

School uniform policy

2024

The Pines School



Ratified by the Full Governing Body: 24th September 2024

Chair of Governors Signature: *Wendy Sartain*

The Pines School uniform statement

Due to the Special Educational Needs (SEN), disabilities and sensory needs of the pupils at The Pines School, it is optional for parents to purchase a school uniform for their child but we do encourage parents and carers to dress their child in appropriate clothing for school, in line with the colours of the uniform where possible.

Children can attend school in comfortable clothing, because those with sensory sensitivity may find certain clothes itchy, heavy or tight which can lead to a sensory overload.

However, for those parents who chose to purchase a school uniform, as a school, we have a duty to make sure that the uniform parents can choose to buy 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 have items that have logos however the colours of the uniform are readily available on the high-street.

Our school's legal duties under the Equality Act 2010

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

To avoid discrimination, our school 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 a way that is appropriate for school and makes them feel most comfortable
- Allow pupils to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons or if they are experiencing discomfort related to their sex, gender or gender reassignment
- Allow pupils to wear headscarves and/or other religious garments
- Allow pupils with sensory or physical needs to make reasonable adaptations to their uniform depending on their specific needs
- Allow for reasonable adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality

We will make sure our school 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 to jumpers and fleeces.
- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost or long-lasting items, such as ties.
- Considering cheaper alternatives to school-branded items, such as logos that can be ironed on, matching colours of jumpers as long as this doesn't compromise quality and durability.

- 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.
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different classes, there is a slight difference between Primary and Secondary
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities.
- 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 statement and carefully consider any complaints about this

If parents do wish to purchase a school uniform for their child (Jumpers and/or a fleece jacket), please ask the school office for further details.

Our school's uniform

As a school we understand the need to be flexible with our uniform arrangements taking into account the sensory needs of our pupils and as such we expect parents to send pupils into school appropriately dressed for the day.

Pupils should wear shoes or trainers that are flat and secured to the foot. Pupils should have a P.E. kit and change for P.E. but this can comprise of any sportswear that is appropriate for P.E.

Pupils should come to school dressed appropriately for the weather. If children have forest school sessions we may ask that old outdoor clothes and wellies are sent in, however school do have a supply of spares.

Where to purchase it

School uniform can be sourced from The Pines School and order forms are available from the school office. Uniforms are sold at parent's evenings throughout the year

Parents / Carers

Parents should ensure that their children are coming to school in appropriate attire. If parents/carers have any complaints or objections relating to the school uniform this should be communicated with the school 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/carers to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

Governors

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

- Is appropriate for our school's context
- Is implemented fairly across the school
- Takes into account the views of parents/carers and pupils
- Offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all pupils

Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

- Equality information and objectives statement
- Anti-bullying policy
- Complaints policy

In our Primary department the school uniform consists of grey trousers or skirt/pinafore (not available in school), and green school crew neck sweatshirt or cardigan and plain polo shirt. This can be green or white and we do have ones with the logo on if you would prefer.



Pupils in Secondary will also adopt a formal school uniform, however this will differ slightly to the Primary school uniform. This consists of Black trousers or skirt/pinafore (not available in school), and a green school V neck sweatshirt or cardigan bearing the school logo. Pupils can wear white shirts or polo shirts and a green school clip on tie is optional as is a black blazer and a Pines Logo badge



The school has some additional items suitable for the different seasons. These include the black zip-up fleece jackets (available in all sizes), a black winter beanie, and a black summer cap. Current prices are available from staff within school.

