Rushmore School
Uniform Policy

Approved by: **Governing Body**	**Date:** 16th May 2025
Last reviewed on: **16th May 2025**	
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Contents

1. Aims 3
2. Our school's legal duties under the Equality Act 2010 4
3. Limiting the cost of school uniform 5
4. Expectations for school uniform 5
5. Expectations for our school community 6
6. Monitoring arrangements 7
7. Links to other policies 7

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1. Aims

Our policy on school uniform is based on the belief that school uniform:

- promotes a sense of pride in our school
- helps to create a sense of community and belonging towards the school
- identifies the children with the school
- supports our commitment to inclusion
- prevents children from wearing 'fashion clothes' that could be distracting in class
- is practical, smart and designed with health and safety in mind
- is considered good value for money by most parents

1. Promoting Equality and Reducing Peer Pressure:

- **Levelling the playing field:**

Uniforms minimize the visible differences between students from different economic backgrounds, reducing the pressure to conform to expensive or trendy clothing.

- **Reducing bullying:**

By removing the focus on clothing, uniforms can decrease the potential for bullying related to fashion or appearance.

2. Enhancing Focus and Discipline:

- **Minimizing distractions:**

Uniforms eliminate the distractions associated with fashion trends and clothing choices, allowing students to focus more on their studies.

- **Promoting professionalism:**

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Uniforms can instil a sense of discipline and professionalism in students, preparing them for future work environments.

- **Improving behaviour:**

Some studies suggest that uniforms can contribute to a more disciplined learning environment, with students exhibiting better behavior and attention in the classroom.

3. Strengthening School Identity and Unity:

- **Fostering a sense of belonging:**

Uniforms can create a stronger sense of community and school pride, making students feel more connected to their school.

- **Enhancing school spirit:**

A shared uniform can boost school unity and pride, fostering a more positive and cohesive school environment.

4. Simplifying Daily Life:

- **Easy mornings:**

Uniforms streamline the morning routine for both students and parents, saving time and reducing stress.

- **Cost-effective for families:**

While the initial purchase may seem expensive, uniforms can be more economical in the long run, especially when compared to the fluctuating costs of individual clothing purchases.

5. Improving Safety and Security:

- **Easy identification:**

Uniforms make it easier to identify students on school grounds and during school-related activities, improving safety and security.

- **Reducing potential for unauthorized access:**

Easily recognizable attire can help staff and others quickly spot unauthorized visitors, enhancing overall security.

This policy aims to:

- Set out our approach to requiring a uniform that is of reasonable cost and offers the best value for money for parents and carers
- Explain how we will avoid discrimination in line with our legal duties under the Equality Act 2010
- Clarify our expectations for school uniform

2. Our 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, disability, race, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity, and gender reassignment.

To avoid discrimination, our school will:

- Avoid listing uniform items based on sex, to give all pupils the opportunity to wear the uniform they feel most comfortable in or that most reflects their self-identified gender

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- Make sure that our uniform costs the same for all pupils
- Allow all pupils to have long hair (though we reserve the right to ask for this to 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 request changes to swimwear for religious reasons or if they are experiencing discomfort related to their sex, gender or gender reassignment
- 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
- Allow for reasonable adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents/carers to get in touch with Eileen McEwan who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis

3. Limiting the cost of school uniform

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 uniform.

We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that need to have a school logo or a unique fabric/colour/design) cannot be purchased from a wide range of retailers and that requiring many such items limits parents/carers' ability to 'shop around' for a low price.

We will make sure our uniform:

- Is available at a reasonable cost
- Provides the best value for money for parents/carers

We will do this by:

- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary
- Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics where possible.
- Avoiding specific requirements for items pupils could wear on non-school days, such as coats, bags and shoes
- Keeping the number of optional branded items to a minimum, so that the school's uniform can act as a social leveler
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different years and classes
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- Considering alternative methods for signaling differences in groups for interschool competitions, such as the use of bibs/house t-shirts
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents/carers to acquire second-hand uniform items
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents/carers of any changes
- Consulting with parents/carers and pupils on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy
- Hosting half-termly second-hand uniform sales

4. Expectations for school uniform

4.1 Our school's uniform

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- School logoed sweatshirt or cardigan
- White logoed polo shirt
- Grey/black trousers/shorts/skirt/pinafore/culottes
- Green school gingham dress
- Grey/white/black socks

Footwear

- Black/white shoes or trainers (with minimal logos) or plain sandals which must be tightly secured around the ankles

PE

- Plain grey/black/navy shorts/jogging bottoms (no stripes or logos) and House PE t-shirt

4.2 Where to purchase it

- Via Scopay and then collected via the school office. https://www.scopay.com/login
- Via online, directly from the suppliers (My Clothing Ltd). https://myclothing.com
- Via the school second-hand uniform sale, arranged by parent teacher association half termly.

5. Expectations for our school community

5.1 Pupils

Pupils are expected to wear the correct uniform at all times (other than specified non-school uniform days) while:

- 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 (if required)

Pupils are also expected to contact Eileen McEwan if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics.

5.2 Parents and carers

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

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

Parents/carers are also expected to contact Eileen McEwan if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to:

- Their child's protected characteristics
- The cost of the uniform

Parents/carers are expected to lodge any complaints or objections relating to the school uniform in a timely and reasonable manner.

Disputes about the cost of the school uniform will be:

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- 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.

5.3 Staff

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 by the senior leadership team.

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.

5.4 Governors

The governing body will review this policy and make sure that it:

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

The Governing body will also make sure that the school's uniform supplier arrangements give the highest priority to cost and value for money, for example by avoiding single supplier contracts and by re-tendering contracts at least every 5 years.

6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years by Eileen McEwan. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing body.

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

- Behaviour policy
- Equality information and objectives statement
- Anti-bullying policy
- Complaints policy

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