

# School Uniform Policy



## Aims and objectives

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

- Promotes a sense of pride in our school.
- Helps to create a sense of community and belonging.
- Identifies the children with the school.
- Supports our commitment to inclusion.
- Prevents children from wearing 'fashion clothes' that could be distracting in class.
- Is practical, and designed with health and safety in mind.

## Expectations

We expect all children and parents to comply with this uniform policy, which will be monitored. Where a pupil falls short of these requirements, parents will be notified. Continued failure to comply will be brought to the attention of the Head Teacher and parents will be invited in to try to find a resolution.

## Legal Duties under the Equality Act 2010

The Equality Act 2010 prohibits discrimination against an individual based on the protected characteristics, which include sex, race, religion or belief, and gender reassignment.

To avoid discrimination, Regent Farm First School will:

- Avoid listing uniform items based on gender, to give all pupils the opportunity to wear the uniform they feel most comfortable in or that most reflects their self-identified gender.
- 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 for learning or safety reasons).
- Allow pupils to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons.
- Allow pupils to wear headscarves and other discrete religious or cultural symbols.
- Allow for adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents to get in touch with the Headteacher, who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests.

## The Role of Parents

We believe that one of the responsibilities of parents is to ensure that their child has the correct uniform and PE kit, and that the child's name is written on all items. We ask for parents to support the school in applying this uniform policy consistently.

This policy has considered the Equality Act 2010. If any parent would like the school to modify the uniform policy, they should make representation, in the first instance, to the Head Teacher. The school welcomes children from all backgrounds and faith communities. If there are serious reasons, for example religious objections, why parents want their child to wear clothes that differ from the school uniform, the school will sympathetically consider such requests. Similarly, should an item of school uniform prove problematic for a pupil with disabilities, then parents are invited to draw this to the attention of the Head Teacher. Parents are expected to lodge any complaints or objections relating to the school uniform in a timely and reasonable manner, in line with our complaints policy. Disputes about school uniform will be resolved locally and dealt with in accordance with our school's complaints policy. The school will work closely with parents to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

## The Role of Governors

The governing body supports the Head Teacher in implementing the School Uniform Policy. It

considers all representations from parents regarding the uniform policy and liaises with the Head Teacher 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 enables children to dress sensibly, in clothing that is hardwearing, safe and practical.

### **Where to buy School uniform**

Branded school uniform can be purchased from Tots to Teams, in Kingston Park (details are available from the office or school website). Parents do not need to purchase all items from here but we do expect a jumper or cardigan with the school logo to be worn. All other elements can be purchased from a wide range of retailers.



### Uniform

- Regent Farm First School sweatshirt or cardigan *Available from Tots to Teams*
- White polo shirt
- Grey or black trousers, shorts, skirt or pinafore (leggings are not allowed)
- Blue summer gingham dress
- Black school shoes (please only send lace up shoes if your child can do their own laces). Trainers are not allowed for school unless it is a non-uniform or sports day.
- Book bag *A branded bag is available from Tots to Teams, or a plain blue book bag can be purchased from other retailers.*

### PE Kit

- Plain white T-Shirt
- Black or blue, plain shorts or track suit bottoms
- Trainers or Sandshoes

Children should also bring a water bottle to school. Juice is not permitted and children should not have fizzy drinks or energy drinks in school.

Children are also asked to bring a warm, waterproof coat and appropriate seasonal clothing such as hats or gloves.

Tots to Teams also provide a school fleece and coat for those families who would like one, there is no obligation to purchase this.

Everything that comes to school needs to be clearly labelled with your child's full name. Jewellery, make up and nail varnish are not permitted. Simple stud earrings are only allowed in circumstances where your child is able to take them out themselves for PE lessons, this is for safety reasons. Staff will not remove or reinsert earrings and school will not be held responsible for the loss of any jewellery on school premises.

As with all schools in the GST and local Middle Schools, the dress code requires parents to ensure that their children do not have hair which is coloured, patterned, (including shaved patterns) or dyed. Due to the huge range of hair styles, we reserve the right to talk to parents about specific hair styles which we feel do not follow our school policy. For example shaved partings, or patterned haircuts or shaved lines/ patterns in hair are not allowed. Children who have long fringes which prevent them from seeing clearly in lessons will be asked to tie hair back or wear a hairband during learning time. For safety, long hair also needs to be tied back for PE lessons.

Smart watches, watches which take photographs/make recordings are not allowed to be worn by children in school. Children are also not allowed to bring mobile phones into school. If these are found, they will be removed from the child and kept safely in the school office until an adult can collect them.

### **Limiting the cost of school uniform**

Regent Farm First School has a duty to make sure that the uniform we require is affordable, in line with statutory guidance from the Department for Education on the cost of school uniform. We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as items that have to have the school logo) cannot be purchased from a wide range of retailers and therefore, requests for distinctive items will be kept to a minimum.

We will make sure our uniform:

- Is available at a reasonable cost;
- Provides value for money for parents/carers.

We will do this by:

- Carefully considering which items with distinctive characteristics are necessary;
- Avoiding specific requirements for items pupils could wear on non-school days, such as coats;
- Keeping the number of branded items to a minimum, so that the school's uniform can act as a social leveller;
- Avoiding significantly different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups;
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents to acquire second-hand uniform items;
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications, and minimising the financial impact on parents of any changes;
  - Consulting with parents and pupils on any proposed significant changes to the uniform, such as logo or design, and carefully considering any complaints about the policy.

We do keep a selection of second-hand uniform which has been donated to school. Please speak to a staff member if this would be helpful. There is also a local community uniform scheme in the North East. The scheme offers free school uniforms and all other items link to school life, such as coats, shoes, bags etc, which have all been donated. There is also a library department with all books for free. For more information please email [info.communityschoolcs@gmail.com](mailto:info.communityschoolcs@gmail.com) or look at their Twitter account - @communityscs / Facebook page - Community schools Clothing Scheme.