



## **Uniform and Possessions**

# **Godinton Primary School**

**November 2014**

**Policy approved by Governor's Strategy Group 12/11/14**

**This Policy is due for renewal in Term 2 2016 -2017**

**Godinton Academy Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales with company number 9404783. The registered office is at Lockholt Close, Ashford, TN23 3JR.**

## **1. Ethos**

School uniform plays a valuable role in contributing to the ethos of a school and setting an appropriate tone. There is no legislation that deals specifically with school uniform or other aspects of appearance such as hair colour and style, the wearing of jewellery and make-up, nor how uniform should be sourced. However, the School Admissions Code places a statutory duty on all governing bodies to ensure that their policies and practices do not disadvantage any children.

In formulating the uniform policy, the school has considered its obligations not to discriminate unlawfully on the grounds of sex, race, disability, sexual orientation and religion or belief, and the concept of 'indirect' discrimination, i.e. the application of a requirement, which, although applied equally to everyone, puts those of a particular gender, race, sexual orientation or religion or belief at a disadvantage because they cannot in practice comply with it.

## **2. Cost**

The cost of uniform should not act as a barrier to parents when choosing a school. The school uniform is sufficiently broad to allow parents to satisfy the requirements as cheaply as possible.

The school is the sole supplier of the sweatshirts, fleeces and PE shirts. The school has completed a review of the costs of these garments from a range of suppliers and selected that which offers best value. The school uses its purchasing power to buy in bulk and passes on savings to parents. Uniform is sold to parents at close to cost price. The school does not seek to operate as sole supplier in order to raise additional funds through the sale of new school uniforms. The cost/quality of the school uniform sold to parents is reviewed periodically to ensure that best value is maintained.

Children eligible for free school meals, and children whose parents are entitled to the maximum level of working tax credit may have access to LA schemes for remission of cost involved with the purchase of school uniform.

## **3. Communicating Uniform Policy**

A copy of the policy is included in the information pack given to prospective parents and in the induction pack given to new parents. Uniform policy can be accessed by parents through the school website and a paper copy may be requested through the school office. Rules on wearing school uniform are included in the home school agreement.

## **4. Non Compliance**

Where a pupil is not adhering to school uniform policy, the school will try to establish the reason. If a pupil is not wearing the correct uniform because of financial difficulties, parents will be given time to purchase the required items

and/or consideration will be given as to whether a local authority clothing grant can be supplied.

## **5. Enforcement**

The head teacher can discipline a pupil for breach of uniform policy. The head teacher or a person authorised by the head teacher may ask a pupil to be taken home to remedy a breach of the school's rules on appearance or uniform. This should be for no longer than is necessary to remedy the breach. This is not an exclusion, but an authorised absence. However, if the pupil continues to breach uniform rules in such a way as to be sent home to avoid school, or takes longer than is strictly necessary to effect the change, the pupil's absence may be counted as unauthorised absence.

A pupil must not be sent home indefinitely or for longer than is strictly necessary to remedy the breach as this could amount to an unofficial exclusion. If the pupil then repeatedly infringes the school's rules on uniform or appearance, this may constitute a disciplinary offence and may be grounds for exclusion. Where a pupil repeatedly refuses to comply with school uniform policy even if they do not otherwise display poor behaviour, exclusion could be an appropriate response, depending on the circumstances of the case.

## **6. Amendments**

The Headteacher may agree individual amendments to the uniform policy to accommodate the needs of any individual pupil according to their religion or belief, or temporary or permanent medical conditions.

The Human Rights Act 1998 protects the right to 'manifest one's religion or beliefs'. Various religions and beliefs require their adherents to conform to a particular dress code, or to otherwise outwardly manifest their belief. The school will act reasonably to accommodate religious requirements. However, a school uniform policy that has the effect of restricting the freedom of pupils to manifest their religion may still be lawful, so long as this interference with pupils' rights is justified on grounds specified in the Human Rights Act. These include health, safety and the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.

In fulfilling its obligations, the school will balance the rights of individual pupils against the best interests of the school community as a whole. The school may be justified in restricting an individual's rights to manifest their religion or belief in order to ensure the effective delivery of teaching and learning, the promotion of cohesion and good order in the school, the prevention of bullying, or genuine health and safety or security considerations.

## **7. School Uniform**

School fleece, school sweatshirt, royal/grey jumper/cardigan  
Navy/black jogging bottoms (Reception classes only), grey/black trousers/shorts/skirt, pinafore dress, blue gingham/striped dress

White/blue shirt, white/ light-blue polo shirt (available with school logo).  
Black shoes (no coloured trainers, no high heels), sandals

### **PE Kit - Summer**

House t- shirt – (indoor activities, as well as outdoor sports in the summer months) and shorts should be worn. Children must wear plimsolls or have bare feet for PE lessons in the hall. They may wear trainers for outdoor activities. Children may wear cycling shorts under normal shorts for modesty's sake, should they so wish.

### **PE Kit - Winter**

During the winter months, children should wear any outdoor clothing which will keep them warm during the activity, provided it does not constitute a safety hazard. Children are allowed to wear tracksuit bottoms, old jumpers, training tops, gloves etc, when appropriate.

### **Swimming**

Some children like to wear swimming goggles. KCC policy is to discourage this, as there have been a number of accidents in which goggles have snapped back into children's faces, when they have been attempting to take them off. If a child wishes to wear goggles, parents must provide written confirmation of this to the teacher.

### **8. Toys**

Children are not allowed to bring toys to school, apart from when joining Year R, unless this has been identified by the school as being of benefit to the child during a particular period, such as the death of a family member, or a similar period of upset.

### **9. Jewellery**

Children are not allowed to wear jewellery to school, save for stud earrings. In addition, staff are not allowed to remove earrings for children, so they shouldn't have their ears pierced until they are of an age when they can remove and replace the jewellery independently. Children are not allowed to participate in any PE activity whilst wearing any form of jewellery. Earrings must be removed, by the children, before any activities begin. If the children are not able to remove earrings, parents must do it for them, on the day that they have PE, before they come to school.

### **10. Possessions**

The school will carry no responsibility for any personal items which a child may lose at school. Every effort will be made to find lost items, but children must develop a responsible attitude towards their possessions and this should be fostered from a young age. Parents should not send their child to school with expensive or sentimental items. Children may not bring mobile phones to school.

## **Religious clothing summary**

### **Buddhism**

In general there are no religious requirements for everyday dress for Buddhists.

### **Christianity**

For the majority of Christians there are no particular dress requirements. In some Christian sects such as the Plymouth Brethren women and girls are expected to wear headscarves and modest clothing.

### **Hinduism**

In general it is not considered acceptable for a Hindu woman to have uncovered legs.

### **Judaism**

Dress requirements vary with orthodoxy. For more orthodox Jews women and girls are expected to keep the body covered and married women cover their hair. Boys and men often wear a skullcap.

### **Islam**

The reason for young women beyond puberty wishing to wear full clothing is modesty; that is, not wishing to receive unnecessary attention.

Young women are appropriately modestly dressed if they are wearing salwar kammez or jilbaab with headscarf without the need to wear niqaab in school.

Men are expected to be covered from waist to knee in public places, many Muslim men may also choose to wear a cap but this is not a compulsory religious requirement.

### **Sikhism**

In general covering the body is a requirement. All initiated Sikhs wear the five 'K' symbols as a sign of their initiation into the Sikh community. Male Sikhs wear a turban, the removal of this is unacceptable.

### **Rastafarian**

Rastafarian women dress modestly. There is a taboo on wearing second hand clothing, and therefore children may be unwilling to wear borrowed clothing for PE, etc.