"We Care."

Uniform Policy

Persons Responsible: Scott Roche, Principal

Policy review: November 2026

Review period: Annually

Next Review: November 2027

Introduction

Hamstel Infant School and Nursery has reviewed and developed their school uniform policy. It should be read alongside the statutory guidance on the cost of school uniforms.

This policy is to ensure that we comply with our obligations under the Human Rights Act 1998 and the Equality Act 2010.

The term 'governing board' in this guidance refers to the board of trustees for an academy trust.

Throughout this guidance, 'parents' should be taken to include all those with parental responsibility, including guardians and carers.

Our policy on school uniform

It is for the school to decide:

- rules around appearance
- whether there should be a school uniform policy and if so, what that should be
- how the uniform should be sourced

These duties are placed upon all governing boards by statute to ensure that school policies promote good behaviour and discipline amongst the pupil body.

We strongly encourage the wearing of uniform as it can play a key role in:

- promoting the ethos of a school
- providing a sense of belonging and identity
- setting an appropriate tone for education

Requirements for governing boards

Hamstel Infant School and Nursery will ensure that in developing and implementing their uniform policy, they comply with the Human Rights Act 1998 and Equality Act 2010 and take into account key considerations such as safeguarding requirements and the health and safety of their pupils.

To help us meet these requirements, we have considered the views of parents and pupils when making any significant changes.

- We have considered how the introduction of the proposed uniform policy might affect groups represented in the school, especially those who share protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010.

- We have considered how comfortable the proposed uniform will be for our young pupils and will take a sensible approach to allow for exceptions to be made during extreme weather.

- We will ensure that our uniform is suitable and safe for pupils who walk or cycle to school, for instance, by allowing pupils to wear a coat which they could be visible in when it is dark going home.

- We have chosen a PE kit which is practical, comfortable, appropriate to the activity involved and affordable.

Other factors to consider

Outside of their responsibilities to comply with all relevant legislation, we have considered other relevant factors. For instance, manufacturing items of clothing can have a significant impact on the environment and in response we will be able to offer second hand items to support this.

We have considered the environmental impact of our uniform and have considered how any branded items if they choose to have them, are sourced.

Reviewing your policy

We will review our policy at appropriate intervals to ensure that it is still fit for purpose. Reviewing a policy does not necessarily have to result in changes being made.

Cost considerations

Buying a school uniform can be expensive and can place an unreasonable burden on families. Our uniform options have been considered so as not to be so expensive as to leave pupils or their families feeling unable to apply to, or attend, a school of their choice, due to the cost of the uniform.

We have given high priority to cost considerations. We have followed the statutory guidance on the cost of school uniforms, to support us developing and implementing our uniform policy.

Human rights, equality and discrimination considerations

When making decisions about our uniform policy, we have regard to our obligations under the Human Rights Act 1998 and the Equality Act 2010. We have considered the impact of our policy on pupils who share a protected characteristic.

The relevant protected characteristics we have considered when developing and implementing our uniform policy include:
Gender, religion or belief, race (including colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin), disability, gender reassignment.

We aim for our uniform policy to be as inclusive as possible, and have been considerate in the implementation of our uniform policy so that all pupils are able to wear the uniform.

Religion or beliefs

Some religions and beliefs require their members to conform to a particular dress code or to otherwise outwardly manifest their belief. We ensure we are sensitive to the needs of different cultures, races and religions and act reasonably in accommodating these needs, without compromising important school policies, such as school safety or discipline. It should be possible for most religious requirements to be met within our school uniform policy and we will act reasonably through consultation and dialogue in accommodating these.

Discrimination

In developing and implementing our school uniform policy, we have considered our obligations not to discriminate unlawfully. For example, whilst we can designate different uniform requirements for boys and girls, girls' uniforms should not be significantly more expensive than boys' or vice-versa, as this may constitute unlawful sex discrimination.

Even when this policy has been agreed, we will be willing to allow for some individual variations to the uniform policy, where necessary to avoid indirect discrimination. For instance, reasonable adjustments must be made, as appropriate, for pupils with a disability.

Complaints and challenges to school uniform policy

Disputes about school uniforms should be resolved locally and should be pursued in accordance with the school's complaints policy. Parents should be able to lodge their complaints and objections easily. A school uniform should be inclusive, where the subject of a complaint is due to a pupil's protected characteristic, we will carefully consider requests to vary our uniform policy.

Pupil non-compliance

This will be carried out in accordance with the school's published behaviour policy.
We would expect to deal with pupil non-compliance in a proportionate and fair way.

School Uniform

We encourage a good standard of dress at all times and want children to represent the school positively. We ask all pupils to wear our school uniform as we feel this promotes a sense of belonging and identity and helps develop pride in the school.

Our Uniform:

- White polo shirt with or without school logo
- Grey trousers, skirt, shorts or pinafore
- Maroon jumper/sweatshirt or cardigan with school logo
- Pink and white check summer dress
- Grey, black or white socks (long or short) or tights
- Black enclosed school shoes (no open toes or boots please)
- Book Bag - no rucksacks
- Optional: Maroon reversible fleece jacket with logo





PE Kit

Children should wear their PE clothes to school on their PE day therefore you do not need to purchase a PE bag.

- Maroon PE shorts or plain coloured jogging bottoms/leggings
- Gold aertex t-shirt with school logo
- Sweatshirt; plain colour no zip or buttons
- Trainers: plain colour, Velcro fastening only (no laces), no plimsolls please




Generic clothing items are acceptable, with the exception of the branded jumper/sweatshirt or cardigan.

Outdoor Learning Kit

On the day that your child has Outdoor Learning we would ask that you do not send your child in school uniform. Instead please send them in wearing suitable clothing for such activities, i.e. jogging bottoms, t-shirts, warm jumper, coat, waterproofs, sun hat.

We also ask that you provide a pair of wellies which will be kept in school.



Jewellery and Personal Items

Jewellery should not be worn to school because of the risk of injury to the wearer or to another child. A watch may be worn but must be removed for P.E. We ask that children do not bring toys or personal items into school unless asked to do so by their class teacher. All valuable items are worn/brought into school at the discretion of the parent/carer and the school accepts no responsibility for loss or damage.

Earrings

We follow the Local Authority Health and Safety advice regarding the wearing of earrings during Physical Education and Swimming. We would prefer that children have earrings removed before coming to school on their PE and Swimming days. A small pair of stud earrings may be worn but children will have to remove their own earrings for PE lessons and place them in a small named container. After the physical activity, including swimming, they must replace their own earrings.

We respectfully ask that ear piercing is done at the beginning of the summer holiday and we would prefer our children to wear only one earring in each ear during school time.

Hair

We expect children to come to school with clean, brushed hair. Hair bands are to be in a plain band of school colours. All those children with long hair are to tie it back during the school day. Children should not wear large coloured bows or hair bobbles.

Where to buy

School uniform bearing the Hamstel logo can be purchased from several local suppliers at reasonable prices;

- Crawlers Crawlers website in Hamstel Road
- Brand Identity School wear BID schoolwear in Sutton Road
- School Wear Centre schoolwear centres in Hamlet Court Road.

Each supplier has a shop outlet that you can visit in person and also on-line ordering facilities. Generic items, such as skirts, trousers, dresses, joggers etc can also be bought from other stockists such as supermarkets.

The following items are available to purchase from the school office:

- Swimming hats (red for medical conditions)

Preloved Uniform

We hold a small range of preloved uniform in school, which is available in cases of emergency. In cases of extreme hardship, please contact the school office or our Family Support Worker.

Our school PTA, Friends of Hamstel hold a wider range of pre-loved uniform and hold regular uniform shops and sales which are advertised in the school newsletter.

Lost Property

All uniform items should be clearly labelled with child's full name (or at least a child's initial and surname). Name labels can be obtained from various suppliers. In the event that an item of school uniform is lost in school, a Lost Property box is held at the School Office. We will

always try to reunite named items with the child as soon as possible. Unnamed lost property will be disposed of at the end of every term.