

Uniform Policy

Harrow Way Community School



UNIFORM POLICY

This policy, like all school policies, is to be implemented in accordance with the principles and practice stated in our Single Equality Scheme.

1. Purpose

This policy sets out the school's expectations regarding student uniform and appearance. The uniform policy aims to:

- Promote a sense of belonging, pride and identity.
- Support positive behaviour and high standards.
- Ensure students are dressed safely and appropriately for learning.
- Reduce social pressures relating to clothing and fashion.
- Ensure compliance with equality, safeguarding and health and safety requirements.
- Keep uniforms affordable for all families.

This policy has been developed in accordance with Department for Education (DfE) guidance on school uniforms and the statutory guidance on the cost of school uniforms.

2. Government Guidance and 2025 Updates

The school has taken account of the DfE's updated 2025 guidance on school uniforms and affordability. In particular, the school will:

- Prioritise affordability and value for money.
- Keep compulsory branded items to the minimum necessary.
- Ensure second-hand uniform is available to families.
- Publish clear, uniform information on the school website.
- Consult parents, carers and students when significant uniform changes are proposed.
- Ensure no student is disadvantaged because of financial hardship.
- Comply with the Equality Act 2010 and Human Rights Act 1998.
- Prepare for the Government's proposed September 2026 limit on branded items, under which secondary schools should require no more than four branded items where one item is a tie.



3. Required School Uniform

Everyday Uniform

Compulsory Items

- School jumper (branded)
- Grey polo shirt
- Black tailored trousers (no leggings, no lycra, no jogging bottoms or jogging bottom material, no skin-tight at the bottom, no see-through fabric, trousers must have a waistband, button/zip fastening)
- Black or white socks or plain black tights
- Plain black shoes or black trainers (no coloured logos)

Optional Items

- Tartan skirt (branded)
- Black tailored shorts may be worn in the summer

Religious and Cultural Dress

The school welcomes reasonable adaptations for religious and cultural requirements, including:

- Hijabs, turbans, patkas or head coverings

Requests should be discussed with the Headteacher or designated staff member.

4. PE Kit

Compulsory Items

- School PE shirt (branded)
- Plain black PE shorts or black tracksuit bottoms or leggings
- Sports trainers suitable for indoor and outdoor activities

Optional Items

- School PE tracksuit top
- PE socks (knee length)
- PE tracksuit top
- PE base layer plain black or red
- Branded shorts or skorts



The school has deliberately limited branded PE items in line with current government affordability guidance.

5. Branded Items and Affordability

The school recognises that excessive branding can significantly increase costs for families.

To comply with government expectations and prepare for the proposed 2026 legal limit:

Compulsory Branded Items

1. School PE shirt
2. School jumper
3. Tartan skirt (if you choose to wear a skirt)

No additional branded items are required.

The school will:

- Permit generic alternatives wherever possible.
- Regularly review supplier contracts to ensure value for money.
- Consider sustainability, durability and quality when selecting uniform items.

6. Second-Hand Uniform

The school will maintain a second-hand uniform scheme.

Information about:

- Uniform exchanges
- Donation arrangements
- Second-hand sales
- Financial support available

Will be published on the school's website and shared with families regularly

Second-hand uniform opportunities will be accessible to both current and prospective families.

7. Equality, Inclusion and Accessibility

The school will ensure that uniform requirements do not discriminate against students on the basis of:

- Disability
- Race
- Religion or belief
- Sex
- Gender reassignment
- Pregnancy or maternity

Reasonable adjustments will be considered where:

- Medical conditions require adaptations.
- Sensory needs affect uniform wear.
- Religious observance requires specific dress.

Requests will be assessed individually and sensitively.

8. Uniform and Attendance

Students should wear the correct school uniform.

Where families experience difficulties obtaining uniform, the school will:

- Work with parents and carers to identify solutions.
- Offer temporary flexibility where appropriate.
- Provide support through the second-hand uniform scheme or hardship assistance.

Students will not be excluded from education because of temporary uniform issues arising from financial hardship.

9. Appearance Standards

Students are expected to present themselves neatly and safely.

Acceptable

- Natural hair colours.
- Appropriate hairstyles.
- One small stud earring in each ear
- Watches.
- Skirts should be an appropriate length (below or just above the knee)



Not Permitted

- Clothing displaying offensive, political or inappropriate slogans.
- Excessive make-up
- False eyelashes, eyelash extensions
- False nails
- Clothing that compromises health and safety (such as flip flops)
- Facial piercings (including clear)
- Hoodies
- Denim or leather jackets
- Boots or other casual footwear
- Jeans cords, chinos, combat trousers or combat shorts
- No leggings (trousers must have a waistband with button or zip fastening)

Any concerns will be addressed proportionately and in line with the Behaviour Policy.

10. Non-Uniform Days

Where non-uniform days are held, students must wear clothing that is:

- Safe and appropriate for a school environment.
- Free from offensive, discriminatory or political messaging.
- Suitable for learning activities.
- No cropped belly tops

Participation in charity or fundraising non-uniform events will not be dependent upon a financial contribution.

11. Complaints

Parents and carers who have concerns about:

- Uniform costs
- Equality issues
- Supplier arrangements
- Enforcement of this policy

should follow the school's complaints procedure in the first instance.

The Governing Board will review concerns and monitor the impact of the policy on families.



12. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Governing Board to ensure:

- Continued compliance with DfE guidance.
- Affordability for families.
- Equality and inclusion obligations are met.
- Any future statutory requirements regarding branded item limits are implemented.

Committee Responsible for Review:	S&C Committee
Ratified by Governing Body:	9th July 2026
Date of next Review due by:	June 2027