you from ensuring your child wears school uniform, please do not hesitate to contact the school to make an appointment to discuss the situation. We are here to support you and may be able to help with:

- Access to second-hand uniform
- Information about where to purchase affordable uniform items
- Other support that may be available

We would hope to be of help in supporting you and your child in fulfilling our requirements.

Thank you for your support.

Yours faithfully,

Claudia Fleary-Tayabali
Headteacher