

SCHOOL CULTURE

School Uniform Policy

Belonging, equality and practical expectations



Uniform Policy 2026–2027

Approved by: Full Governing Board
Approval Date: September 2026
Review Date: September 2027

Our Vision

Grow • Learn • Persevere • Succeed

At Great Leighs Primary School, we believe that a smart, practical and affordable school uniform promotes a sense of belonging, pride and community. Our uniform supports high expectations, helps children identify with the school and contributes positively to the learning environment.

We are committed to ensuring that our uniform requirements are inclusive, affordable and compliant with statutory guidance on the cost of school uniforms.

1. Aims

This policy aims to:

- Promote a sense of identity and belonging.
- Encourage pride in the school.
- Support equality and inclusion.
- Ensure pupils are dressed safely and appropriately for school activities.
- Keep uniform costs reasonable for families.
- Provide clear expectations for pupils and parents.

2. School Uniform

Main Uniform

Pupils should wear:

- Red school cardigan or jumper (school logo optional).
- White shirt or blouse.
- Black trousers, shorts, skirt or pinafore dress.
- School tie (optional).
- Girls may wear a red gingham dress during the summer term.

Foundation Stage

Pupils in Foundation Stage may wear:

- White polo shirt or white shirt.

- School tie is not expected until Year 1.
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3. Footwear

Children should wear:

- Sensible black flat shoes (black trainers are permitted).

The following are not suitable for school:

- Open-toed sandals.
- High heels.
- Ugg-style boots.
- Knee-length fashion boots.

Where temporary alternative footwear is required for medical reasons, parents should contact the school.

4. Hair, Jewellery and Appearance

Hair

Long hair should be tied back where appropriate.

Hair accessories should be modest and in school colours where possible.

Hair dye, shaved patterns and extreme hairstyles are not appropriate for primary-aged children.

Jewellery

Pupils may wear:

- A watch.
- One pair of small stud earrings.

Smart watches with cameras, internet access or communication functions are not permitted.

Makeup and Nail Varnish

Makeup, false nails and nail varnish should not be worn in school.

5. PE Kit

All pupils should have:

- White T-shirt (school logo optional).
- Red shorts of an appropriate length.
- Plimsolls or trainers.
- Plain tracksuit for colder weather.

Safety Requirements

- Earrings must be removed for PE lessons.
 - Children who cannot remove earrings independently should not wear them on PE days.
 - Foundation Stage pupils should keep PE kits in a named PE bag at school.
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6. Book Bags and School Bags

Foundation Stage to Year 3 pupils should bring a named school book bag for reading books, correspondence and home learning.

Older pupils may use a suitable school bag or rucksack.

7. Affordability and Sustainability

The Governing Board is committed to ensuring that the cost of uniform does not become a barrier to attendance or participation.

Parents may purchase:

- Plain red jumpers or cardigans from any retailer.
- Plain white shirts, blouses or polo shirts from any retailer.
- Generic PE clothing from any suitable supplier.

Branded items are kept to a minimum and are optional unless specifically stated.

The school actively promotes reuse and sustainability through access to second-hand uniform.

8. Second-Hand Uniform

Second-hand uniform is available through **FOGLS (Friends of Great Leighs School)**. Information about availability can be obtained from the school office or via the school website.

9. Purchasing Uniform

Branded uniform items are available from:

One Stop School Gear, Chelmsford.

The school maintains a small emergency stock of school ties.

10. Equality and Reasonable Adjustments

Great Leighs Primary School is committed to ensuring that our uniform expectations are inclusive and do not unfairly disadvantage any pupil.

The school will make reasonable adjustments to uniform requirements where necessary to support pupils with:

- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).
- Medical conditions.
- Sensory needs.
- Disabilities.
- Religious requirements.
- Cultural requirements.
- Mental health needs.
- Safeguarding considerations.

The school recognises that some pupils may experience genuine barriers to wearing particular items of uniform and will work collaboratively with parents and carers to identify practical solutions whilst maintaining the overall principles of the uniform policy.

Examples of reasonable adjustments may include:

- Alternative footwear for medical or orthopaedic reasons.
- Adapted clothing for pupils with sensory processing difficulties.
- Adjustments to PE kit requirements where appropriate.
- Alternative fastenings or clothing adaptations for pupils with physical disabilities.
- Permission to wear religious clothing or head coverings consistent with the school's safeguarding and safety requirements.
- Temporary adaptations following injury or medical treatment.
- Adjustments for pupils with identified anxiety or other emotional needs where supported by professional advice.

Requests for adjustments should normally be discussed with the Headteacher or SENCO.

Each request will be considered individually, taking account of:

- The pupil's needs.
- Health and safety requirements.
- Equality duties.
- The wellbeing of the child.
- The practical operation of the school.

The school will always seek to adopt a supportive and proportionate approach and will not apply uniform expectations in a way that discriminates against pupils or creates unnecessary barriers to attendance, participation or learning.

Where adjustments are agreed, these will be recorded and communicated to relevant staff to ensure consistent implementation.

11. Role of Parents and Carers

Parents and carers are responsible for ensuring that:

- Their child attends school in the correct uniform.
- Clothing is clean and in good condition.
- PE kit is available when required.
- All clothing is clearly named.

The school is unable to identify unnamed items of clothing.

Where families experience difficulties in obtaining uniform, they are encouraged to contact the school confidentially. The school will work sensitively with families to find appropriate solutions.

12. Non-Compliance

The school will take a supportive and proportionate approach to uniform concerns.

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Where issues arise:

- The school will speak with parents or carers.
- Individual circumstances will be considered.
- Support will be offered where appropriate.
- Sanctions will not be applied where a family is experiencing genuine financial hardship.

The school will always consider whether non-compliance may be linked to:

- Financial hardship.
- SEND.
- Disability.
- Medical needs.
- Safeguarding concerns.
- Other individual circumstances.

before taking any action.

13. Complaints and Concerns

Any concerns relating to school uniform should initially be raised with the Headteacher.

Where concerns remain unresolved, parents may use the school's Complaints Procedure.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Full Governing Board or sooner if required by changes to legislation or statutory guidance.

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September 2026 statutory cost requirements

The governing body has regard to the statutory Cost of school uniforms guidance updated 6 July 2026. From September 2026 the school will require no more than three compulsory branded items across uniform and PE kit. Optional branded items will be kept to a minimum and a generic alternative will be allowed. The published list will state clearly whether every item is compulsory, optional, branded or generic.

Cost and value for money are the highest priorities. The governing body will consider the total and individual cost, low-income families, durability, sustainability, supplier arrangements and the effect on protected groups. Single-

supplier arrangements will be avoided unless justified and regularly retendered. Second-hand uniform will be genuinely accessible to current and prospective parents, with clear website information.

Reasonable adjustments will be made for disability, religion or belief, sex, gender reassignment and other protected characteristics. Financial hardship will be handled sensitively: a pupil will not lose teaching, breaktime or access to school activities solely because the family cannot afford uniform. Complaints will follow the school complaints procedure.