



Overstone Combined School

Uniform Policy

Updated July 2024

To be reviewed annually

Introduction

It is our school policy that all children wear school uniform when attending school, or when participating in school-organised events outside normal school hours. The wearing of school uniform is important as it gives us a sense of unity and belonging. Staff encourage the children to take pride in their appearance, look smart and be proud to be part of Overstone Combined School. Our school colour is blue. We are proud of our appearance as a school and have high expectations of the children to always wear correct uniform. We will also remind children to wear the correct uniform throughout the year. If there is a reason why any child is not wearing the correct uniform we would ask parents to inform the school office or speak to the class teacher.

Aims and objectives

Our policy on school uniform is based on the belief that school uniform:

- promotes a sense of pride in our school
- helps to create a sense of community and belonging towards the school
- identifies the children with the school
- supports our commitment to inclusion
- prevents children from wearing 'fashion clothes' that could be distracting in class
- is practical, smart and designed with health and safety in mind
- is considered good value for money by most parents

Uniform list

Pre-School

Summer term and first half of Autumn term only (optional)

Grey tailored school shorts

Blue gingham dress

Comfortable shoes

Winter uniform – October half term until Easter

Navy polo shirt

Navy jumper/cardigan

Navy jogging bottoms

Comfortable shoes

Waterproofs

Wellingtons for outdoors

Reception – Y5

Summer term and first half of Autumn term only (optional)

Shorts	Grey - traditional tailored school style, no jersey or legging material, no cargo pockets
Polo shirt	Navy
Dress	Blue gingham – Playsuits are not encouraged owing to practicalities when toileting

Winter uniform – October half term until Easter

Socks	Grey or white (either long or short but no trainer socks)
Tights	Grey
Trousers	Grey - traditional tailored school style, no jersey or legging material, no cargo pockets
Skirts/Pinafores	Grey
Polo shirt	Navy
V-neck jumper or cardigan	Navy blue with logo – This is the only item we are asking the children to wear that is branded so please purchase the correct item from the uniform shop rather than the high street.

Year 6 – All year

Socks	Grey or white (either long or short but no trainer socks)
Tights	Grey
Trousers	Grey - traditional tailored school style, no jersey or legging material, no cargo pockets
Skirts/Pinafores	Grey
White shirt and tie	Year 6 only – tie available to buy from the school office priced at £5.00 for a knotted tie or £6.00 for a clip on tie
V-neck jumper or cardigan	Navy blue with logo – This is the only item we are asking the children to wear that is branded so please purchase the correct item from the uniform shop rather than the high street.

Footwear

We recognise that school shoes vary in price and quality so the expectation for the children at Overstone is that all school footwear needs to be black. We do encourage children to wear traditional style school shoes but we will also allow children to wear trainers for school provided they are completely black. There must be no coloured writing or designs on the trainers and soles must also be black. If trainers do not match this description we will ask parents to replace them with school approved footwear. Please only allow your child to wear shoes or trainers with laces if they can tie their laces independently otherwise please purchase footwear that fasten with Velcro. Please note that open-toed sandals are not permitted for safety reasons when wearing the optional summer uniform.

It is important that clothing during the summer months is appropriate i.e. dresses need to have sleeves in as children can easily get sunburnt on their shoulders. Children should be provided with sun hats as they will spend some of each day outside. Socks need to be worn and they should be at least ankle length, not trainer socks.

Jumpers, cardigans, waterproof coats, t shirts and polo shirts are available from the school uniform providers at a very reasonable price, either online (see the link on our website) or from the 'Wear2School' uniform shop on North Street, Leighton Buzzard. This is also where you purchase the school jumper or cardigan with the school logo. School ties are available from the school office.

Parents have a duty to send their children to school correctly dressed and ready for the full range of daily schoolwork. All children are expected to wear the correct uniform, clean and in good repair. We accommodate dress from all backgrounds, cultures and faith communities represented at Overstone Combined School, within our flexible uniform expectation. If there are reasons for parents to request that their child needs to wear age-appropriate clothes that differ much from the school uniform, due to e.g. faith requirements or a special need, then this can be presented in writing and will be taken into consideration.

Reception and KS1 children will require a book bag. These are available from the school office and are priced at £5.00 each. The Reception and KS1 children do not need a rucksack as this takes up too much space in their cloakroom areas. KS2 children need a small rucksack for all of their belongings. PE clothes can be stored in a small bag and there is an optional branded drawstring bag available on the uniform supplier website.

PE

Children should be provided with a draw string bag containing PE kits, listed below. These should be kept in school and all clothing must be marked clearly with the child's name.

Footwear	Trainers
Socks	Grey or white
Shorts	Navy blue – plain with no logos No jersey material or leggings
T-shirt	White

Tracksuit top or sweatshirt	Navy blue – No logos
Tracksuit bottoms	Navy blue – No logos No jersey material or leggings
Overstone hoodie	This is an optional item and is available from the school supplier

Swimming

One-piece swimming costume - No bikinis
Swim trunks – No wider shorts
Flip flops
Swimming hat (available to buy from the school office)

Forest School

Children should be provided with waterproof trousers, jackets or all in one suits. Children should be provided with a change of clothes for forest school visits and these should comprise of long-sleeved tops and trousers (jogging bottoms are ideal rather than jeans) all year round. In the winter months plenty of warm layers are recommended. Spare socks should be provided and all children should wear wellington boots. Children also need gloves in the colder months.

Hair

For health and safety reasons we advise that children with hair beyond their shoulders should wear it up. This is especially the case on days where there is PE and forest school. This will also help to ensure it does not distract from learning and to limit the spread of head lice. We also ask that hair should be sensibly cut for school with no fashion haircuts. Hair bands, ribbons/bows or 'scrunchies' should be blue in colour.

Jewellery, Watches, Hair, Make-up and Nail Varnish

For health and safety reasons we do not allow children to wear jewellery. The exceptions to this rule are earring studs in pierced ears, and small objects of religious significance. Children are required to remove any items during PE lessons, or cover permitted jewellery to prevent them from causing injury. If children do wear earrings these should be plain gold or silver studs and the child should be able to remove them. Tape for covering earrings should be provided by the parent. No hoops or variations of small earrings please. Please note: Teachers are not permitted to remove earrings.

Wrist watches may be worn but only for the purpose of telling the time. 'Smart' watches linked to mobile phones are not permitted. Any watches are worn at the owner's risk.

Make up, tattoos and nail varnish should not be worn to school unless for an out of school hours function, for example a school disco.

Footwear

For health and safety reasons we do not allow children to wear shoes with platform soles, high heels, trainers or open toed, strappy sandals. All children are required to wear plain black shoes, without logos, as stated in the uniform list. During the winter months and inclement weather children may wear boots to and from school and can change into these for playtimes. All children will be expected to change their boots for their black leather school shoes during lesson time and whilst they are inside the school building.

The Role of Parents

We believe that one of the responsibilities of parents is to ensure that their child has the correct uniform and PE kit, and that it is clean, in good repair and that the child's name is written on all items. If a parent has difficulties for any reason with fulfilling this request they are asked to speak confidentially to a member of staff to discuss the issues. Parents should be assured that we will do all we can to help. The school welcomes children from all backgrounds and faith communities. If there are genuine reasons, for example on religious grounds, why parents want their child to wear clothes that differ from the school uniform, the school will consider such requests

sympathetically. If any parent would like to request a modification to the uniform policy they should, in the first instance, contact the Headteacher in writing.

The Role of Governors

The governing body supports the Headteacher in implementing the school uniform policy. It considers all representations from parents regarding the uniform policy and liaises with the Headteacher to ensure that the policy is implemented fairly and with sensitivity. It is the governors' responsibility to ensure that the school uniform meets all regulations concerning equal opportunities. Governors ensure that the school uniform policy enables children to dress sensibly, in clothing that is hard wearing, safe and practical.