

Dame Ellen Pinsent School

School Uniform Policy



Where children are happy; developing independence and confidence, so that they can be their very best

Next Review:	April 2026	D.Fountain	Policy Type:	Statutory
Last Review:	April 2023	D.Fountain	Adopted from:	TSB
Date Ratified:	April 2023	D.Fountain	Governing Body:	WGB
Pages: 6			Review Period:	3 Years

Statement of intent

Dame Ellen Pinsent School 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.

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.

1. Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Education Act 2011
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Equality Act 2010
- The UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)
- Data Protection Act 2018

This policy has due regard to all relevant guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- DfE (2021) 'Cost of school uniforms'
- DfE (2021) 'School Admissions Code'
- DfE (2021) 'School uniforms'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Complaints Procedures Policy
- Behaviour Policy

2. Roles and responsibilities

The governing board is responsible for:

- Establishing, in consultation with the headteacher and school community, a practical and smart school uniform that accurately reflects the school's vision and values.
- Ensuring the school's uniform is accessible and inclusive, and does not disadvantage any pupil by virtue of their protected characteristics or socio-economic status.
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of parents, pupils and the wider school community regarding changes to the school's uniform.
- Ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible and affordable.
- Demonstrating how best value for money has been achieved in the uniform policy.
- Ensuring compliance with the DfE's '[Cost of school uniforms](#)' guidance.
- Processing and approving all eligible School Uniform Assistance Application Forms.

The headteacher is responsible for:

- Enforcing the school's uniform on a day-to-day basis.
- Ensuring that teachers understand this policy and what to do if a pupil is in breach of the policy.
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of the school community in regard to the school's uniform and making appropriate recommendations to the governing board.

Staff members are responsible for:

- Ensuring that pupils dress in accordance with this policy at all times.
- Supporting pupils and families to adhere to this policy.
- Ensuring that pupils understand why having a consistent and practical school uniform is important, e.g. school identity.

Parents are responsible for:

- Providing their children with the correct school uniform as detailed in this policy.
- Informing the class teacher if their child requires a more relaxed uniform policy for a period of time, including why.
- Ensuring that their child's uniform is clean, presentable and the correct size.
- Ensuring that their child's PE and swimming kit is sent into school on the appropriate days
- Ensuring their child's name is on all of their uniform

Pupils are responsible for:

- Wearing the correct uniform
- Looking after their uniform as appropriate.
- Understanding and respecting why a school uniform is important to the school, e.g. school identity and community.

3. 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.

In accordance with the 'School Admissions Code', the headteacher will ensure that the school's uniform policy does not discourage parents from applying for a place for their child.

The school will 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 will 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.
- CIC and PLAC.

The school will 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 will 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.

We want to keep costs as low as possible therefore, the school does not expect pupils to wear branded uniform. Parents can choose to buy branded jumpers if they wish to or we also offer

sew- or iron-on logo badges for jumpers that can be bought at retailers instead of requiring special branded jumpers. Alternatively, plain red or blue jumpers, without the school logo, can be worn.

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 will not amend uniform requirements regularly and will take the views of parents and pupils into account when considering any changes to school uniforms.

4. 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.

The school will work to ensure that school uniform's cost does not disproportionately affect any pupils by ensuring that uniforms for all genders are as equal in price as possible and by adhering to the cost principles laid out in section 3.

The school will ensure that parents and pupils are consulted over any changes to school uniform, and that uniform is suitable to the SEND of our pupils.

The school implements a gender-neutral uniform, meaning that pupils are not required to wear specific items based on their gender, and may wear any of the uniform items listed in the 'School uniform' section of this policy regardless of the legal sex recorded on the school's records.

The school ensures that pupils who are required to follow certain dress requirements, e.g. by virtue of their membership of a particular religious or cultural group, are afforded flexibility to allow them to wear a uniform that adheres to their requirements as far as possible. The school endeavours to meet all requests for amendments to the uniform for these purposes; however, will ensure that the needs and rights of individual pupils are weighed against any health and safety concerns for the entire school community.

Parents' concerns and requests regarding religious clothing are dealt with on a case-by-case basis by the headteacher and governing board, and always in accordance with the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.

The school ensures that the needs of pupils with SEND and/or sensory difficulties are considered in the uniform policy, e.g. ensuring soft, stretchy fabrics and avoiding intricate buttons or hard seams.

5. Complaints and challenges

The school endeavours to resolve all uniform complaints and challenges locally and informally, in accordance with the school's Complaints Procedures Policy. To make a complaint, parents should refer to the Complaints Procedures Policy and follow the stipulations outlined. When a complaint is received, the school works with parents to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

Governors are willing to consider reasonable requests for flexibility to allow a pupil to accommodate particular social and cultural circumstances.

6. School uniform supplier

Our current school uniform supplier is: My Clothing (<https://myclothing.com>), this is an online provider and the direct link to find the Dame Ellen Pinsent clothing and products is: <https://myclothing.com/collections/the-dame-ellen-pinsent-school-27740>

The governing board will ensure that a written contract is in place with the supplier for branded items.

The school will review the uniform contract every five years, whether changes to the uniform are made or not. The governing board will be able to demonstrate how uniform is procured at the best value for money. The school does not sign contracts with suppliers before requesting visualisations of proposed uniform, as well as fabric samples.

All uniform is available online through My Clothing throughout the year and can be ordered as required.

7. Uniform assistance

The school holds second-hand school uniforms in the school office for parents to access; access to these uniforms is available upon request made to the school. Parents are invited to donate their child's uniform when they no longer need it.

8. Non-compliance

If a child comes to school not wearing uniform the class teacher will discuss with parents the reason for this. We will work with the family to encourage the child to wear uniform.

Inappropriate clothing will not be allowed and the class teacher/HOD/Leadership will call home in the first instance to discuss the reasons for this and the parents will be asked to not send their child into school in such clothing. If this continues a meeting will be held in school with the parents.

9. School uniform

School colours

Our school colours are as follows:

- Red or Blue

Clothing

The school uniform is as follows:

Item	Optional or required	Branding	How to acquire	Cost per item from school supplier
Regular school uniform				
Red or Royal Blue sweatshirt or cardigan	Optional	School logo optional (iron-on school logo available)	Branded sweatshirt and cardigan available from school supplier and second hand from school office. Non-branded sweatshirt or	£10.30 for sweatshirt; £12.50 for Cardigan

			cardigan can be bought from regular retailers. Iron-on logo buttons available from school office.	
White polo shirt	Required	No branding	Available from school supplier, second hand from school office and available from regular retailers.	(Branded red or blue from Myclothing £6.10)
Red/Blue school fleece	Optional	School logo (iron-on school logo available)	Available from school supplier and second hand from school office.	£13.50
Grey or black trousers, shorts or grey skirt	Required	No branding	Available second hand from school office and available from regular retailers.	N/A
Sensible, plain black shoes/trainers	Required	No branding	Available from regular retailers.	N/A
PE kit				
Plain white t-shirt; or branded red or blue	Required	No branding required	Available from school supplier or regular retailer.	£6.10
Plain black shorts	Required	No branding required	Available from school supplier or regular retailer.	£5.50
Suitable trainers	Required	N/A		
Accessories				
School book bag	Optional	School logo	Available from school supplier.	Book bag £6.50 or rucksack £9.50

Pupils who are wearing skirts must also wear grey/black tights or socks.

Parents are responsible for ensuring their child brings their PE kit to school when needed.

Jewellery

Given the nature of our children and their needs jewellery isn't appropriate. However, if a child is learning to tell the time a watch is suitable, this would then be the responsibility of the pupil and not the school. Lost or damaged items will not be refunded. All jewellery must be removed during practical lessons, including PE lessons and science experiments.

School bag

If appropriate pupils should use a bag to carry their books and equipment. School bags featuring inappropriate images, slogans or phrases are not permitted.

10. 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 shirts and dresses with sleeves and collars or covered necklines.
- Over the knee skirts, shorts or trousers.
- Tops that cover the shoulder area.

Pupils are advised not to wear any jumpers during heatwaves. If outside during break times, pupils not wearing sun-safe clothing are advised to stay in an area protected from the sun, or spare clothing is provided.

For cold temperatures, this includes wearing:

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

11. Labelling

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

Any lost clothing will be taken to lost property. All lost property is retained for ½ a term and is disposed of if it is not collected within this time.