



UNIFORM POLICY

School Colours: *Grey, White and Navy Blue*

The School Uniform and Logo are important to us. Together they help us to identify ourselves as a school family promoting a strong, cohesive school identity which supports high standards and expectations in all areas of school life. It promotes harmony between different groups represented in the school, and it enhances security. The Governing Body have decided that all children should wear the uniform and we encourage children to maintain an acceptable standard of clean and tidy dress at all times.

Aims and objectives

At Merrylands Primary School, we believe that a school uniform is important, because it:

- promotes a sense of pride in the school
- encourages a sense of community and belonging towards the school
- is practical and smart
- identifies the children with the school
- is designed with health and safety in mind
- prevents children from coming to school in fashion clothes that could be distracting in class
- makes children feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance
- is regarded as suitable wear for school and good value for money by most parents
- is conducive to good educational practice

To ensure that these aims are realised, the Headteacher retains overall responsibility for assessing the appropriateness of individual items of clothing and hair style.

Uniform

Items carrying the school logo are available from Schoolwear Centre, Basildon. All items of uniform are readily available from the high street or school uniform shop – if parents and carers find any item difficult to obtain, please contact the school. Our uniform has been kept simple to avoid unnecessary expense.

- white blouse, shirt or polo shirt (*logo optional*)
- light grey skirt or pinafore dress
- light grey trousers long or short
- navy blue checked dress (*Summer*)
- navy blue sweatshirt or cardigan (*with logo*)
- white, grey, black or navy socks
- white, grey, black or navy tights
- black shoes - for Health and Safety reasons all shoes must be supported at the back of the foot. Fashion plimsolls, mules, open toed sandals or flip flops are not appropriate. In addition shoes must be flat or have very low heels.

Fashion items such as very short skirts/shorts, low slung trousers or over the knee socks are not acceptable.

PE

- navy blue shorts
- white t-shirt with logo
- plimsolls or trainers for indoor/outdoor activities
- jogging bottoms or tracksuit for outdoor PE in Autumn and Winter terms (*not compulsory*)

Swimming

- one piece swimsuit
- swimming trunks (*for safety reasons baggy or knee length swimming/beach shorts are not acceptable*)
- swimming hat
- goggles (*optional*)
- verucca sock (*if needed*)

Jewellery

- it is encouraged that pupils do not wear jewellery to school, especially as individuals become very upset if a treasured piece of jewellery goes missing

- should a pupil have pierced ears, only small, plain studs (silver/gold coloured only) should be worn and in order to comply with Health and Safety regulations, these must be removed for swimming lessons and all other PE activities. For this reason we ask that parents only have children's ears pierced during the six week holiday.
- watches may be worn to school by children in Years 3 to 6

Please note that the school will be unable to take responsibility for any jewellery or watches that are lost.

Hair

- long hair should be tied back with **small** white, black, grey or navy blue hair ties. Decorative hair bands are not acceptable (e.g. flowers, large bows etc)
- boys and girls must secure hair back from the face for all physical activity
- extreme haircuts/styles are not permitted including coloured hair, shaven heads, mohicans and tramlines or other designs

Make Up

- make up is not acceptable and any child wearing make up to school will be required to remove it
- nail varnish should not be worn on fingers or toes
- false nails are not permitted

Equipment

- all necessary pens, pencils, rulers etc are supplied by the school and children are not permitted to bring in their own pencil cases or equipment
- no knives or sharp blades should be brought into the school in any circumstances
- in the interests of safety, children in Years 5 and 6 who walk to and from school alone may bring mobile phones into school (parents must sign the appropriate permission slip). However, these **MUST** be given to the classteacher at the beginning of the school day and collected from the classteacher at the end of the school day but remain the responsibility of the child at all times. If a child is found to have a mobile phone on them during the school day, it will be confiscated and only returned to the child's parent or carer
- electronic games such as 'PSPs and 'DSs are not allowed in school except as an occasional special reward. Parents will be notified in writing if this is the case and parental permission will be requested
- no medicine, cough sweets or similar over the counter products should ever be brought to school by a child
- no 'swap' cards i.e. 'Pokemon' or 'Match Attacks', unless there has been specific permission given
- no inappropriate books, videos or magazines
- no money should be brought to school unless for a specific permissible purpose
- bags to carry equipment and belongings in should be of a reasonable size as space in the cloakrooms is limited

Staff code of dress

All staff including students on placement are required to conform to a smart code of dress (in line with our Staff Dress Code). This should be conducive to the high standards expected of professional educators.

The Role of Parents/Carers

We ask all parents/carers who send their child(ren) to our school to support the School Uniform Policy and this forms an important element of our Home School Agreement. We believe that parents/carers have a duty to send their child(ren) to school correctly dressed and ready for their daily schoolwork. One of the responsibilities of parents/carers is to ensure that their child(ren) has the correct uniform, that it is clean, in good repair and labelled with their child(ren)'s name.

Modifications to the Uniform Policy may only be made with the approval of the Governing Body. The school welcomes children from all backgrounds and faith communities. If there are reasons on religious or other grounds, why parents want their child(ren) to wear clothes that differ from the school uniform, then the school will consider any such requests.

The Role of Governors

The Governing Body supports the Headteacher in implementing the School Uniform Policy and liaises with the Headteacher to ensure that the Policy is implemented fairly and with sensitivity. It is the Governors' responsibility to ensure that the school uniform meets all regulations concerning equal opportunities. Governors ensure that the School Uniform Policy helps children to dress appropriately, in clothing that is hard wearing, safe and practical.

Racial Equality & Equal Opportunities

We are committed to ensuring that our school uniform is affordable for all our families. All children have equal access to wearing school uniform regardless of their culture, race, religion, gender, disability or ability. We ensure that the set uniform respect other policies such as Race relations, sex discrimination and allows for individual sets of circumstances of all groups and individuals. Merrylands Primary School is committed to creating a positive climate that will enable everyone to work free from racial intimidation and harassment and to achieve their full potential.