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Forest Lodge Academy

Uniform Policy

Policy/Procedure management log

Document name	Uniform Policy
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Date approved	Autumn 24
Date issued	November 2024
Date of review	Autumn 2025

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1. Aims

Forest Lodge Academy is committed to:

- promoting equality
- ensuring value for money
- ensuring that no pupil is discriminated against due to their religion or belief, economic circumstances, or social and cultural background.
- committed to developing our pupils' sense of belonging to our academy.

We believe that wearing a smart and practical uniform allows all children, regardless of their backgrounds, to feel equal to their peers and confident in their appearance. It is important for children to wear clothing that is conducive to a successful learning environment, including activity-appropriate clothing, such as sports attire.

2. Our Academy'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, disability, pregnancy and gender reassignment.

To avoid discrimination, our academy will:

- Avoid listing uniform items based on sex, to give all pupils the opportunity 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 Mrs Caldwell (Headteacher), via the school office, who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests

3. Limiting the Cost of School Uniform

Forest Lodge Academy has a duty to make sure that the uniform we require is affordable, in line with statutory [guidance](#) from the Department for Education on the cost of school uniform.

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:

- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary
- Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics where possible

- Considering cheaper alternatives to school-branded items, such as logos that can be ironed on, as long as this doesn't compromise quality and durability
- 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 academy's uniform can act as a social leveler
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- Considering alternative methods for signaling differences in groups for interschool competitions, such as creating posters or labels
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents to acquire second-hand uniform items
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and thereby 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

4. Expectations for Academy Uniform

4.1 Our Academy Uniform

Item	Purchased From
Nursery – Year 4 Red fleece, jumper or cardigan Years 5 and 6 Black fleece, jumper or cardigan	Available from uniform direct with a school logo, or plain from any high street shop or supermarket Uniform Direct® - School Uniform Suppliers - Online & Wholesale (uniform-direct.com)
All pupils Plain white polo shirt, blouse or shirt	Available from any high street shop or supermarket
All Pupils Black or grey trousers, skirt or pinafore Red/white gingham summer dress	Available from any high street shop or supermarket
All Pupils Black/dark sensible shoes/trainers	Available from any high street shop or supermarket
PE Kit Black or navy shorts	Available from any high street shop
White plain t-shirt	Available from any high street shop
Black or navy plain sweatshirt or jacket	Available from any high street shop (No bold inappropriate brand logos)
Black or navy plain tracksuit bottoms or leggings (winter months)	Available from any high street shop
Trainers/plimsolls	Available from any high street shop

Book Bag Rucksack This is not a requirement to have, and parents may choose to only use any rucksack	Available from uniform direct with a school logo. Uniform Direct® - School Uniform Suppliers - Online & Wholesale (uniform-direct.com)
Swimming Swimming costume/trunks	Swimming costume – one piece Trunks Pupils go swimming usually in year 3, 4, 5 or 6 – you will be informed of this.
Jewellery Earrings- small stud earrings Preference – no ear-rings unless initial 6 week period.	One pair of metal stud ear-rings. For health and safety reason we cannot permit hoop, or drop earrings.
Make-up	No make-up, including nail varnish and nail extensions are permitted.
Hairstyle	No extreme haircuts or colours are permitted.

4.2 Where to purchase uniform

Our uniform provider is [Uniform Direct® - School Uniform Suppliers - Online & Wholesale \(uniform-direct.com\)](https://www.uniform-direct.com)

- If you wish to purchase the items above please use the link provided or purchase from a high street shop or supermarket. There is NO expectation that the uniform is purchased from the uniform shop or that it has to have the logo.
- Each half- term, we will offer second hand uniform. Any uniform that is of good quality, that parents wish to donate, would be gratefully received.

5. Expectations for our Academy Community

5.1 Pupils

Pupils are expected to wear the correct uniform at all times (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)

Pupils are also expected to contact Forest Lodge Academy, if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics.

5.2 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

Parents are also expected to contact Mrs Caldwell if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to:

- Their child's protected characteristics
- The cost of the uniform

Parents are expected to lodge any complaints or objections relating to the school uniform in a timely and reasonable manner.

Disputes about the cost of the uniform will be:

- Resolved locally
- Dealt with in accordance with our academy complaints policy

The school will work closely with parents to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

5.3 Staff

Staff will closely monitor pupils to make sure they are in correct uniform. They will give any pupils and families breaching the uniform policy the opportunity to comply, but will follow up with the headteacher if the situation doesn't improve.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with by requesting the parent/carer brings in the correct uniform. If this is not followed, the academy will lend the pupil the correct item of clothing to wear for that day.

In cases where it is suspected that financial hardship has resulted in a pupil not complying with this uniform policy, staff will take a mindful and considerate approach to resolving the situation.

6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed every three years.

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

- Behaviour policy
- Equality information and objectives statement
- Anti-bullying policy
- Complaints policy