

## Vanguard Learning Trust



*As a group of local primary and secondary schools, Vanguard Learning Trust's mission is to serve its local community by providing outstanding, inclusive education. We have a collective purpose and responsibility to provide effective teaching, through a curriculum based on equality of opportunity and entitlement that allows our students to shine both in and out of the classroom. Each school in the Trust has its own ethos, which also complements the Trust's vision and values, and the common aspiration that all students can achieve their potential.*

# School Uniform Policy

## March 2024-2026

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## 1. Introduction

It is our policy that all children should wear school uniform (except in the nursery) when attending school, or when participating in a school-organised event outside normal school hours. School uniform plays a key role in promoting pride, self-confidence, and a feeling of belonging within our Hermitage community. These factors contribute to students' well-being, removing the additional pressures of deciding what to wear and the added stress of meeting the expectations of their peers.

## 2. Aims and Objectives

Our policy is based on the notion that a school uniform:

- promotes a sense of pride in the school;
- engenders a feeling of community and belonging;
- is practical and smart;
- identifies the children with the school;
- is not distracting in class (as fashion clothes might be);
- makes children feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance;
- is regarded as suitable, and good value for money, by most parents;
- has been designed with health and safety in mind.

### 2.1 What the uniform consists of

- White polo shirt
- Royal blue jumper or cardigan with school logo
- Dark grey trousers/shorts/skirt/pinafore
- White/Grey socks/tights
- Sensible, flat black shoes (not trainers)
- In summer, a royal blue and white check dress may be worn with white socks
- Blue book bag (please avoid bringing in other rucksacks/wheelie bags as we do not have the space in school to store these)
- Coats - if possible, outdoor coats should be blue or black

### 2.2 PE uniform

- Yellow/gold P.E. T-shirt
- Navy or royal blue PE shorts
- Black plimsolls/plain trainers
- (white socks if changing from tights)
- Navy or royal blue jogging bottoms/tracksuit bottoms

### 2.3 Additional guidelines

- The school jumpers and cardigans **must** carry the school logo.
- Any head scarves worn should be in the school colour: royal blue or white, without any additional adornments, as well as secured in the correct manner.
- Hair styles should be simple and traditional.

- Hair accessories should be small and plain: black, brown, blue or white and worn for the purpose of keeping children safe, and to keep hair out of children's faces and eyes.
- Items may be ordered online from our uniform supplier. Instructions are available from the school office. If parents are unable to order online, a form is available to complete from the school office and the school will place the online order on the parent's behalf.
- Items can also be sourced from major supermarkets.
- All items of school uniform should be clearly labelled with the child's name.
- We sell second-hand uniform items at a very low cost (£1-£5). Please enquire at the school office.

## 2.4 Important safety issues

- It is important that children have sensible shoes for school. It is preferable that they have buckles or Velcro until they can tie laces unaided. Trainers are only part of the outdoor P.E. uniform and should not be worn at other times during the school day.
- Open-toed sandals, shoes with raised heels, clogs or mules should not be worn. These are not suitable for school, especially at play times.
- In the interests of safety, no jewellery – chains, rings or decorative earrings – may be worn in school. Small stud earrings for pierced ears are acceptable.
- Shoulder-length hair or longer should be tied back with simple hair bands. Extreme haircuts are discouraged. By extreme we mean shaved heads, dyed hair, or patterns shaved into the hair.
- Nail polish and temporary tattoos are not acceptable as part of the school uniform.
- Small, standard 'non-toy' watches may be worn although the school cannot take responsibility for them and they must be removed for P.E. lessons.

## 3. Safety in PE lessons

- Schools have a duty of care to ensure students can participate actively without unnecessarily endangering themselves or those working around them.
- Following guidance from The Association for Physical Education (afPE), we ask that all personal effects be removed before the commencement of every P.E. lesson to establish a safe working environment. This applies to all ear and body piercings, including retainer and expander earrings.
- Ear piercings: Students should come ready for the lesson, preferably with earrings removed or adequately taped. Taping over ear and body piercings may offer a measure of protection in some physical activity situations, where individuals are required to work within their personal space. However, the amount of tape used needs to be sufficient to prevent the piercing from penetrating, for example, the bone behind the ear should an unintentional blow be received from someone or some item of equipment, such as a ball. Staff are not required to remove or tape up earrings for students.
- Religious artefacts: All religious artefacts need to be removed or made safe before the commencement of PE lessons to ensure the safety of others is not compromised through the wearing of such an item. Wrist sweatbands may be worn over religious bangles.
- Exclusion from PE lessons should be avoided at all times if a student is unable to remove personal effects or the taping is deemed unsatisfactory. If the teacher considers the taping or safety measures to be unsatisfactory to permit safe participation, they will need to make adaptations in terms of how the student takes part in the practical aspects of the lesson. The student can contribute to group planning, designing and tactical

discussions, but can have different tasks assigned to them during the practical elements of the lesson (for example, individual skills practices, peer coaching, observation and feedback tasks, videoing others to analyse at a later stage, or officiating in a game's context).

## **4. Roles and Responsibilities**

### **4.1 The role of parents**

- We ask all parents who 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. Parents should ensure that their child has the correct uniform and that it is clean and in good repair.
- If any parent would like the school to modify the uniform policy, they should make representation, in the first instance, to the Headteacher. 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 look sympathetically at 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 Headteacher. The school will not treat pupils with disabilities unfavourably.

### **4.2 The role of staff**

- Staff should monitor uniforms regularly and where there is non-adherence to the policy should speak informally to the parents of the child to ascertain the reason.
- **Staff must ensure that children's shirts are tucked in at all times.**
- If non-adherence to the policy continues that member of staff should inform the school office who will issue a formal request that the policy be followed.
- Senior leadership may also become involved if non-adherence continues.

### **4.2 The role of governors**

- The governing body supports the Headteacher in implementing the school uniform policy. It considers all representations from parents regarding this 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 national regulations concerning equal opportunities and that our school uniform policy is consistent with our policy on equal opportunities.
- Governors ensure that the school uniform policy helps children to dress sensibly, in clothing that is hard-wearing, safe and practical.

## **5. Monitoring and review**

- When monitoring this policy, through its committee work, the governing body will:
- consider with the Headteacher any requests from parents for individual children to have special dispensations;
- require the Headteacher to report to the governors on the way the policy is being implemented.
- This policy will be reviewed by the governing body every two years, or earlier if considered necessary.

**Approval / Revision History**

<b>Revision date</b>	<b>By</b>	<b>Summary of Changes Made</b>
March 2024	Parmjit Kaur Varaitch	VLT Policy template applied. Additions in yellow

**List of appendices**

Appendix 1: School Uniform Poster

## Appendix 1: School Uniform Poster

				
<b>Jumper (with logo)</b>	<b>Cardigan (with logo)</b>	<b>White Polo (with or without logo)</b>	<b>School Bag</b>	<b>P.E. Bag</b>
				
<b>Grey Trousers</b>	<b>Grey Shorts</b>	<b>Grey Skirt</b>	<b>Grey Dress</b>	<b>Summer Dress</b>
				
<b>P.E. Top</b>	<b>Blue/Navy Shorts</b>	<b>Plimsols</b>	<b>Blue/Navy Tracksuit Bottoms</b>	
				
<b>Black, Charcoal or Grey Tights</b>	<b>Black, Charcoal or Grey Socks</b>	<b>Black Shoes or Black Trainers (No colours or logos)</b>		

