



Rockcliffe First School Uniform Guidance

Introduction

All Governing bodies have a statutory duty to decide on rules around appearance, on whether there should be a school uniform policy and, if so, what that should be, and on how the uniform should be sourced. This is intended to promote good behaviour and discipline amongst pupils. Schools are strongly encouraged to have a uniform as it can play a key role in:

- promoting the ethos of a school;
- providing a sense of belonging and identity;
- setting an appropriate tone for education.

At Rockcliffe First School, we have decided to adopt a uniform policy which follows statutory guidance on the [cost of school uniforms](#). We have ensured that, in developing and implementing this policy, we have complied with the Human Rights Act 1998 and Equality Act 2010, and have taken into account key considerations such as safeguarding requirements and the health and safety of our pupils.

We have:

- considered how comfortable our uniform is for pupils;
- taken a sensible approach to allow for exceptions to be made during extreme weather;
- ensured that our uniform is suitable and safe for pupils who walk or cycle to school;
- chosen a PE kit which is practical, comfortable, appropriate to the activity involved and affordable.

Cost considerations

At Rockcliffe, we have selected <https://www.border-embroideries.co.uk/> as our preferred supplier of branded items as we believe the company offers these at a competitive price with items always available. However, we do not expect families to source all, or even part, of their uniform from our preferred supplier. Children may wear items in the Rockcliffe colours of blue and grey that do not include our school logo. This allows parents to purchase items from a range of retailers.

We run a successful “Swap and Sell” second-hand uniform scheme. This allows parents/ carers to swap outgrown items for others of the appropriate size, or to purchase donated items for a voluntary contribution.

When new pupils arrive in our school, we offer donated items and many make use of these even if only as an interim measure until their order of new items arrives. We supply such items free of charge where we feel this would be welcome, and encourage parents/carers to let us know of any difficulties they have encountered purchasing items of clothing, including coats, shoes, etc. so that we can offer assistance.

School Uniform

- Royal blue sweatshirt or cardigan
- Grey trousers, skirt, shorts or pinafore dress
- Blue check dress
- Light blue polo shirts (non-branded white polo shirts are acceptable should blue items not be available)
- Black shoes, trainers or boots that children are comfortable in

PE Kit

- Navy blue hoodie
- Navy blue t-shirt
- Navy blue shorts, tracksuit bottoms or leggings
- Trainers suitable for physical activity (sport not fashion-type)
- The current royal blue hoodie, white t-shirt and white shorts can also be worn during the phase in of the navy kit

For safety, children must tie long hair back in PE lessons.

Bags

Branded book bags and gym sacs are available via our supplier but children may use any bags which are of a similar size. We do ask, that large back packs are avoided as we have very limited space in which to store them safely.

Swimming

In Years 3 and 4, our children take part in swimming lessons at a local pool, managed by North Tyneside Council. We follow the North Tyneside Council Guidelines on suitable swimwear:

- a one piece costume (rather than a bikini or tankini)
- trunks or short swimming shorts (no long beach shorts)
- children do not wear earrings or other jewellery
- long hair is tied back or plaited
- all children wear swimming goggles and bring a towel

Nursery

Please note that we do not ask that Nursery pupils wear school uniform, although some parents/ carers do choose to purchase sweatshirts or other items.

Jewellery

We discourage the wearing of jewellery in school. Ear piercing should take place at the beginning of the summer holiday so that earrings may be removed during the day by the start of the autumn term.

Human rights, equality and discrimination considerations

When making decisions about our uniform policy, we have had regard to our obligations under the [Human Rights Act 1998](#) and the [Equality Act 2010](#). We have considered the impact of our policy on pupils who share a protected characteristic:

- age;
- sex;
- sexual orientation;
- religion or belief;
- race (including colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin);
- disability;
- gender reassignment;
- pregnancy – although this is not a consideration at Rockcliffe given the age of our pupils.

Religion or beliefs

We understand some religions and beliefs require conformity to a particular dress code or to otherwise outwardly manifest their belief. This could include wearing or carrying specific religious artefacts, not cutting their hair, dressing modestly, or covering their head. Pupils have the right to manifest a religion or belief, although not necessarily at all times, places or in a particular manner. We will be sensitive to the needs of different cultures, races and religions and act reasonably in accommodating these needs, without compromising important school policies, such as school safety or discipline.

Discrimination

In developing and implementing our school uniform policy, we have considered our obligations not to discriminate unlawfully and have made our uniform policy as inclusive as possible. We are willing to allow for some individual variations to our uniform policy, where they are necessary to avoid indirect discrimination, e.g. reasonable adjustments must be made, as appropriate, for pupils with a disability.

Complaints and challenges to school uniform policy

Disputes about school uniforms will be resolved quickly and in accordance with our complaints policy. We will consult and work closely with parents/carers so as to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

Non-compliance

Although teachers are legally permitted to discipline pupils for breaching the school's rules on appearance or uniform, it is likely that the responsibility for any such breaches would lie with the children's parents or carers, rather than with the pupils themselves. In such instances, we would seek to explore reasons for non-compliance with the parents or carers, and to resolve any underlying issues.

This policy was adopted by the full governing body on 31 March 2022 and reviewed in April 2025.