



*Meeting Individual Needs*

# **Houghton School**

## **School Uniform Policy**

**Approved by: Governing Body**

**Date: 25/4/23**

**Next review due: April 2025**

## 1. Aims

This policy aims to:

- Set out our approach to requiring a uniform that is reasonable cost and offers the best value for money for parents and carers.
- Explain how we will avoid discrimination in line with our legal duties under the Equality Act 2010.
- Clarify our expectations for school uniform.

## 2. Our school'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, and gender reassignment.

To avoid discrimination, our school will:

- Avoid listing uniform items based on sex, to give all children 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 children.
- Allow all children to have long hair (though we reserve the right to ask for this to be tied back).
- Allow all children to style their hair in the way that is appropriate for school yet makes them feel most comfortable.
- Allow children to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons.
- Allow children to wear headscarves and other religious or cultural symbols.
- Allow for adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking children or their parents to get in touch with **Gill Knox (Headteacher)**, who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests.

## 3. Limiting the cost of school uniform

Our school 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 must 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:

- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost or long-lasting items.

- Considering cheaper alternatives to school-branded items, such as plain uniform which can be purchased from local retailers (without a logo).
- Avoiding specific requirements for items children could wear on non-school days, such as coats, bags and shoes.
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class.
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities.
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents to acquire second-hand uniform items.
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents of any changes.
- Consulting with parents and children on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy.

#### **4. Expectations for school uniform**

##### **4.1 Our school's uniform options**

- Black or grey trousers / shorts (no jeans)
- Black or grey skirt / pinafore
- Red or white polo shirt
- Red & white dress
- Red sweatshirt / cardigan / fleece (with or without Haughton logo)
- Grey, Black or White socks
- Black shoes (black shoes are preferred but plain black trainers are also acceptable)

##### Book bags

Every child will receive their first book bag free of charge when starting at Haughton School. Replacement book bags are charged at £4.50 and can be purchased from school via ParentPay.

##### PE bags

PE bags are optional. If required these can be purchased from school via ParentPay.

##### **Requirements for P.E.**

There is no P.E. uniform. Children should wear a T-shirt and shorts/jogging bottoms. They will also need a pair of pumps/trainers.

For reasons of hygiene we feel that your child must change into different clothes and shoes for P.E and games.

## Requirements for Swimming

Swimming lessons are held for all children throughout each academic year. Your child will require a swimming costume or swimming trunks and a towel. Swimming aids will be provided by school.

## Valuables and Jewellery

It is preferable for children not to bring valuables into school, including mobile telephones and electronic games, however, it is recognised that some children do travel better when bringing something with them from home. All electronic items (eg tablets, games, phones) must be handed in to the school office on arrival and collected at the end of the school day.

For the safety of all children, jewellery is not permitted. If your child has pierced ears, then only studs will be allowed which must be removed or covered for P.E for health and safety reasons.

**All items of clothing and belongings should be clearly marked with your child's name. The school has no insurance for personal clothes and equipment.**

## 4.2 Where to purchase it

Haughton School [website](#) (parent and carer tab) has links to 3 suppliers of Haughton School branded uniform (with logo).

However, parents are reminded that non branded (without logo) school uniform can also be purchased from local retailers. School recognise that some children with sensory/medical needs may require adaptations to their school uniform; these will be supported wherever possible.

If any parent/carer is concerned regarding the cost of school uniform, is interested in secondhand uniform or is unable to afford school uniform then please speak to **Gill Knox (Headteacher)**.

### Telford Crisis Support

Alternatively, parents can link directly online with [Telford Crisis Support](#). *There are no specific criteria to be met when requesting a school uniform. Clothes are mainly pre-loved (supplied laundered).* A short form can be completed online. Information on donation and collection times is also available online. Alternatively, you can call them on tel: 07878 296958 or email [admin@telfordcrisisupport.org.uk](mailto:admin@telfordcrisisupport.org.uk).

## 5. Expectations for our school community

### 5.1 Children

Children are expected to wear the correct uniform (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).

Children are also expected to contact **Gill Knox (Headteacher)** 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 **Gill Knox (Headteacher)** 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 school uniform will be:

- Resolved locally.
- Dealt with in accordance with our school's complaints policy.

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

## 5.3 Staff

Staff will monitor children to make sure they are appropriately clothed and raise any concerns with the Headteacher.

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

## 5.4 Governors

The governing board will review this policy and make sure that it:

- Is appropriate for our school's context.
- Is implemented fairly across the school.
- Considers the views of parents and children.
- Offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all children.

The board will also make sure that the school's uniform supplier arrangements give the highest priority to cost and value for money by avoiding single supplier contracts and allowing flexibility of wearing non branded clothing.