



School Uniform Policy

Responsible Governing Board	Local Governing Board
Responsible Persons	Principal
Date of last review	November 2022
Review Date	November 2024

Version Control

Version	Revision Date	Revised by	Section Revised
V1	March 2022		New Policy
V2	November 2022		Revised all sections to ensure compliance with all current legislation

Aims & Rationale:

The Local Governing Board (LGB) of Sheep Dip Academy believe that all pupils attending our Academy should wear school uniform, including during extra-curricular activities as required. Our reasoning behind the policy is that it:

- gives pupils a sense of pride in the academy and instils a feeling of belonging to both the Academy and our wider community
- ensures pupils feel equal to others in terms of their appearance
- is affordable, hard wearing and good value for money

The school uniform policy is an integral part of the Academy’s commitment to equality and inclusion. The LGB believes it allows all pupils to establish a shared Sheep Dip Academy identity, whilst being able to exercise their individuality.

All pupils are expected to adhere to the uniform policy.

This policy:

- Sets out our approach to requiring a uniform that is of reasonable cost and offers the best value for money for parents and carers.
- Explains how we will avoid discrimination in line with our legal duties under the Equality Act 2010.
- Clarifies our expectations for school uniform.

Our Academy’s 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, our Academy will:

- Avoid listing uniform items based on sex, 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).
- Allow all pupils to style their hair in the way that is appropriate for school yet makes them feel most comfortable.
- Allow pupils to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons.
- Allow pupils to wear headscarves and other 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 Academy office via telephone or by email – sdlp@sheepdiplane.doncaster.sch.uk staff can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests.

At Sheep Dip Lane Academy, we believe:

- A school uniform promotes a sense of pride in the Academy and reinforces our Academy and Trust values
- Promotes a feeling of community and belonging
- Is practical and smart
- Identifies the children within the Academy
- Is not a distraction to learning
- Makes children feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance
- Is regarded as suitable
- Is good value for money

Limiting the cost of school uniform

Our Academy 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 branded items, or items that have to have a school logo or a unique fabric/colour/design) cannot be purchased from a wide range of retailers and that requiring many such items limits parents' ability to 'shop around' for a low price.

We will make sure our uniform:

- Is available at a reasonable cost
- Provides the best value for money for parents/carers

We will do this by:

- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary
- Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics where possible
- Avoiding specific requirements for items pupils could wear on non-school days, such as coats, bags and shoes
- Keeping the number of optional branded items to a minimum, so that the school's uniform can act as a social leveller and is available from 'high street' retailers
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups, however, Year 6 have the option to wear grey as a choice but this is not compulsory.
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- Considering alternative methods for signalling differences in groups for interschool competitions, such as creating posters or labels
- 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 policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy

Our Academy's uniform - Reception to Year 6

Our uniform consists of:

- red jumper, sweatshirt, cardigan or fleece with/without the academy logo. Year 6 pupils can wear grey tops if they wish.
- grey or black trousers (not leggings), pinafore or skirt
- white shirt/blouse, white or red polo shirt
- a red and white checked summer dress or smart school shorts may be worn in the summer months
- socks must match and be grey, black or white
- tights must be black or grey

PE Kit:

- red t-shirt
- black shorts
- black pumps for indoor use
- trainers for outdoor use
- a tracksuit can be worn for outdoor PE during the winter months

Footwear

- Smart black school shoes or plain trainers – all shoes to be sensible and low heeled
- Boots are not acceptable for children to wear in school
- Wellington boots can be worn to school in case of bad weather but must be removed on entry to the school building

For swimming a full swimming costume (not bikini) or swimming trunks can be worn – N.B. swimming shorts are not welcomed at the swimming baths for health and safety reasons. A towel will be needed from home.

Jewellery, Headwear and Make-up:

Pupils are not permitted to wear jewellery to school (except for small studs and a watch) other than for cultural reasons. We do not allow headwear to be worn during class time or inside the school buildings, except for cultural or religious reasons. No make-up should be worn including nail varnish. Earrings need to be removed by the pupil either before the PE lesson/swimming lesson or at home before the start of the day so that pupils can participate in the full curriculum.

Hairstyles:

Hairstyles should be neat and tidy, we do not allow patterns shaved into hair or bright hair dye, please restrict this to the summer holiday – returning to permitted styles before returning to school. Where possible, long hair should be tied up for health and safety reasons.

Exceptions can only be made for medical or religious reasons.

Where to purchase it:

- Parents and carers can obtain uniform from:
- School Trends is our on line supplier, search for our Academy
- Or can be bought more widely, e.g. from 'high-street' retailers without Logo
- Nearly new uniform sales will take place periodically throughout the year

- Requests for nearly new uniform items can be made via the school office
- Details of any local uniform exchange schemes running, will be shared on school social media

Pupils

Pupils are expected to wear the correct uniform at all times (other than specified non-school uniform days) while:

- On the Academy premises
- Travelling to and from our Academy
- At out-of-school events or on trips that are organised by the Academy, or where they are representing the Academy (if required)

Pupils are also expected to contact the Academy office if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics.

Parents and carers

Parents and carers are expected to make sure their child has the correct uniform and PE kit, and that every item is:

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

Parents are also expected to contact the Academy office if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to:

- Their child's protected characteristics
- The cost of the uniform

Parents are expected to lodge any complaints or objections relating to the school uniform in a timely and reasonable manner.

Disputes about the cost of the school uniform will be:

- Resolved locally
- Dealt with in accordance with our school's complaints policy

The school will work closely with parents to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

Staff:

Staff will closely monitor pupils to make sure they are in correct uniform. They will give any pupils and families breaching the uniform policy the opportunity to comply, but will follow up with the Principal if the situation does not improve.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with in line with our Behaviour Policy.

In cases where it is suspected that financial hardship has resulted in a pupil not complying with this uniform policy, staff will take a mindful and considerate approach to resolving the situation.

Governors:

The governing board will review this policy and make sure that it:

- Is appropriate for our Academy's context

- Is implemented fairly across the Academy
- Takes into account the views of parents and pupils
- Offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all pupils

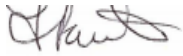
The board will also make sure that the Academy's uniform supplier arrangements give the highest priority to cost and value for money, for example by avoiding single supplier contracts if possible.

Policy Review

This policy is reviewed every 2 years

Date of Policy November 2022

To be reviewed November 2024

Signed:  Principal

Signed:  Chair of Governors