



Maritime
Academy
Trust



School Uniform Policy

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1. Aims

This policy aims to:

- Set out our approach to requiring a school uniform that is affordable, practical and offers good value for money for parents and carers.
- Explain how we will avoid unlawful discrimination and meet our duties under the Equality Act 2010.
- Clarify our expectations for school uniform, including which items are compulsory and which branded items are optional.
- Ensure uniform requirements support pupils' comfort, inclusion, attendance and participation in school life.
- Support active play and Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) throughout the year.

2. Our school's legal duties under the Equality Act 2010

The Equality Act 2010 prohibits unlawful discrimination because of protected characteristics. The school will ensure that its uniform policy is applied fairly and will consider reasonable adjustments and adaptations where required.

To avoid discrimination and support inclusion, our school will:

- Apply uniform expectations fairly to all pupils.

- Allow all pupils to have long hair, while reserving the right to ask for it to be tied back where this is necessary for health, safety or participation in an activity.
- Respect hairstyles associated with race, culture or religion and allow pupils to style their hair in a way that is appropriate for school and enables them to feel comfortable.
- Allow pupils to wear appropriate religious or cultural clothing, head coverings and symbols.
- Consider adaptations to PE and swimming clothing for religious, cultural, SEND, disability, medical or sensory needs.
- Consider reasonable requests for adaptations to the uniform policy on an individual basis.

Parents and carers who believe their child requires an adjustment should contact the school office. Requests will be considered sensitively and in accordance with the school's legal duties.

3. Limiting the cost of school uniform

Our school has a duty to make sure that the uniform we require is affordable and provides good value for money. We have regard to the Department for Education's statutory guidance on the cost of school uniform.

We understand that branded items and items with distinctive characteristics can restrict parents' ability to shop around. A branded item may include an item displaying the school or Trust logo, or an item with a distinctive design or specification that means it can only realistically be purchased from a particular supplier or limited range of suppliers.

From 1 September 2026, Featherby Infant and Junior Schools will require no more than three compulsory branded items of school uniform and PE kit across the school year.

The limit applies to branded items required for general school use, travel to and from school, lessons, clubs and other school-facilitated activities. Optional branded items may continue to be available, but a generic alternative will be permitted where the branded version is not compulsory.

We will make sure our uniform:

- Is available at a reasonable cost.
- Provides good value for money for parents and carers.
- Is practical, durable and, where possible, sustainable.
- Can be purchased from a range of retailers wherever possible.

We will do this by:

- Keeping compulsory branded items to a minimum and within the statutory limit.
- Clearly identifying which items are compulsory, optional and/or branded.
- Carefully considering whether items with distinctive characteristics are necessary.
- Allowing generic alternatives wherever possible.
- Avoiding unnecessary requirements for branded coats, bags, footwear or PE items.
- Considering both the cost of individual items and the total cost of the uniform, including where families may reasonably need more than one of an item.

- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact of any necessary changes.
- Making arrangements for parents and carers to acquire second-hand uniform and publishing clear information about these arrangements on the school website.
- Consulting parents, carers and pupils where significant changes to the uniform policy are proposed.

Families experiencing difficulty meeting the cost of uniform are encouraged to contact the school. Uniform difficulties should not become a barrier to attendance or participation. Where uniform difficulties are affecting, or may affect, a pupil's attendance, staff will work sensitively with the pupil and family to identify an appropriate solution.

4. Expectations for school uniform

4.1 Our school's uniform

Junior School (Years 3 to 6)

Winter

- Black or grey skirt or trousers
- White collared shirt or blouse
- School tie
- Royal blue sweatshirt or royal blue cardigan (with or without the school logo)
- Black shoes

Summer

- Black or grey skirt, shorts or trousers
- White polo shirt or white collared shirt or blouse (tie optional)
- Blue and white gingham dress
- Royal blue sweatshirt or royal blue cardigan (with or without the school logo)
- Black shoes

Infant School (Nursery to Year 2)

Winter

- Black or grey skirt or trousers
- White polo shirt
- Royal blue sweatshirt or royal blue cardigan (with or without the school logo)
- Black shoes

Summer

- Black or grey skirt, shorts or trousers
- White polo shirt
- Blue and white gingham dress
- Royal blue sweatshirt or royal blue cardigan (with or without the school logo)
- Black shoes

Unless this policy expressly states that an item must be branded, families may purchase an appropriate generic item from a retailer of their choice. Royal blue sweatshirts and cardigans may be worn with or without the Featherby Infant and Junior Schools logo.

4.2 Shoes

Shoes should, as far as possible, be flat, sturdy, comfortable and suitable for walking, running and outdoor play. High-heeled footwear or footwear that presents an identifiable health and safety risk is not permitted. If children wear alternative footwear to school because of severe weather, they may bring appropriate school footwear to change into.

Reasonable adjustments to footwear requirements will be considered where required because of SEND, disability, medical, sensory, religious or other individual needs.

4.3 P.E. and Games

- Plain black or blue shorts
- Plain white T-shirt
- Trainers

When the weather requires, children may wear plain jogging bottoms and a jumper, sweatshirt or hoodie over their PE kit for warmth, preferably in blue, black or grey.

PE clothing does not need to carry the school logo and may be purchased from any retailer.

Where a pupil requires an adaptation to PE clothing because of religious, cultural, SEND, disability, medical or sensory needs, parents and carers should contact the school so that an appropriate arrangement can be agreed.

4.4 Miscellaneous

- Jewellery should not normally be worn other than plain stud earrings and items worn for religious, cultural or medical reasons.
- Children from the Sikh community may wear a kara in accordance with their faith.
- Where jewellery creates a specific safety risk during PE, sport or another activity, the school will work with the pupil and family to manage the risk appropriately.
- Make-up is not normally appropriate for primary-aged pupils and should not be worn unless agreed as part of an individual adjustment or a specific school activity.
- Nail varnish and artificial or acrylic nails should not normally be worn to school because they may create practical or safety difficulties during some activities.
- Sun hats may be worn in warm weather and appropriate warm headwear may be worn in cold weather.
- Religious head coverings, including the hijab, are permitted.
- Hair accessories should be practical and suitable for school; plain black, blue or white accessories are encouraged.

4.5 Swimming Kit

Children participating in swimming lessons should bring suitable swimming clothing and a towel. Swimming hats must be worn where required by the swimming venue.

The school will accommodate appropriate adaptations to swimming clothing for religious, cultural, SEND, disability, medical or other individual needs. The use of goggles and the management or removal of jewellery will be determined in accordance with the swimming venue's current health and safety requirements and the needs of individual pupils.

4.6 OPAL - Outdoor Play and Learning

Featherby Infant and Junior Schools is committed to high-quality Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL). Children are encouraged to make full use of the outdoor environment throughout the year and in a range of weather conditions. Outdoor play may include running, climbing, digging, building, exploring, imaginative play and playing with natural materials. Children may therefore become wet, muddy or dirty during normal outdoor play.

To support participation in OPAL, children should have access to:

- A suitable waterproof coat.
- Wellington boots or other suitable waterproof outdoor footwear, which may be kept at school and should be clearly named.

Depending on the weather, families may also wish to provide:

- Waterproof trousers or a puddle suit.
- A change of clothes.
- A sun hat.
- A warm hat and gloves.
- Other suitable weather protection.

OPAL clothing and footwear does not need to be school-branded and may be purchased from any retailer. Families are not expected to purchase expensive specialist outdoor clothing. All items brought into school should be clearly labelled where possible.

The school will seek to ensure that OPAL remains accessible to every child. Families experiencing difficulty providing suitable outdoor clothing or footwear should contact the school so that appropriate support can be considered, including access to suitable donated or second-hand items where available.

4.7 Where to purchase uniform

Generic uniform items may be purchased from supermarkets, high-street shops, online retailers or other suitable uniform suppliers, provided they meet the colours and descriptions in this policy.

Families wishing to purchase a Featherby Infant and Junior Schools logo jumper, school tie or other optional logo items may purchase them from:

Uniformbase

11 Railway Street

Chatham

ME4 4HU

Telephone: 01634 407217

Website: <https://uniformbase.co.uk/>

The availability of a branded version of an item does not make that branded version compulsory unless this policy expressly identifies it as compulsory.

4.8 Second-hand uniform

Featherby Infant and Junior Schools will make arrangements for families to access good-quality second-hand uniform. Information explaining how families can obtain

second-hand items and donate unwanted uniform will be made available to current and prospective parents and carers and published on the school website.

Families are encouraged to donate clean uniform in good condition that children have outgrown. Where available, the school may also facilitate the reuse of suitable OPAL clothing, coats and wellington boots.

5. Expectations for our school community

5.1 Pupils

Pupils are expected to wear the correct uniform at appropriate times, other than specified non-uniform days, while:

- On the school premises
- Travelling to and from school
- At out-of-school events or trips organised by the school, or when representing the school, where uniform is required

A pupil will not be prevented from attending school solely because they do not have the correct uniform or PE kit. Where a pupil is not wearing the expected uniform, staff will consider the circumstances before taking further action, including financial hardship, SEND or sensory needs, disability or medical needs, religion or belief, cultural requirements and temporary family circumstances.

5.2 Parents and carers

Parents and carers are expected, where reasonably possible, to make sure their child has the appropriate uniform and PE kit and that items are:

- Clean
- Clearly labelled with the child's name wherever possible
- In good condition

Parents and carers should contact the school if they are experiencing difficulty with the cost of uniform, require information about second-hand uniform, or believe their child requires an adjustment to the uniform policy.

Complaints or objections relating to school uniform should be raised in a timely and reasonable manner and will be dealt with in accordance with the school's complaints policy. The school will work closely with families to seek a mutually acceptable outcome.

5.3 Staff

Staff will apply the uniform policy fairly, consistently and sensitively. Where children are frequently not in school uniform, staff will seek to understand the circumstances. Where financial hardship or another barrier is suspected, staff will take a mindful and considerate approach and work with the family to resolve the situation.

Uniform issues should not unnecessarily prevent a pupil from accessing learning, PE, OPAL, school trips or other aspects of school life. Any response to repeated or deliberate breaches of reasonable uniform expectations will be proportionate and consistent with the school's Behaviour Policy.

5.4 Local Academy Council

The Local Academy Council 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, comfortable and safe for all pupils.
- Supports equality, inclusion and attendance.
- Keeps compulsory branded items within the statutory limit and gives high priority to affordability and value for money.

The Local Academy Council will also make sure that the school's uniform supplier arrangements give the highest priority to cost and value for money, including quality, durability and sustainability, and that supplier arrangements are reviewed regularly.

6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed regularly and whenever there is a significant change to relevant legislation, statutory guidance, school uniform requirements or the school's circumstances.

At each review, the school will consider:

- The overall cost of the uniform and the cost of individual items.
- The number and necessity of compulsory branded items.
- Whether generic alternatives are available.
- The accessibility of second-hand uniform.
- Equality and reasonable adjustment considerations.
- Whether uniform requirements are affecting attendance or participation.
- The suitability of clothing for PE and OPAL.
- Feedback from pupils, parents and carers.

The policy will be approved in accordance with Maritime Academy Trust and Featherby Infant and Junior Schools' governance arrangements and the current version will be published on the school website.

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

- Behaviour Policy
- Equality Information and Objectives
- Complaints Policy
- Attendance Policy
- SEND Policy
- Health and Safety Policy