



Oak View School, Whitehills Road, Loughton, Essex, IG10 1TS

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School Uniform Policy

Written	October 2026
Review Due	October 2028

Statement of Intent

Oak View believes that a consistent school uniform policy is vital to promote the ethos of the school and provide a sense of belonging and identity for all pupils, regardless of their protected characteristics or socio-economic circumstances. However, the school recognises the sensory challenges that many of our pupils face in wearing specific items of clothing and therefore although extremely encouraged, a set uniform is not compulsory at the school.

This policy lays out the measures the school has taken to ensure a consistent, fair and inclusive uniform policy, and to implement a uniform that reflects the needs of all pupils, and is affordable and the best value for money for the school and pupils' families.

We believe that pupils learn most effectively and achieve their best outcomes when they are comfortable, able to be themselves, and dressed in such a way that sets an appropriate tone for education.

Cost Principles

The school is committed to ensuring that its school uniform is affordable and accessible to all pupils, and does not place an unreasonable financial burden on parents.

The school should assess the overall cost implications of its uniform policy regularly, including prior to making any changes to the school uniform. When evaluating whether costs are reasonable and proportionate, the school should take into account the opinions and situations of:

- Economically disadvantaged parents.
- Parents with multiple children who are, or will be in the future, pupils at the school.
- Parents of younger children, as they are likely to grow quickly and require new sets of uniform more frequently.
- Parents of pupils with protected characteristics that may impact their ability to access the uniform due to costs.
- LAC and PLAC.

The school should evaluate the cost of its uniform based on the overall collection of uniform items that parents would need to purchase for a pupil, rather than on the cost effectiveness of individual items; this should include consideration of the fact that parents will need to purchase multiples of certain items, e.g. shirts and socks, to ensure their child can come to school in clean uniform every day.

The school keeps branded uniform items to a minimal level that is reasonable for all members of the school community, ensuring compulsory branded items do not exceed statutory guidance limits (no more than three items in total across daily uniform and PE kit). Plain, unbranded garments in school colours purchased from high-street retailers or supermarkets are fully acceptable.

The school is committed to meeting the DfE's recommendations on costs and value for money. Every care is taken to ensure that our uniforms are affordable for all current and prospective pupils, and that the best value for money is secured through reputable suppliers. The school should not amend uniform requirements regularly and should take the views of parents and pupils into account when considering any changes to school uniforms.

Second-Hand Uniforms

To support sustainability and ensure uniform items remain accessible and affordable for all families, the school maintains a second-hand uniform provision (spare clothing facility). Parents and carers can access or donate good-quality, pre-loved uniform items through the school office throughout the academic year. Information regarding availability is communicated via the school newsletter.

Equality Principles

The school takes its legal obligation to avoid discriminating against any protected characteristic unlawfully very seriously, and aims to ensure that the uniform policy is as inclusive as possible so that all pupils are supported to access a school uniform which is comfortable, suitable for their needs, and reflects who they are.

With this taken into consideration, although uniforms with the school logo are available to purchase, reasonable adaptations are taken into consideration to ensure that pupils are comfortable to learn. This includes allowing school 'coloured' clothing instead of logo-specific uniform and in some cases allowing non-uniform that is practical and appropriate. Non-uniform is allowed in Years 12, 13 and 14, although the school recognises that some pupils will wish to continue to wear school-specific uniform as it may support transition to and from school.

The school explicitly recognises that hair texture, protective hairstyles (including braids, locks, twists, and cornrows), and religious headwear form an essential part of a pupil's identity. No pupil will be penalized or restricted for wearing culturally, religiously, or racially significant hairstyles or attire.

School Uniform Supplier

Our current school uniform supplier is:

MAPAC GROUP LTD.

6 Mowat Estate, Sandown Road, Watford, Herts, WD24 7UZ. U.K.

Tel: +44 (0)1923 255525

Web: <https://www.mapac.com/education/parents/uniform/oakviewschoolig101t>

The school should retender the uniform contract every five years, whether changes to the uniform are made or not, in line with the Tendering and Procurement Policy. The governing board should be able to demonstrate how uniform is procured at the best value for money. The headteacher should work to ensure that the items are procured as cheaply as possible without compromising on the quality, e.g. by requesting standard-style items from the supplier rather than more intricate and unique designs.

School Uniform

Our school colour is blue.

The school uniform is as follows:

- All Pupils:
 - Suitable grey/black bottoms: trousers, joggers, shorts, or skirt.
 - A white or blue polo shirt – school branded is available.
 - A blue sweatshirt or cardigan – school branded is available.
 - Trainers are considered suitable footwear as are typical school shoes. High heels are not permitted.
 - Jeans are strongly discouraged unless in Years 12, 13 or 14.
- PE & Hydrotherapy:
 - A PE kit of appropriate shorts/joggers, a t-shirt and plimsolls or trainers in a separate bag is encouraged. None are required to be branded.
 - Pupils who attend hydrotherapy sessions will require a suitable swimsuit and towel.
- Footwear note:
 - Pupils, particularly in Lower School, are also encouraged to have a pair of wellington boots that can remain in school.

Adverse Weather

All pupils are required to wear weather-appropriate clothing that covers as much of their skin as possible during adverse weather.

For hot temperatures, this includes wearing:

- Loose-fitting and lightweight clothing.
- Shorts.
- Tops that cover the shoulder area.
- Sunglasses with UV protection when outside, where possible.
- Pupils are advised not to wear any jumpers or coats during heatwaves.

For cold temperatures, this includes wearing:

- Scarves, gloves, coats and hats when they are outside.
- Warm jumpers that conform to the school's uniform policy.
- Trousers, or thick tights with skirts.

Labelling and Lost Property

All pupils' clothing and footwear should be clearly labelled with their name.

Any lost clothing is to be taken to the lost property box in the school office. All lost property is retained for a half term and is disposed of if it is not collected within this time or moved to the spare clothing facility.

Monitoring and Review

This policy is reviewed every 2 years by the Headteacher and the Governing Board to ensure it remains compliant with statutory guidance, affordable for families, and responsive to the sensory and practical needs of our pupils. Any proposed changes to the uniform policy will be conducted in consultation with parents, carers, and pupils.