Waterton
Academy Trust

Uniform Policy Statement

2025-26

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Introduction

This Policy Statement aims to set out our approach to school uniform requirements. Waterton Academy Trust schools each have uniform requirements which, whilst maintaining school individuality, are of reasonable cost and offer the best value for money for parents and carers. Uniforms selections at each site have been made taking into consideration health and safety factors. It is compulsory that Waterton children wear school uniform.

It is our belief that a school uniform promotes a sense of pride in schools and a feeling of community and belonging. Uniforms selections are made with the intention of being practical, comfortable, smart and promoting the individual identity of each school. A uniform makes children feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance and reinforces our culture of high expectations and community. Above all else, we strongly believe that a school uniform should be comfortable, affordable and accessible to all children.

This statement should be read in conjunction with the uniform policy individual schools.

Our 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.

The uniform requirements are set out in consideration of the Equality Act. Waterton schools will allow for adaptations on the grounds of equality, for example, changes to swimwear for religious reasons. Any requests should be made to the Headteacher via the school office. Adaptations for children with SEND who may experience sensory difficulties will also be considered following consultation with parents and professionals.

The Key Principles of this Statement are as Follows

- Waterton schools do not require that any item of uniform have a school logo. All schools will continue to have arrangements in place for parents to purchase branded uniform if they choose to do so. Steps will be taken to ensure that the contract holder for branded uniform offers good value for money.
- Leaders have worked to ensure that the school uniform requirements are not overly-prescriptive, and that the items required can be purchased from a range of suppliers offering parents the opportunity to shop around for best value.
- Cost and accessibility, health and safety and school identity are the key considerations taken by leaders when determining uniform requirements.
- Each school will determine their own uniform requirements based on factors such as the school colours. Some universal requirements will be in place Trust-wide:
    - All children must wear sensible shoes.

  - All children should have a jumper or cardigan.
  - All children must wear appropriate cold-weather outerwear during winter months
  - Earrings cannot be worn during PE. An exception may be made for newly-pierced ears which are still healing (plasters to be worn to cover), however the expectation is that children should only have their ears pierced at the beginning of the summer holidays to allow healing time.
  - All children will need a book bag and PE bag in addition to their usual school bag.
  - Make up, including coloured lip balm and nail polish is not permitted.
  - Adjustments may be made in extreme temperatures, these will be communicated by schools.
  - Long hair must be tied back for PE and swimming, and other activities where this is a hazard.
  - Extreme hairstyles are not permitted in school. This includes shaved patterns, tramlines, mohawks or unnaturally dyed colours.
- One aim of having a school uniform is to ensure equality amongst pupils. Our schools generally ask that items be plain (i.e. without pattern or logo), although we acknowledge that for items such as rucksacks this may be difficult. We further acknowledge that children will wish to express themselves and flexibility with items such as bags, pencil cases and lunch boxes allow them to do this. We respectfully ask that parents do not send children to school with expensive items with large logos or branding.

Pre-Owned Uniform

We acknowledge that many parents/carers, for financial or environmental reasons, may seek to acquire pre-owned uniform items. Waterton Academy Trust is supportive of parents/carers choice to do so. Across the areas in which our schools operate there are a number of schemes and charities which support families with either provision or sale of pre-owned items. Individual schools may also operate swap shops, or have stall at summer fairs etc. Please look out for details of any such events published by your school, and refer to the below list for wider schemes:

Small Steps Uniform Bank Covers – The Wakefield District
https://www.smallstepsuniformbank.co.uk/ssub

Normanton School Uniform Exchange Covers – Schools in Normanton (Lee Brigg, Normanton Common, Normanton Junior)
https://en-gb.facebook.com/groups/1731718387000531/

Hemsworth School Uniform Recycle Covers – Schools in Hemsworth (West End)
http://www.facebook.com/pages/category/School/Hemsworth-school-uniform-recycle-126982128968342/

Pre-Loved School Uniform Exchange Covers – Schools in Barnsley
Annual event in August, can request via 01226 743483,
mstephanie.peacock.mp@parliament.uk

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