



Uniform Policy

This is a Trust wide adopted policy – individual schools will populate the policy with specific details - please visit the individual school website.

Review Summary

Approved By:	Trust Board
Approval Date:	October 2024
Next Review Date:	October 2026
Date school specific details added:	



Mullion School

Uniform and Appearance Policy

Person responsible for Implementation and Monitoring: Headteacher

Links to other relevant policies: Safeguarding Policy, Behaviour Policy

1. Introduction

This policy has been put in place to ensure that the School's requirements for student uniform and appearance are aligned with the revised Department for Education Guidance (Statutory and Non-Statutory 2024). This policy complies with the Human Rights Act 1998 and Equality Act 2010 and takes into account key considerations such as safeguarding and health and safety.

Our school management team decides what the School rules are for student appearance (including uniform) and how the uniform should be sourced. We believe that our rules on Uniform and Appearance have a key role in promoting:

- The ethos of the school
- A sense of belonging, community and identity
- An appropriate tone for education

We believe that a consistent standard of appearance and uniform may act as a social leveller by creating a common sense of identity amongst students. It may reduce bullying and peer pressure to wear the latest fashion or other expensive clothes.

In reviewing and implementing this policy, we will take into account the views of parents and pupils when making any significant changes. We will also take into account:

- How the rules on uniform and appearance may affect groups represented in the school, especially those who share relevant protected characteristics (sex, religion or belief, race, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy)
- How comfortable the uniform will be for students
- How practical the uniform is in classroom settings, including those where practical work is required
- That reasonable adaptations will be made for extreme weather (hot or cold)
- That the uniform is suitable for pupils who walk or cycle to school
- That a PE kit must be practical, comfortable and appropriate to the activities and affordable
- That the cost of the uniform does not place an unreasonable financial burden on families and would not, for example, prevent a child from a low income family from attending the school
- Where reasonable and as far as possible, the environmental impact of the production and supply of uniform.

The school's expectations for uniform and appearance are therefore intended to be inclusive so that all pupils are able to wear the uniform and have the appropriate appearance.

2. Religion, Beliefs or Cultures

Some religions, beliefs or cultures require their adherents to conform to a particular dress code. This could include wearing or carrying specific religious artefacts, not cutting hair, dressing modestly, or covering their head. Pupils have a right to manifest a religion, belief or culture, but not necessarily at all times, places or in a particular manner.

Where the school has good reason, it may lawfully need to restrict an individual's freedoms regarding uniform and/or appearance. This may include, for example, for the promotion of cohesion or good order, or genuine health and safety or security reasons.

The school will act reasonably in accommodating the needs of different cultures, races and religions, without compromising important school policies such as school discipline and safety.

3. Discrimination

In developing and implementing this policy, the school has carefully considered its obligations not to discriminate unlawfully. For example, the school has lawfully designated different uniform requirements for boys and girls and has ensured that these are broadly equivalent in terms of financial cost.

This policy ensures that no particular group (including those with protected characteristics) is impacted unfairly as far as is reasonably possible. In some circumstances, e.g. for pupils with a disability, the school will make reasonable individual adjustments to the uniform policy.

4. Affordability

The cost of uniform should not prevent a family from applying for a place in our School nor prevent a child from attending. The use of branded items within the School Uniform Policy has been kept to a minimum.

Second hand uniform items are available on request from the School. The school will accept donations of second hand uniform providing these are clean and in excellent repair. Parents wishing to donate uniform should contact their child's teacher or year leader. The school recognises that second hand uniform extends the life of garments, reducing the environmental impact of uniform.

Uniform and rules on appearance will be reviewed bi-annually and frequent significant changes will be avoided as these may be expensive for families. Where significant changes are made, these will be phased in to allow pupils to continue to wear the old uniform for a reasonable period of time. This includes pupils in Year 5, 6, 10 and 11, for whom the purchase of new uniform items in the later stages of the academic year may not be cost effective for families.

The requirement to wear branded items of uniform has been kept to a minimum within our Uniform Policy.

The majority of unbranded uniform items e.g. socks, school shirts and trousers, can be purchased from a range of retailers giving parents choice and value for money.

All school uniform items should be available as machine washable.

5. PE Kit

No pupil should be unable to participate in school sporting activities because of the cost of PE kit. Therefore the use of branded items, and the range of different items of PE Kit will be kept as low as possible.

6. Uniform Suppliers

The school management team will avoid single supplier contracts where practical but if one is in place this will be reviewed at least every 5 years. In reviewing the suppliers, the affordability of uniform as well as its quality and durability will be taken into account. The uniform supplier will be required to publish and operate their own complaint procedure in order to manage any parental concerns.

The accessibility of the provider will be taken into account, ensuring parents can arrange convenient ordering, collection/ delivery of school uniform items. This includes the availability of an online uniform shop.

7. Clarity

The school will ensure that its rules on uniform and appearance are clear and unambiguous and easily accessible to parents via the school website. This is to ensure that parents do not commit to buying costly uniform, or, for example, costly hair styles or piercings, which are not acceptable to the school. The school will ensure that any 'optional' items of uniform are clearly designated as such, and will minimise the use of 'optional' uniform items. The school will also ensure that branded items, or those which have to be purchased from a particular supplier, are clearly indicated. Parents with a query about Uniform or Appearance should contact the School to seek clarification of the rules prior to committing to purchase. The School will review the wording of the Uniform and Appearance rules in response to parental queries where it appears that the wording is unclear.

8. Student Non-Compliance

All pupils are expected to comply with the school's rules on uniform and appearance. The school believes that all pupils should comply with these rules, and that non-compliance is unnecessarily disruptive to education. Students with incorrect uniform or appearance will be challenged by staff and expected to rectify their uniform/ appearance immediately (where possible e.g. by removing the jewellery or non-uniform item) or as soon as possible where the issue cannot be solved immediately. Where a breach of uniform or appearance cannot be resolved in school, the student may be sent home to change/ correct their appearance. Parents will be informed. In line with DfE guidance, this is not an exclusion and the students' absence will be unauthorised. Confrontational behaviour by students and refusal to follow staff instructions in response to staff requests to correct uniform or appearance is unacceptable and will be managed under the school Behaviour Policy. Students may be disciplined for breaching the school rules on appearance or uniform, in line with the school's Behaviour Policy.

Where financial hardship has resulted in a student not complying with the school's published rules on uniform or appearance, the school will take a considerate approach to assist the student and family to resolve the situation.

Where the school has made individual adaptations to the rules on uniform or appearance in response to a child's individual needs e.g. a disability, then the School will ensure that all staff are aware. This includes, wherever possible, supply and temporary staff. This is to minimise the occasions on which a student is challenged about their uniform or appearance.

9. Concerns and complaints

In line with the TPAT Complaint Procedure, parents with a concern about this policy, or the implementation of the Uniform Policy, should first contact the school and seek to resolve this concern informally. Where an acceptable resolution cannot be agreed, parents should follow

the Complaint Procedure, available on the school website. Hard copies of the Complaint Policy are available on request from the school Reception.

Appendix 1: Mullion School... Uniform and Appearance requirements

Information for Parents and Carers

Mullion School's uniform is designed to be comfortable, practical, hard wearing and, therefore, good value for money. It also looks very smart.

Our uniform is purchased online from Price and Buckland and we keep sample sizes of all garments in school. Please phone our school office during term time to try on any samples. A sizing guide can also be found on our school website.

Please read our guidelines and policy carefully.

Requirements for all students:

- Light blue polo shirt with the school logo. (Students who are selected to be prefects wear a red polo shirt).
- Dark blue school sweatshirt.

In cool weather, pupils wear both polo shirt and sweatshirt. In warmer weather, pupils may wear the polo shirt only. Vests or t-shirts (if worn under the polo shirt, should not be visible).

- Completely black footwear with a heel less than 5cm high. NO logos, flashes or coloured laces. No boots above the ankle. POLISHABLE SHOES ARE PREFERRED. A trainer style shoe is acceptable.

Students may choose to wear:

- Formal black school trousers (no elasticated fabric, leggings, joggers, denim, contrast stitching, studs, skinny jeans or combat trousers) or
- Formal, tailored black shorts (knee length) or
- Pleated school skirt, knee length (no elasticated or 'tube' skirts)

Black or white socks or black tights (without rips or holes). If socks are worn over tights, they must be black.

Hair Styles and Make-up

No extravagant hair styles or colours. Discreet hair slides, hair slides, hair bands and grip are permitted.

Jewellery

1 watch and 1 plain ring are permitted. 'Smart' watches are not allowed. Students may wear 1 stud earring in either one or both ears. Studs must be smaller than the ear lobe and discreet. Hooped earrings are not permitted. Students may wear a single, stud in the nose. Nose rings, hoops and any other body piercing including eyebrow piercings and tongue piercings are not permitted. Neck

jewellery must not be visible. All jewellery must be able to be removed on request e.g. for PE lessons.

IMPORTANT FOR ALL

All students are expected to wear our Mullion School Uniform correctly, every day. Occasionally, we accept that events may mean there is a genuine reason that a child may be unable to wear the correct uniform for a short and temporary period of time. Parents must provide a note for any occasion when a child is unable to wear the correct uniform.

SPORTS WEAR (all compulsory and optional items are available from Price and Buckland)

Boy's Kit:

Indoor kit

Blue sports t-shirt – compulsory

Shorts – compulsory

Outdoor kit

Mullion School rugby top - compulsory

Shorts – compulsory, as above

Hooped socks – compulsory

Football/rugby boots and shin pads

Girls Kit

Indoor kit

Blue sports polo top – compulsory

Black $\frac{3}{4}$ length leggings - compulsory

Navy Skort - optional

Trainers

Outdoor kit

Blue hoody - compulsory

Black $\frac{3}{4}$ length legging – compulsory, as above

Navy skort (optional, as above)

Trainers

Optional extras – all available from Price and Buckland

Plain navy or black

base layer top

Unisex tracksuit bottoms

Waterproof jacket

Sports kit bag

Hooped socks

Please ensure that all school uniform items are clearly marked with the pupil's full name to ensure that items can be returned if lost.