



Merley First School Uniform Policy



Statement of Intent

Our mission is to promote a love of learning in order to maximise the life chances of every child in our Trust. Through nurturing, high expectations and skilled teaching, we will have a lasting and positive impact on our local and wider community.

Our Vision

We believe the best way to educate children is by providing a happy, caring and positive environment. We encourage everyone to achieve their best and strive for high standards in teaching, learning and behaviour.

Each child is helped to:

- Develop a lively and enquiring mind, to grow in imagination and sensitivity by encouraging understanding, awareness and curiosity about the world;
- Acquire knowledge, skills, confidence and self esteem;
- To develop and adopt personal and moral values, ensuring that everyone equally enjoys respect and consideration.

This is done by:

- Equipping each child with the necessary skills in all areas of the curriculum with a strong emphasis on listening, reading, writing, communication and mathematics;
- Encouraging parents to take a full and active part in their child's education;
- Developing good working relationships between parents, staff and governors.

We look forward to working in partnership with you during your child's progress in learning with us.

Under the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Act which came into force in April 2011, the school has due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

Merley First School Uniform Policy

Our School, like the vast majority of schools, has a strict uniform policy where children are encouraged to take pride in their appearance and of the school. We are proud of the appearance of the children and feel that it is an important factor in school discipline and standards and helps support a sense of belonging. This also reduces tension between children, as they do not have to compete with their peers for the latest fashions, reducing peer pressure.

The well-being of our children is of utmost importance to us and their safety is paramount, and through wearing the correct uniform, it makes it easier to identify our children, especially outside of the school premises.

We are very aware that parent(s)/carer(s) may not be in a financial position to spend a great deal of money on school uniform, and this is why we have tried to ensure that the requirements of most of our school uniform allows parent(s)/carer(s) to buy 'general' uniform, like trousers, dresses and skirts, from good value shops, or supermarkets, for approximately £3 per item.

The requirements of our school uniform are detailed on the following pages:

General Uniform

| | Acceptable | Not Acceptable |
|--|---|---|
| Trousers or shorts | Grey tailored school trousers School conventional material Trousers full length | No jeans, corduroy, leggings, tight fitting, Lycra or skinny fashion/sports trousers/shorts (Please note: some shops do sell 'skinny' trousers as part of their school uniform range, but they are <u>not acceptable</u> .) |
| Jumper or school sweatshirt or school cardigan | Royal blue with school logo | Other sweatshirts Hooded top Fleece Non regulation jumper/cardigan |
| Polo shirt | Plain white | Shirt Coloured polo shirt |
| Skirts | Grey knee length skirts | Fashion skirts, i.e. pencil or mini skirts Stretchy or mini-skirts Skirts shorter than the knee |
| Pinafore | Grey knee length dress | Dress shorter than the knee |
| Summer dress | Blue and white striped or checked dress – knee length | |
| Socks and tights | Plain grey, black or white socks Plain grey, black or white opaque or knitted tights | Fashion tights Coloured or patterned socks or tights Bare feet Tights of less than 50 denier |
| Shoes | Traditional black and low heeled <u>school</u> shoes Velcro, laces, buckle or slip on only | Trainers (even if black) Hi tops High heels, sling backs or open toed sandals Wedges Boots |

PE Kit

| | Acceptable | Not Acceptable |
|--------------------|---|---|
| PE T-shirt | Blue with school logo | No brand names or logos |
| PE Jumper | Same as school jumper or Navy or black – for use in cold weather | No brand names or logos Fleece |
| Shorts | Navy or black or white | No brand names or logos Fashion sports wear |
| Trainers | Non-marking Supportive footwear Lace or Velcro fastening | Plimsolls |
| Tracksuit trousers | Navy or black – for use in cold weather | No brand names or logos |
| | | |
| | Acceptable | Not Acceptable |
| Jewellery | Maximum of two small plain gold or silver stud-like ear-rings (one in each ear) Watches | Not coloured or patterned earrings / hoops etc Not permitted on a P.E day Covering ear piercings with plasters Smart Watches No other accessories to be worn |
| Hair and makeup | Conventional style and natural colour Shoulder-length hair or longer to be tied up Hairbands in school colours or muted colours | Inappropriate hairstyles i.e. brightly coloured, shaven and/or patterned styles Inappropriate hair bands i.e. brightly coloured, big bows Make-up, nail varnish, tattoo transfers. No make-up is permitted in school time |

Please note: Whilst we understand that, as the school academic year comes to an end, your child may grow out of their school shoes, we still wish to maintain standards and the school uniform rules still apply. Trainers may be worn with school PE kit.

Obviously, the very large majority of pupils and parent(s)/carer(s) adhere to these high standards and support the schools in upholding them, for the good of their children and the positive reputations of the school. We are very grateful for this support and thank you for taking pride in your child's appearance and their school.

Adhering to the Uniform Policy

All pupils are expected to wear the appropriate uniform from home to school and home again, except when permission has been given because of school educational visits, or pre-arranged activity days, such as Outdoor Adventures, Comic Relief or non-uniform days. All pupils are representing the school at all times and should take pride in being part of their community.

If your child does attend school in uniform which does not conform to the agreed school policy, please note the following procedures will be followed:

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| 1. Class teacher will make you aware there is an issue with non-compliance with uniform policy. |
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| 2. If the issue is not resolved, the Deputy Headteacher will make a phone call to discuss the non-compliance of uniform policy. |
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| 3. The school will call and arrange a meeting with the parents and Headteacher. |
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<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-uniform/school-uniforms>

The Department for Education Guidance on School Uniform updated 2024 states that ‘Teachers can discipline pupils for breaching the school’s rules on appearance or uniform. This should be carried out in accordance with the school’s published behaviour policy. We would expect schools to deal with pupil non-compliance in a proportionate and fair way.’

Support for Families with School Uniform

In agreeing our school uniform, we have been careful to minimise the amount of uniform which must be purchased from specialist suppliers, in order to follow the statutory guidance from the Department for Education on the [Cost of School Uniform](#) and keep costs down.

All uniform items, apart from the school jumper/cardigan/PE T shirt, are generic and can be purchased from cheaper suppliers, such as supermarkets and value clothing stores.

The choice of school shoes has also been left intentionally broad, so that they may be purchased from a variety of outlets – however, the stipulation of NO TRAINERS is non-negotiable. (Black smart school shoes can be bought from local supermarkets.)

We do appreciate that some families may struggle with replacing uniform as it is outgrown, so please do talk to us if you have concerns. We offer second hand school uniform through Merley PTA available to all parents and carers, to help keep costs as low as possible.

If you are experiencing financial difficulties, then please do come and talk to us, as we may be able to offer you support.