

Sonning Church of England Primary School

Uniform policy



Sonning author	P Sherwood	Lead governor	C Borsberry-Lewis
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Introduction

At Sonning Church of England Primary School, our vision is to build strong foundations for the years ahead. Supported by our school values of love, courage, respect, aspiration and curiosity, we seek to help pupils make positive choices in all they do. Like the wise man who built his house upon the rock (Matthew 7:24-25), we follow our Christian values to build strong foundations for the years ahead. At Sonning Church of England Primary School, it is our policy that all pupils wear school uniform when attending school or when participating in a school-organised event outside normal school hours.

This policy lists the specific uniform requirements of Sonning Church of England Primary School. It also clarifies why our school believes that school uniform is an important part of the school ethos of high standards and achievement as well as instilling a sense of pride, well-being and equality within our school family. This policy has been written in line with the latest [government guidance](#).

It should be noted that all references to 'parents' should be read as 'parents, carers or guardians'.

Aims and objectives

This policy aims to provide details of the uniform requirements for Sonning Church of England Primary School and the measures the school has taken to adhere to statutory requirement and non-statutory guidance.

Our policy on school uniform is based on the notion that school uniform reflects our high expectations, and the policy

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seeks to meet the following core aims in line with DfE guidance:

- To promote of the school's ethos and core values.
- To foster a sense of community, belonging and identity toward the school.
- To set an appropriate tone for education.

In addition, the below have also been identified by the school as key aims:

- To promote of a sense of pride in the school.
- To act as a visual demonstration of high standards throughout the school.
- To provide practical, smart and suitable attire for school.
- To more easily identify the pupils of the school, aiding safeguarding.
- To prevent pupils from coming to school in apparel or accessories that could be a distraction from learning.
- To allows pupils to feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance.

In line with our vision to build strong foundations for the years ahead (Matthew 7:24-25), we believe that high expectations of presentation and a clear uniform policy helps pupils feel a stronger sense of community and help them develop a deep understanding of being part of something greater than themselves.

General statement on uniform, logos and costs

Our school takes pride in the appearance of our pupils. The school requires parents to purchase some school uniform items with a logo, as we feel this helps to reinforce the school's identity and reinforces respect and aspiration. The school will notify parents by phone or email, or by sending a uniform slip home if a pupil is not following school policy.

The school will actively work to ensure uniform costs are kept as low as possible and support families if, at any time, cost is a barrier to the purchase of correct uniform. This includes periodic cost analysis reviews. Parents who require support should contact the school office to discuss options for support (spsadmin@sonning.wokingham.sch.uk).

Roles and responsibilities

The governing body monitors and reviews the school Uniform Policy. It is the governors' responsibility to ensure that the school uniform meets all regulations concerning equal opportunities.

We ask all parents who send their children to our school to support and uphold the school Uniform Policy. We believe that parents have a duty to send their children to school correctly dressed and ready to learn each day. If the school has an issue or concern with any aspect of a pupil's appearance, parents will be contacted to resolve the issue.

Specific clarification as to what can and cannot be worn

In order to ensure all pupils feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance, the school has outlined specific areas which require additional clarification. Sonning Church of England Primary School will take no responsibility for loss or damage to any device or personal item brought into school.

Regardless of what is worn, please ensure it is all labelled. You would not believe what items go missing!

Footwear

Footwear is often the most debated issue amongst schools and families across the country with regard to uniform expectations. For that reason, parents should pay close attention to what is outlined as appropriate footwear:

- At Sonning Church of England Primary School, we wish for pupils to look smart. Therefore, footwear must meet

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this criteria and be smart and appropriate for school.

- Footwear must be flat and closed toe (for health and safety reasons).
- Footwear must be solid black in colour.
- Footwear does not have to be leather, but it is strongly encouraged as it looks smart, is hard-wearing and easily cleaned. Trainers may be worn if they meet all other criteria in this list. There are examples of acceptable trainer styles below.
- Boots may only be worn if they are low-ankle boots, plain black and without any chains, embellishments or other accessories.
- Plimsoles are not suitable to be worn as main school shoes.

It should be noted that a separate pair of trainers are also required for P.E. lessons.

Examples of acceptable trainer styles (although we strongly recommend leather shoes):



Examples of trainer styles that are **not** acceptable:



Examples of ankle boots that are acceptable:



Examples of ankle boots that are **not** acceptable:



Please note that the above examples are not an exhaustive list.

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Smart watches and similar worn devices

Whilst we want to support the fitness and healthy lifestyle of pupils, we also have a duty to protect pupils with regard to safeguarding and digital safety. Therefore, smart watches (or similar) that have any of the following features are not permitted to be worn or carried in school:

- Smart watches or similar with a camera function.
- Smart watches or similar with an e-SIM that allows the device to be connected to mobile internet.
- Smart watches or similar that have gaming functions enabled.

In addition, parents/carers should note the following:

- Pupils in Reception to Year 5 are not permitted a mobile phone on site.
- Pupils in Year 6 (who have signed permission) must hand their mobile phones in to the school office/Out of School Club (turned off) at the beginning of the school day, so their device cannot connect to their smart watch despite it being on site. These must be collected at the end of the school day.

The school cannot accept responsibility for loss or damage to any item brought in to school, including those left with the school office.

Jewellery

On health and safety grounds, we do not allow children to wear jewellery in our school. The exceptions to this rule are small plain gold or silver studs in pierced ears, small discreet watches and small objects of religious significance. We ask the children either to remove these objects during PE and games, or cover them with 'micro pore' tape in line with our health and safety requirements, to prevent them from causing injury. Pupils should not wear earrings if they are attending swimming lessons.

Hair

The school encourages its pupils to have sensible hair designs which do not distract other children from their learning. Hair accessories, such as hairbands, bows and clips, should be discreet and black, white, brown, navy or grey in colour. Large bows or coloured hair accessories are not permitted. **Long hair (below shoulder length) should be tied up at all times.** Extreme hair (e.g. brightly-coloured hair) is not permitted.

Nails and makeup

We do not allow pupils to wear nail varnish or makeup in school.

Uniform exceptions due to religion or belief

The school is inclusive of children from all backgrounds and faith communities. We encourage our pupils to be curious and take an active interest in others' cultures. If there are specific reasons, for example on religious grounds, why parents want their child to not follow the Uniform Policy, the school will work with the family to identify an appropriate way forward, agreement or compromise. Examples of religious grounds may be requesting that a pupil wear different clothes to those outlined in the Uniform Policy, wear/carry specific religious items or not conform to the Uniform Policy in ways such as a pupil not cutting their hair. Parents should discuss these arrangements with the Headteacher to ensure that all parties can discuss openly and understand the other person's requirements.

There may be times when the school has good reason for restricting an individual's freedoms (a genuine health and safety or security considerations, for example), and the restriction of an individual's rights to manifest their religion or belief may be justified. We will be 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.

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We believe that it should be possible for most religious requirements to be met within our Uniform Policy, and will seek to engage with families and understand their needs when making specific exceptions to the Uniform Policy.

Uniform for Physical Education (PE)

Our PE kit consists of a house t-shirt and navy/black shorts. Children should wear a t-shirt in their house team colours (blue/green/yellow/red), with the school logo on the front (where possible – a completely plain house colour t-shirt is also acceptable). Pupils must have appropriate footwear (including plimsols or trainers) for PE lessons (these must be different to a pupil's school shoes). In the colder months, parents may wish for their child to wear a tracksuit (jumper/zipped jacket with no hood and jogging bottoms). These must be navy/black and plain. Pupils need to ensure that their PE kit is in school at all times.

When children are representing the school for inter-school competitions, the school will provide children with school branded kit where at all possible.

Please see the 'uniform specifications' section for photographs of the appropriate PE kit.

Sourcing uniform

Our uniform can be purchased through one of our chosen online suppliers:

- Brigade Clothing Limited www.brigadeclothing.co.uk
- School Days Direct Ltd [www.schooldaysdirect.co.uk](http://www schooldaysdirect.co.uk)

These companies have options available for all items listed as part of our required uniform, particularly clothing with the school logo. However, parents may also purchase clothing from their own chosen supplier. Most items of uniform required are readily available from supermarkets or department stores. School ties (navy and red stripe) are available online, or the school office keeps a supply of both standard and elastic ties. These are sold at cost price.

DfE's cost of school uniform requirements and second-hand uniform

The Department for Education (DfE) issued [requirements for schools](#) regarding the cost of school uniform, uniform sustainability and overall choice and availability of uniform. In the requirements, the DfE states that schools should ensure that their uniform supplier arrangements give the highest priority to cost and value for money (including the quality and durability of the garment). The suppliers we have chosen ensure that this criteria is met. In addition, we have conducted school uniform cost checks, and have concluded that our uniform expectations are in line with government averages and meet the requirements of the statutory DfE requirements.

The DfE requirements also states that schools should ensure that second-hand uniform is available for parents to purchase. Second-hand uniform is available from the school's Parent Teacher Association (PTA). Please email pta@sonning.wokingham.sch.uk with a list of your uniform requirements, and the PTA team will respond with their stock and costs. Please note that second-hand uniform is only available thanks to the generosity of our parents as they leave the school.

Pre-loved / second-hand uniform may also be available from local second-hand selling websites (i.e. Facebook Marketplace), which parents may wish to source uniform from. These sites are not associated with the school, and the school will take no responsibility for or profit from any items purchased on these sites.

Uniform expectations

It is the expectation that at all times, shirts will be tucked in, top buttons will be done up and ties tied appropriately

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and sitting neatly within shirt collars. Pupils should, in line with our values, ensure they model the highest standards at all times, and this includes with uniform.

Extreme weather amendments to uniform

In unusually hot weather, children will be advised to remove their ties and undo top buttons of their shirts. Children may also be allowed other variations of their uniform in extreme weather. What is allowed at different times will be communicated to families at those specific times.

Uniform specifications

The following information and photographs outline the specific requirements for uniform.

Standard uniform

- School tie: Navy/Red stripe
 - An elastic/clip on tie is available for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils if preferred.
 - A tie (either regular or elastic/clip on) is optional for Acorn pupils.
- White shirt/blouse*.
- Navy V-neck jumper/cardigan with school logo.
- Dark grey trousers/shorts with grey or black socks. Shorts are recommended to be around knee length.
- Dark grey skirt/grey pinafore dress with grey tights or grey socks. Skirts, dresses and playsuits are recommended to be around knee length.
- Black shoes.

* Children in Reception (Acorn class) are required to wear a white polo shirt instead of a shirt/blouse. This is to promote independence and help pupils change more easily. There are logo polo t-shirts available from the suppliers and, whilst it looks smart, it is not a requirement to purchase a logo polo shirt.

If your child chooses to wear a dress/skirt, you may wish to purchase plain, dark coloured fitted/cycling shorts to go underneath. This is stated only as an option, as some families have asked if this is acceptable in the past. This is not a requirement or expectation.

Warmer weather / summer term weather uniform

- A blue and white check dress/playsuit with grey or white socks is optional.
- A jumper is not expected for the Summer Term, and grey shorts are encouraged as opposed to trousers.

Standard uniform expectations:

Please note that these are examples of uniform and are not every combination of uniform possible.



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Warmer weather / summer term uniform expectations:

Please note that these are examples of uniform and are not every combination of uniform possible.



PE kit

For PE lessons in normal weather, pupils should wear the following:

- Coloured t-shirt in House colour. A t-shirt with the school logo is preferred but not mandatory. A child may wear a completely plain house colour t-shirt.
- Shorts which are navy or black.

For PE lessons in colder weather, pupils may require the following:

- Joggers (navy or black).
- A sports jumper (v- or round-neck) or zip top (three-quarter zip or full zip).
 - All items should be navy or black.
 - No hoods or hoodies are allowed for health and safety reasons.

Joggers and tops for PE should be plain with no excessive lettering, logos or messaging.



Uniform accessories

- Book bags should be brought to and from school every day. A book bag is donated to new Acorn pupils when they join the school each year in September.
- Pupils in Acorn and Beech may only have a book bag each day (no rucksacks please, due to the cloakroom space).
- Pupils in Chestnut class and pupils in Key Stage 2 may bring a **small** rucksack or bag into school.
 - Please note that only one key chain or labelling device is suitable on bags or rucksacks.
- For those pupils in Year 2 to Year 6, all their items (coat, rucksack, PE bag, lunch etc.) must fit inside their locker. Each locker is 30cm wide, 40cm high and 40cm deep.
- PE bags should typically stay in school (unless wet/excessively dirty) and will be sent home at least half-termly for washing.

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Below are examples of school bags with a logo that are available:



School book bag

School PE bag

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