

# Sonning Church of England Primary School

## Uniform Policy



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|----------------------|-------------|
| Approval required by | LGB         |
| Date approved        | Spring 2026 |
| Date for review      | Autumn 2030 |

| Version | Date       | Description                                                                                                                                         |
|---------|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7       | March 2026 | Updates and review with parent body as part of review. New PE tops added, clarification on branded items and clearer expectations for some uniform. |

## Contents

|                                                                           |   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| Introduction .....                                                        | 1 |
| Aims and objectives .....                                                 | 1 |
| Our policy and the school's legal duties under the Equality Act 2010..... | 2 |
| Limiting the cost of school uniform .....                                 | 2 |
| Roles and responsibilities.....                                           | 3 |
| Specific clarification as to what can and cannot be worn.....             | 4 |
| Uniform exceptions due to religion or belief .....                        | 6 |
| Uniform for Physical Education (PE) .....                                 | 6 |
| Sourcing uniform.....                                                     | 7 |
| DfE's cost of school uniform requirements and second-hand uniform .....   | 7 |
| Uniform expectations.....                                                 | 7 |
| Uniform specifications .....                                              | 8 |
| Appendix: Summary poster for parents.....                                 | 9 |

## 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

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# Sonning Church of England Primary School

## Uniform Policy



uniform is based on the notion that school uniform reflects our high expectations, and the policy 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.
- To meet the expectations of the DfE with regard to affordability and number of branded items.

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.

### Our policy and the 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, sexual orientation, disability, race, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity, and gender reassignment. To avoid discrimination, our school will ensure the following:

- Avoid listing uniform items based on sex, to give all pupils the opportunity to wear the uniform they feel most comfortable in.
- Make sure that our uniform costs the same for all pupils.
- Allow all pupils to have long hair, although we reserve the right to ask that long hair 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 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, and in consultation/discussion/agreement with the headteacher.
- Allow for reasonable adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents to get in touch the school, who will answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

### Limiting the cost of school uniform

Our school takes pride in the appearance of its 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. However, our school has a duty to make sure that the uniform we require is affordable, in line with statutory guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) on the cost of school uniforms. We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that need to have a school logo attached or be in a unique fabric or style) cannot be purchased from a wide range of retailers, and that requiring many such items limits parents/carers' ability to shop around for the best price.

We will therefore make sure our uniform meets the following expectations:

- Is available at a reasonable cost.

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# Sonning Church of England Primary School

## Uniform Policy



- Provides the best value for money for parents.

We will do this by ensuring the following:

- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary, and limiting these items where possible. This includes following the statutory limits for compulsory branded items of uniform and PE kit to a maximum of 3 or fewer. Our compulsory three items are as follows:
  - Branded jumper/cardigan.
  - Specific school tie.
  - Branded, coloured PE kit.
- Considering the price, availability and options so that they are affordable and appropriate for pupils.
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups.
  - The statutory limit does not prevent a school from adopting different branded uniform requirements for different Key Stages, providing a school considers cost to parents. At Sonning, we have a polo shirt (non-branded) in Reception and a shirt in all other year groups. This is to support independence for our Acorn pupils when changing, as there are fewer buttons. We also have House PE tops, but each family will have all siblings in the same house to avoid additional costs.
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities including (but not limited to) sport, music and drama.
- Making sure that opportunities to acquire second-hand items in a timely manner are accessible to parents and carers of both current and prospective pupils, and publishing this information on our website.
- 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 uniform in line with the school's complaints policy.
- Avoiding single-supplier contracts, to make sure generic items can be purchased from a range of retailers.
- Continuing to review this policy, to ensure the cost of our uniform is reasonable and provides the best value for money.

The school will actively work to ensure uniform costs are kept as low as possible. The school will support families if, at any time, cost is a barrier to the purchase of correct uniform. Parents who require support should contact the school office to discuss options for support ([spadmin@sonning.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:spadmin@sonning.wokingham.sch.uk)).

## Roles and responsibilities

The Local Governing Body (LGB) monitors and reviews the school Uniform Policy. It is the LGB's responsibility to ensure that the school uniform meets all regulations, including those concerning equal opportunities.

### Pupils

Pupils are expected to wear the correct uniform at all times (other than specified non-school uniform days) whilst in the following places/activities:

- On the school premises.
- Travelling to and from school.
- At out-of-school events or on trips that are organised by the school, or where they are representing the school.

### Parents

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

- Uniform is clean.

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# Sonning Church of England Primary School

## Uniform Policy



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

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

- 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 in accordance with the school's complaints policy. Disputes about the cost of the school uniform will be managed in the following way:

- 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.

### Staff / the school

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 headteacher if the situation doesn't improve.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with the relevant school policy/policies and/or procedures.

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 and the pupil will not miss classroom teaching because of a sanction. This is in line with the statutory guidance. The school will notify parents by phone or email if a pupil is not following school policy with regard to uniform.

### Local Governing Body (LGB)

The LGB will review this policy and make sure that it meets the following requirements:

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

The LGB will also make sure that the school's uniform supplier arrangements give the highest priority to cost and value for money.

## 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:

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# Sonning Church of England Primary School

## Uniform Policy



- At Sonning Church of England Primary School, we wish for pupils to look smart. Therefore, footwear must meet 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 (as they have coloured fur, embellishments or studs):



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

### 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.

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# Sonning Church of England Primary School

## Uniform Policy



- 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 except 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. 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

# Sonning Church of England Primary School

## Uniform Policy



(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](http://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](mailto: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 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.

# Sonning Church of England Primary School

## Uniform Policy



### 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 should be around knee length. No black socks or white socks with this uniform style.
- 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. These are non-branded and can be purchased from any retailer.

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 school socks (not sports socks) is optional.
- A jumper is not expected for the Summer Term, and grey shorts and encouraged as opposed to trousers.

#### Standard uniform expectations:

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



#### Warmer weather / summer term uniform expectations:

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



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# Sonning Church of England Primary School

## Uniform Policy



### 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 mandatory as part of our 3 branded items.
- 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 locked. 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.

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



School book bag



School PE bag

## Appendix: Summary poster for parents

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# Sonning Church of England Primary School

## Uniform Policy



### SONNING PRIMARY UNIFORM SUMMARY FOR PARENTS

#### JUMPER/CARDIGAN

This is one of our branded items which we recommend families purchase. These are for all pupils (YR to Y6).



#### WHITE POLO

Plain white polo t-shirts are only for Reception (Acorn class). Fewer buttons compared to a shirt supports our youngest pupils' independence when getting ready in the morning or changing to/from PE lessons.



#### WHITE SHIRT / BLOUSE

Plain white shirts are used in Years 1 to 6. These can be worn all year round with a tie. There are short sleeve and long sleeve versions available.



#### TIES

Ties are expected as part of the uniform for all pupils in Years 1 to 6 who wear a shirt/blouse. Elastic ties are available in Reception (a tie is optional for Acorn pupils), and in Years 1 and 2 only. All other pupils should wear a regular tie.



#### TROUSERS / SKIRTS

Trousers, shorts, skirts and dresses are available for Years R to 6. The images are examples and other suitable and in-keeping uniform options are also accepted. Grey or black socks/tights must be worn with these items.

#### FOOTWEAR

Footwear should be flat, closed toe, black, as well as smart and appropriate for school. 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 the aforementioned criteria, and boots may only be worn if they are low-ankle boots, plain black and without any chains, embellishments or other accessories. Plimsols are not suitable to be worn as main school shoes. For more examples of appropriate footwear, see our policy.



#### PE KIT

Pupils are sorted into Houses in Reception class. These houses each have a colour assigned to them as well. Each child should have a coloured PE top. These will also serve as kit for sports events that we attend, so our pupils look presentable when representing our school.

Tracksuits are non-branded, but are expected to meet school policy expectations. Joggers / tops (v-neck, round-neck or quarter-zip) should be dark navy or black, with no excessive logos or branding. No hoods or hoodies are allowed for health and safety reasons.



#### SUMMER OPTIONS

In warmer weather, pupils may wear a blue checked dress if they wish. A blue and white check dress/playsuit with grey or white socks is optional. Examples of the uniform adaptations can be seen below.

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.



#### PE BAGS / BOOK BAGS

A book bag is donated by the PTA to new pupils when they join the school. Pupils in YR and Y1 may only have a book bag each day (no rucksacks please, due to the cloakroom space). Pupils in Y2 to 6 may bring a small rucksack or bag into school (one key chain or labelling device per bag). For pupils in Y2 to 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.



Please note that there are specific expectations for jewellery (including ear piercings), religious items and smart watches or devices. Full details of the school's expectations can be found in the full version of the Uniform Policy.

The DfE recommends that schools have three branded items of clothing. At Sonning, these are the jumper, tie and PE top.

Full details can be found in our Uniform Policy on our website

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