



UNIFORM POLICY

School Colours: *Grey, White and Navy Blue*

It is our school policy that all children wear school uniform when attending school or when participating in a school organised event outside of normal school hours. The School Uniform and Logo are important to us. Together they help us to identify ourselves as a school family promoting a strong, cohesive school identity which supports high standards and expectations in all areas of school life. It promotes harmony between different groups represented in the school, and it enhances security. The Governing Body/Trustees have decided that all children should wear the uniform and we encourage children to always maintain an acceptable standard of clean and tidy dress.

Aims and objectives

At Merrylands Primary School, we believe that a school uniform is important, because it:

- promotes a sense of pride in the school
- encourages a sense of community and belonging towards the school
- is practical and smart
- identifies the children with the school
- is designed with health and safety in mind
- makes children feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance
- is regarded as suitable wear for school and is considered by parents as good value for money
- is conducive to good educational practice

To ensure that these aims are realised, the Headteacher retains overall responsibility for assessing the appropriateness of individual items of clothing and hair style.

Uniform

Items carrying the school logo are available from Schoolwear Centre, Basildon. All items of uniform are readily available from Schoolwear Centre or the high street and donated uniform is also available – if parents/carers find any item difficult to obtain or require donated items please contact the School Office. The uniform has been kept simple to avoid unnecessary expense.

- white blouse, shirt, or polo shirt (*logo optional*)
- light grey skirt or pinafore dress (*plain navy cycle type shorts may be worn underneath skirts or dresses for modesty*)
- light grey trousers long or short – no leggings (*children in Nursery can wear navy blue jogging bottoms - plain no logo's*)
- navy blue checked dress – Summer (*no shorts/all in one outfits*)
- navy blue sweatshirt or cardigan (*with logo*)
- white, grey, black, or navy socks (*plain no patterns or bows, no over the knee socks*)
- white, grey, black, or navy tights (*plain*)
- black shoes – shoes must be plain black (*no white markings/logos*). For Health and Safety reasons all shoes must be supported at the back of the foot. Boots, fashion plimsolls, mules, open toed sandals, flip flops are not appropriate. In addition, shoes must be flat or have very low heels.
- a warm waterproof coat when needed

Fashion items such as very short skirts/shorts/all in one outfits, low slung trousers or over the knee socks are not acceptable.

All clothing, bags and equipment should be clearly labelled. If clothing is clearly labelled, we will make every effort to reunite lost clothing with its owner. Lost property is kept for a period, before being donated to the School Uniform Bank or recycled.

PE

- navy blue shorts
- white t-shirt with logo
- plimsolls or preferably trainers for indoor/outdoor activities
- jogging bottoms or tracksuit (*dark colours only*) for outdoor PE in Autumn and Winter terms – (*not compulsory*)

If a child wears earrings on PE days, these **must** be removed and cannot be covered with tape or a plaster. Staff members are **not** permitted to remove earrings. If earrings are not removed for PE lessons children will be given other tasks to complete during this time.

Swimming

- one piece swimsuit
- swimming trunks (*for safety reasons baggy or knee length swimming/beach shorts are not acceptable*)
- swimming hat
- goggles (*optional*)
- verucca sock (*if needed*)

Jewellery

- pupils should not wear jewellery to school. Individuals become very upset if a treasured piece of jewellery goes missing
- children should not wear earrings to school (*this is to prevent any accidents involving the earring post at the back of the ear*)
- should a pupil have pierced ears, only small, plain **flat back** studs (*silver/gold coloured only*) should be worn. To comply with Health and Safety Regulations, these must be removed for swimming lessons and all other PE activities. For this reason, we ask that parents only have a child's ears pierced during the six-week summer break
- watches may be worn to school by children in Years 3 to 6 (*smart watches or watches with electronic games are not permitted*)

Please note that the school is unable to take responsibility for any jewellery or watches that are lost.

Hair

- long hair should be tied back at all times, this is due to a variety of reasons e.g. regular physical activity, health and hygiene, and safety during curriculum activities. Hair should be tied back with a **small** white, black, grey, or navy-blue hair tie **only**
- for shorter hair which cannot be tied back, plain headbands are permissible
- plain headbands in school colours may be worn however decorative hair bands are not acceptable (eg flowers, large bows etc). Decorative headbands, claw clips or any other decorative headwear other than a hair tie or plain headband described above are not permitted
- extreme haircuts/styles are not permitted including coloured hair, shaven heads, mohicans, tramlines or other designs shaved into the hair

Make Up

- make up is not acceptable and any child wearing make up to school will be required to remove it
- nail varnish should not be worn on fingers or toes
- false nails are not permitted

Equipment

- all children must have a book bag to safely transfer items between home and school
- we encourage every child to have a water bottle in school and to fill it with fresh water daily and to drink it
- all necessary pens, pencils, rulers etc are supplied by the school and children are not permitted to bring in their own pencil cases or equipment
- no knives or sharp blades should be brought into the school in any circumstances
- in the interests of safety, children in Years 5 and 6 who walk to and from school alone may bring mobile phones into school (*parents must sign the appropriate permission slip*). However, the phone **MUST** be given to the class teacher at the beginning of the school day and collected from the class teacher at the end of the school

day but always remains the responsibility of the child. If a child is found to have a mobile phone on them during the school day, it will be confiscated and only returned to the child's parent/carer

- electronic games such as 'PSPs and 'DSs are not allowed in school except as an occasional special reward. Parents will be notified in writing if this is the case and parental permission will be requested
- no medicine, cough sweets or similar over the counter products should ever be brought to school by a child
- no 'swap' cards i.e. 'Pokemon' or 'Match Attacks', unless there has been specific permission given
- no inappropriate books, videos, or magazines
- no money should be brought to school unless for a specific permissible purpose
- bags to carry equipment and belongings in should be of a reasonable size as space in the cloakrooms is limited

Banned Items

- jewellery – children are not allowed to wear jewellery to school. The only permissible items are wrist watches (*not smart watches or watches with electronic games*) and very small stud earrings which must be removed for PE
- high heeled and platform shoes
- open toed and backless sandals
- boots
- make up including nail polish
- dyed hair and extreme hairstyles
- children should not wear traditional stud earrings to school (*this is to prevent any accidents involving the earring post at the back of the ear*). Earrings must be **flat backs only**.
- mobile phones (*unless Year 5 or 6 and parental permission has been given to the School Office*)

Staff code of dress

All staff including students on placement are required to conform to a smart code of dress (in line with our Staff Dress Code). This should be conducive to the high standards expected of professional educators.

The Role of Parents/Carers

We ask all parents/carers who send their child(ren) to our school to support the School Uniform Policy, and this forms an important element of our Home School Agreement. We believe that parents/carers have a duty to send their child(ren) to school correctly dressed and ready for their daily schoolwork. One of the responsibilities of parents/carers is to ensure that their child(ren) has the correct uniform, that it is clean, in good repair and labelled with their child(ren)'s name.

Modifications to the Uniform Policy may only be made with the approval of the Governing Body. The school welcomes children from all backgrounds and faith communities. If there are reasons on religious or other grounds, why parents want their child(ren) to wear clothes that differ from the school uniform, then the school will consider any such requests.

The Role of Governors/Trustees

The Governing Body and Trustees support the Headteacher in implementing the School Uniform Policy and liaise with the Headteacher to ensure that the Policy is implemented fairly and with sensitivity. It is the Governors/Trustees responsibility to ensure that the school uniform meets all regulations concerning equal opportunities. Governors/Trustees ensure that the School Uniform Policy helps children to dress appropriately, in clothing that is hard wearing, safe and practical.

Racial Equality & Equal Opportunities

We are committed to ensuring that our school uniform is affordable for all our families. All children have equal access to wearing school uniform regardless of their culture, race, religion, gender, disability, or ability. We ensure that the set uniform respect other policies such as Race relations, sex discrimination and allows for individual sets of circumstances of all groups and individuals. Merrylands Primary School is committed to creating a positive climate that will enable everyone to work free from racial intimidation and harassment and to achieve their full potential.