

# MOORLANDS SCHOOL

## UNIFORM POLICY



Policy date	February 2023
Policy review	Annually
Date ratified	February 2023
Ratified by	Dr A Cook (Chief Executive) Miss J Pawaar (Executive Head)
Review date	January 2024

## **Policy Rationale**

Moorlands School (and King's House Moorlands Education Trust) believes that school uniforms are an effective way of ensuring equality in the classroom as well as a shared sense of identity and common sense of purpose as well as reflecting our diverse community.

Our uniform standards enable every pupil to attend school in an equal and fair way and by maintaining our expectations we ensure that appearance does not advantage or disadvantage any individual.

We believe that this basic equality is a fundamental right of children in education and that this is vital to a caring and safe learning environment.

Our branded items give our uniform a distinctive character to make them unique to the school and as such we endeavour to avoid making frequent changes to our uniform. Any changes to our uniform requirements would be notified via usual school communication methods.

Our expectations regarding pupil appearance are high and as such disciplinary procedures may result where expectations are not consistently followed.

Details of our permitted uniform items, including PE kit, will be found on our website, updated as required, and in the school handbook which is updated on an annual basis.

Uniform items are available to purchase from our own school uniform shop run by Moorlands School on the school premises at: Moorlands School, 33 High Street, Leagrave, Luton, LU4 9JY, Tel: 01582 491430. A booking system is generally utilised for the purchase of new or replacement uniform items and this will be accessible via a link from the school website.

## **Inclusion and Diversity**

We are keen to ensure that each pupil is able to express themselves in accordance with the uniform policy and does not feel that they are in anyway prevented from demonstrating or following their own faith or belief system in respect of the uniform they wear at school. We recognise that there are a number of different facets to each individual's preferred uniform and our policy has been prepared to reflect this and our inclusive and diverse community. As the school community expands we recognise that the beliefs and views of pupils as to what is and is not appropriate to wear will differ. Whilst we, as a school accommodate these differences, as far as we are able (as recognised in our policy), we do also understand that there may be a temptation to entice, pressurise or coerce others to adopt a different approach to uniform or compliance with their faith/belief system.

With this in mind, whilst our uniform policy reflects our inclusive and diverse community we would request that all pupils respect the preference and views of others in relation to how they comply with the uniform policy (either in relation to religious attire or otherwise). No pupil should be required to explain why they are or are not wearing a certain item of clothing nor feel any pressure to wear, or not wear specific items of clothing. Any coercion, pressurising, enticing on in any other way seeking to influence, another pupil to wear, or not wear, a certain item of clothing may be considered bullying and treated as such under our behaviour and/or anti-bullying policies.

It should also go without saying that any derogatory, offensive, inappropriate or other comments that cause harm to others, about their or others' appearance will also be dealt with in accordance with our behaviour and anti-bullying policies.

### **Aims and Objectives**

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

- engenders a sense of community and belonging towards the school;
- is practical and smart;
- identifies the pupils with the school;
- prevents pupils from coming to school in fashion clothes that could be distracting in class;
- makes pupils feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance;
- is regarded as suitable attire for school;
- is designed with health and safety in mind;
- promotes a sense of pride in school.

### **Standards of Dress and General Appearance**

All pupils are expected to arrive at school and depart from school in school uniform unless permission has been granted not to. We expect pupils and their parents to support this standard. Great emphasis is placed upon tidiness and neatness of pupils as part of their development and as such, uniform should be worn appropriately and correctly without modification: for example, all should arrive at school with clean shoes, clean shirts and shirts tucked into their skirt/trousers, skirts should be of a suitable length, missing buttons on clothing should be sewn back on and damaged/ torn items should be replaced as soon as possible. Items of clothing or appearance should not denote affiliation to any politically motivated group, denote extreme views or cause offence.

School will not be responsible for the loss/ damage and incurred cost of clothing and personal possessions. This includes any 'prohibited items' such as non-sanctioned electronic devices, mobile phones that are not handed in as per the mobile phone policy, non-permitted jewellery items or 'designer' items.

Staff monitor standards of general appearance and the wearing of the correct uniform. Appropriate communication will take place with individual pupils and/ or their parents where there may be a discrepancy. Any pupil or parental queries regarding uniform should in the first instance be directed towards the form tutor. Any first instances of not wearing the correct uniform would take the form of a supportive discussion in partnership with the pupil and/ or their parents. Should discrepancies not be resolved further to this, disciplinary procedures may then follow.

We apply a common sense approach to general appearance, allowing a balanced approach to aspects such as hairstyles, hair colour and jewellery/ piercings. Whilst we do not 'prohibit' specific styles of appearance, we reserve the right to address or 'prohibit' anything we feel is excessive, inappropriate or extreme, or that contravenes health and safety at school. Examples, not exhaustive, are given below.

### **Jewellery**

On health and safety grounds we do not allow pupils to wear jewellery in school. The exceptions to this rule are small objects of religious significance, or for girls, a small pair of stud earrings. For earrings, they must be removed for all PE/ Sport activities by the pupil. No member of staff will be permitted to do this for them. For the items of religious significance, they may be removed or covered with a plaster or sweatband. If this is not possible, the pupil may be excluded from the PE lesson. We recommend that if a pupil has their ears pierced, this be done at the start of the long summer break. In general, jewellers' guidelines specify a 6 week period for no removal of earrings.

### **Extreme haircuts**

The school does not permit pupils to have 'extreme' haircuts that could serve as a distraction to others and that do not match the overall expected standard of a pupil's appearance.

### **Footwear**

The school wants all pupils to grow into healthy adults. We believe that it is dangerous for students to wear shoes that have platform soles or high heels, so we do not allow them to wear such shoes in our school. Heels must be no higher than 3cms. Neither are pupils allowed to wear trainers to school, other than for Sports/ PE lessons; this is because we think that this footwear is appropriate for sport or for leisurewear, but is not in keeping with the smart appearance of a school uniform. We require all pupils to wear smart and safe black shoes. If there is a medical reason why appropriate school shoes cannot be worn for a period of time, confirmation may required from a medical professional.

### **Outdoor Wear**

It is recommended that coats be brought to school during the Autumn and Spring terms as pupils may be outside, if only for a short "fresh air" break, in adverse weather. They may also be required to be worn by pupils when they attend activities and events off-site. Discretion should be exercised by pupils during the summer term as regards bringing a coat to school. We would suggest that if the weather is forecast to be inclement, that a coat is brought to school on such days to be worn at break times and off-site activities.