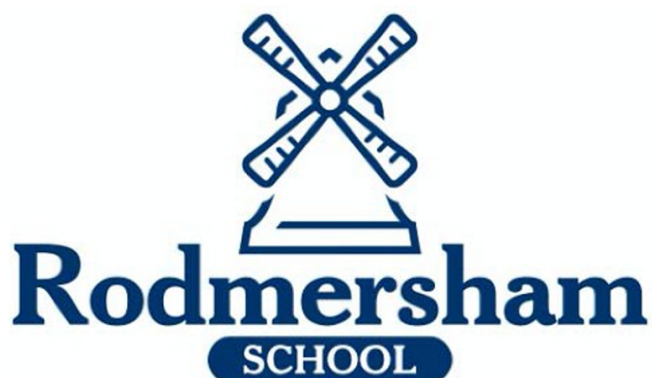


Rodmersham School

Uniform Policy

2023-24



Aims

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 uniforms.

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 sex, race, religion or belief, and gender reassignment.

To avoid discrimination, our school will:

- Avoid listing uniform items based on sex to allow all pupils to wear the uniform
- they feel most comfortable in or that most reflects their self-identified gender
- 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 the way that is appropriate for school yet makes them feel most comfortable.
- Allow pupils to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons
- Allow pupils to wear headscarves and other religious or cultural symbols
- Allow for adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents to get in touch with the school office who can, answer questions about the policy, and respond to any requests

Limiting the cost of school uniform

Our school has a duty to ensure that the uniform we require is affordable, in accordance with statutory guidance from the Department for Education on the cost of school uniforms.

We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items or items that have 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' 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:

- Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics where possible, for example, by

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- only asking that the jumper, worn over the polo shirt, features the school logo
- Limiting items with distinctive attributes to low-cost or long-lasting items

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- 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
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents to acquire second-hand uniform items
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents of any changes
- Consulting with parents and pupils on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy
- No pupil will be penalised due to financial hardship. Any family or carer having difficulty purchasing the correct school uniform may speak confidently with the Headteacher.

Expectations for school uniform

Our school's uniform

- Blue School Jumper/Cardigan (with school logo)
- Charcoal Grey/Black Trousers
- Charcoal Grey/Black Skirt
- White Polo Shirt (with or without school logo)
- Black Shoes (heel no higher than 2.5cm/1")
- Plain Black Trainers with no logos may be worn
- Black boots may be worn to and from school. However, school shoes must be brought to school to change into.
- The school PE Kit is navy blue and corresponds to the pupil's house
- Black or white trainers
- Navy blue tracksuit
- Swimming Kit
 - Boys: Swimming trunks or shorts (above the knee) Towel
 - Girls: One-piece swimming costume Towel
 - Swimming hats are recommended for children with long hair (shoulder length or longer). This is primarily for safety reasons, but it also avoids hair over their face whilst swimming and helps to keep hair dry, as we do not have hair dryers. Goggles may be worn upon receipt of a letter from parents.

Headwear - Long hair must be tied back

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Jewellery

Children should not wear jewellery for PE or swimming. Children with pierced ears may wear simple stud earrings at other times in their lobes. If they cannot remove the earrings, the ear will need to be taped to participate in any PE. Any other form of body piercing is not allowed.

Where to purchase it

School uniforms are available from Forsters on East Street, Sittingbourne; alternatively, you can also purchase them online.

Second-hand uniforms will be made available 3 times a year – with each item being £1

Expectations for our school community

Pupils

Pupils are expected always to wear the correct uniform (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)

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

Staff

Staff will closely monitor pupils to ensure they are in the correct uniform. They will allow pupils and families who breach the uniform policy to comply but will follow up with the headteacher if the situation doesn't improve.

In cases where it is suspected that financial hardship has prevented a pupil from complying with this uniform policy, staff will take a mindful and considerate approach to resolving the situation.

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Governors

The governing board 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 and pupils
- Offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all pupils

The board will also ensure that the school's uniform supplier arrangements prioritise cost and value for money.

Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed every three years or sooner if required by the Headteacher. After every review, it will be approved by the entire governing board

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