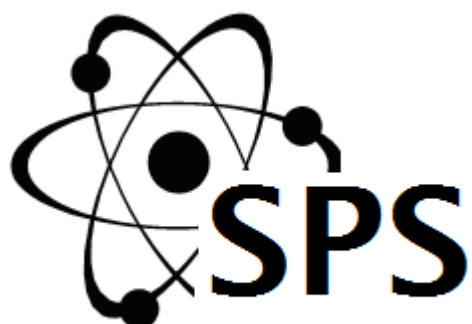




Shanklea Primary School

School Uniform Policy

This policy has been reviewed in line with the DfE's statutory 'Cost of school uniforms' guidance, updated October 2025, the DfE's 'Developing school uniform policy' guidance, updated November 2025, and the DfE's 'Procuring school uniform supplies' guidance.

Signed by:

L Ritson

Headteacher

Date: September 2026

D Nicholson

Chair of governors

Date: September 2026

Review Date: September 2027

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Statement of intent

Shanklea Primary believes that a consistent school uniform policy is vital to promote the shared values and motto of the school and provide a sense of belonging and identity for all pupils, regardless of their protected characteristics or socio-economic circumstances.

For the purposes of this policy, “uniform” includes the following elements of pupils’ appearance:

- Clothing, including the school uniform itself, variations of the school uniform such as PE kits, and other clothing worn at school, e.g. non-uniform.
- Hairstyles and headwear.
- Jewellery and other accessories.
- Cosmetics such as makeup and nail polish.

This policy lays out the measures the school has taken to ensure a consistent, fair and inclusive uniform policy, and to implement a uniform that reflects the needs of all pupils, is affordable, and provides the best value for money for both the school and pupils’ families.

We believe that pupils learn most effectively and achieve their best outcomes when they are comfortable, able to be themselves, and dressed in a way that sets an appropriate tone for education.

Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Human Rights Act 1998
- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Equality Act 2010
- Education Act 2011
- The UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)
- Data Protection Act 2018
- Education (Guidance about Costs of School Uniforms) Act 2021
- DfE (2025) 'Cost of school uniforms'
- DfE (2021) 'School Admissions Code'
- DfE (2025) 'Developing school uniform policy'
- DfE (2025) 'Procuring school uniform supplies'
- Equality and Human Rights Commission (2022) 'Preventing hair discrimination in schools'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Complaints Procedures Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Tendering and Procurement Policy

Roles and responsibilities

The governing board is responsible for:

- Establishing, in consultation with the headteacher and school community, a practical and smart school uniform that accurately reflects the school's values and motto.
- Ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible, inclusive, and does not disadvantage any pupil because of their protected characteristics or socio-economic status.
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of parents, pupils and the wider school community regarding changes to the school's uniform.
- Ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible and affordable.
- Demonstrating in this policy how best value for money has been achieved.
- Ensuring compliance with the DfE's 'Cost of school uniforms' guidance.

The headteacher is responsible for:

- Enforcing the school's uniform rules on a day-to-day basis.
- Ensuring that teachers understand this policy and what to do if a pupil isn't meeting the Uniform Policy.
- Listening to the opinions of the school community in regard to the school's uniform and making appropriate recommendations to the governing board.
- Providing pupils with an agreed exemption as appropriate, e.g. for a pupil who has a broken arm and requires a loose-fitting shirt.

Staff are responsible for:

- Ensuring that pupils dress in accordance with this policy at all times.
- Where appropriate to their role, working with pupils and families to follow the Uniform Policy.
- Ensuring that pupils understand why having a consistent and practical school uniform is important, e.g. school identity.

Parents are responsible for:

- Providing their children with the correct school uniform as detailed in this policy.
- Informing the headteacher if their child requires an exemption to the uniform rules for a period of time, with a reason why.
- Ensuring that their child's uniform is clean, presentable and the correct size.

Pupils are responsible for:

- Wearing the correct uniform, unless the headteacher has granted an exemption.
- Looking after their uniform as appropriate.
- Understanding and respecting why a school uniform is important to the school, e.g. school identity and community.

Cost principles

The school will ensure that its school uniform is affordable and accessible to all pupils, and does not place an unreasonable financial burden on parents.

In accordance with the 'School Admissions Code', the headteacher will ensure that the school's uniform requirements do not discourage parents from applying for a place for their child.

The school will assess the overall cost implications of its uniform policy regularly, including prior to making any changes to the school uniform. When evaluating whether costs are reasonable and proportionate, the school will take into account the opinions and situations of:

- Economically disadvantaged parents.
- Parents with multiple children who are, or will be in the future, pupils at the school.
- Parents of younger children, as they are likely to grow quickly and require new sets of uniform more frequently.
- Parents of pupils with protected characteristics that may impact their ability to access the uniform.
- LAC and PLAC.

The school will evaluate the cost of its uniform based on the overall collection of uniform items that parents would need to purchase for a pupil, rather than on the cost effectiveness of individual items; this will include consideration of the fact that parents will need to purchase multiples of certain items, e.g. shirts and socks, to ensure their child can come to school in clean uniform every day.

The school will keep variations in school uniform for different groups of pupils, e.g. year group-specific items or house colours, to a minimum to ensure that pupils can get the most wear out of their uniform and that parents can pass some items down to younger siblings.

The school will keep branded uniform items to a minimal level that is reasonable for all members of the school community. The school defines a branded uniform item as any item of clothing that cannot be purchased at a range of retailers, e.g. supermarkets, due to the item's logo, colour, design, fabric or other unique element. Where the school requires an item of branded clothing, it will assess how prices can be kept as low as possible and put measures in place to facilitate this. This may include:

The school will keep its uniform under review in light of the expected statutory limit on compulsory branded school uniform and PE kit items from September 2026. The school will not require more than three compulsory branded items, unless the law or statutory guidance requires otherwise.

- Making donated second-hand uniforms available regularly throughout the year.

The school will meet the DfE's requirements and recommendations on costs and value for money. Care will be taken to ensure that school uniform is affordable for all current and prospective pupils, and that the best value for money is secured through reputable suppliers.

The school will work with multiple suppliers to obtain the best value for money possible. Any savings negotiated will be passed to parents where possible. The school will not enter into exclusive single-supplier contracts or cash-back arrangements. More information on supplier processes can be found in the '[School uniform supplier](#)' section of this policy.

The school will take the views of parents and pupils into account.

Equality principles

The school takes its legal obligation to avoid unlawfully discriminating against any protected characteristic very seriously. In line with this, the school will aim to ensure that its uniform policy is as inclusive as possible so that all pupils can access a school uniform which is comfortable, suitable for their needs, and reflects who they are, while avoiding any direct or indirect discrimination on the basis of protected characteristics or socio-economic status.

The school will ensure that parents and pupils are consulted over any changes to school uniform, and that, where appropriate and with pupils' consent, views and advice are sought specifically from pupils, and parents of pupils, who:

- Are transgender or non-binary.
- Are of a religious or cultural background that has specific dress requirements.
- Have SEND and/or sensory needs.

Parents' concerns and requests regarding school uniform and amendments to it are handled on a case-by-case basis by the headteacher and governing board, and always in accordance with the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.

Information on how the school ensures its uniform policy does not discriminate against pupils with specific protected characteristics is outlined below.

Gender

To avoid disproportionately impacting pupils of a certain gender, the school will ensure that the cost of uniform is as equal in price as possible across items for all genders.

This includes:

- Adhering to the procedures laid out in the 'Cost principles' section of this policy.
- Not directly requiring pupils of a certain gender to buy additional uniform, e.g. by requiring female pupils to buy both trousers and skirts.
- Not indirectly requiring pupils of a certain gender to buy additional uniform, e.g. by offering football in PE to only male pupils and requiring they buy football boots to participate.
- Not holding pupils of different genders to different uniform standards, e.g. by banning certain hairstyles for only one gender.

The school will implement a gender-neutral uniform, meaning that pupils will not be required to wear specific items based on their gender, and may wear any of the uniform items listed in the 'School uniform' section of this policy regardless of the legal sex recorded on the school's records. Transgender pupils are supported to access the uniform that best reflects their gender expression.

Religion and belief

To avoid disproportionately impacting pupils of a certain religion, belief or culture, the school will ensure that there is flexibility to allow pupils to present themselves in a way that adheres to their dress requirements as far as possible, within the school's uniform policy.

The school will endeavour to meet all requests for amendments to the uniform for these purposes; however, the needs and rights of individual pupils will be weighed against any health and safety concerns appropriate to the circumstances, e.g. if safety headgear needs to be worn.

Race

To avoid disproportionately impacting pupils of a certain race, the school will ensure that its uniform policy does not constitute unlawful indirect discrimination through blanket rules. This includes:

- Not banning hairstyles related to a pupil's ethnic origin, e.g. natural Afro hairstyles.
- Not banning hairstyles worn because of cultural, family and social customs, e.g. cornrows.
- Not banning head coverings related to a pupil's culture or ethnic origin, e.g. African heritage head wraps.

The school will follow the good practice guidance provided by the Equality and Human Rights Commission on 'Preventing hair discrimination in schools'.

SEND and medical conditions

To avoid disproportionately impacting pupils with SEND or medical conditions, the school will ensure its uniform policy takes into account the needs of these pupils. This includes:

- Ensuring the school uniform uses soft, stretchy fabrics and avoids intricate buttons or hard seams.
- Allowing variations to the standard uniform for pupils whose medical conditions may impact how they dress, e.g. pupils with casts who require loose-fitting clothing or pupils with hair loss-related conditions who wish to wear head coverings.

Where the needs of these pupils cannot be met in the standard uniform policy, individual adaptations to the uniform will be considered and permitted wherever possible.

Wearing the correct uniform

Shanklea Primary will share the policy and expectations regularly with parents/carers throughout the year. In assemblies the team will remind pupils of uniform expectations.

Shanklea Primary will keep spare uniform in school where possible. If pupils are not wearing the correct uniform, staff will speak to the pupil sensitively and may offer school spare uniform where this is appropriate. Parents/carers will be contacted supportively where there is a repeated concern.

The school will avoid sanctions that unnecessarily remove pupils from learning or contribute to absence. Where uniform concerns are linked to financial difficulty, SEND, medical needs, protected characteristics or family circumstances, staff will work supportively with the family before considering consequences.

Complaints and challenges

The school will endeavour to resolve all uniform complaints and challenges locally and informally, in accordance with the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.

The school will refer individuals who wish to complain to the Complaints Procedures Policy and request that they follow the procedures outlined therein.

When a complaint is received, the school will work with the complainant to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

School uniform supplier

The school's current school uniform supplier is:

- Cloud 9 Leisure
- Unit 59F South Nelson Industrial Estate, Cramlington NE23 1WF
- Tel: 01670 739370; 07876026202
- Cloud9leisure@hotmail.com
- cloud9leisure.co.uk

The school will not sign contracts with suppliers before requesting visualisations and samples of proposed uniform.

Uniform assistance

The school will hold second-hand school uniforms in the **school office** for parents to access; access to these uniforms will be made available upon request made to the headteacher.

Parents will be invited to donate their child's uniform when they no longer need it.

Supporting pupils and families

Staff may remind classes about the uniform policy, speak to pupils sensitively one-to-one where appropriate, and contact parents/carers individually. Where concerns persist, the headteacher or a member of SLT may contact parents/carers to understand any barriers and agree a supportive way forward.

Pupils will be asked to cover or remove earrings for health and safety reasons in PE. If this cannot safely happen, staff will consider appropriate adaptations to keep the pupil safe and parents will be notified.

As a last resort, and only where there is a significant health and safety concern or a persistent unresolved concern, the headteacher may ask a parent/carer to help remedy the breach. The school will consider the pupil's circumstances and the impact on attendance before taking this step.

School uniform

Clothing

The school uniform is as follows:

Item	Optional or required	Branding	How to acquire	Cost per item from school supplier
Regular school uniform				
Burgundy sweatshirt or cardigan embroidered with the school logo	Required	School logo on right-hand side	Branded sweatshirt and cardigan available from school supplier or second-hand from the Uniform Bank, Forum Way Cramlington	Sweatshirt £11; Cardigan £12.50
Plain white polo shirt (no logos please).	Required	No branding	Available from school supplier, second-hand from the Uniform Bank and from regular retailers	N/A
Grey or black trousers or skirt (Skirts should be of a practical and appropriate length for school activities. No logos or stripes	Required	No branding	Available from school supplier, second-hand from the Uniform Bank and from regular retailers	N/A

please on trousers or skirts).				
For summer : Gingham dresses to match the school colours (dresses should be of a practical and appropriate length for school activities)	Optional	No branding	Available from school supplier, second-hand from the Uniform Bank and from regular retailers	N/A
Black or grey tights (no coloured patterns please). Children can wear <u>plain black leggings</u> for school. No joggers please. Please make sure there are no logos on leggings	Optional	No branding	Available from school supplier, second-hand from the Uniform Bank and from regular retailers	N/A
Please shoes are: • Plain (with no logos) black shoes or ankle boots (no knee-high boots) • Flat (no heels) • Give adequate protection against the weather. *No trainers	Required	No branding	Available from regular retailers	N/A
*In the summer months, all pupils can wear shorts as long as they are practical and appropriate for school activities. No cycling shorts please.				
PE kit				
Plain white or burgundy t-shirt (no logos please).	Required	No branding	Available from regular retailers	N/A

Plain black leggings or joggers for PE (no logos please).	Required	No branding	Available from regular retailers	N/A
Plain black shorts (no logos or stripes e.g., Adidas, please). Shorts should be practical and appropriate for school activities.	Optional	No branding	Available from regular retailers	N/A
Trainers (any colour)	Required	No branding	Available from regular retailers	N/A
Please note: Hoodies are for PE wear only are not to be purchased as everyday school uniform.				
Accessories				
School book bag	Optional	School logo optional	Available from school supplier, second-hand from the Uniform Bank and from regular retailers	£9.50
P.E. bag	Optional	School logo	Available from school supplier, second-hand from the Uniform Bank and from regular retailers	£6

Parents are responsible for ensuring their child brings their PE kit to school when needed.

Jewellery and Watches

No earrings for school please, if your child is unable to take them out please use plastic inserts.

Due to safeguarding reasons, no smart watches are allowed in school or any watches that can access the internet, take photos, videos or can voice record.

Children can wear the plastic inserts; however they must be plain, no colour, jewels or patterns.

Bags

Pupils must use an appropriately-sized waterproof bag to carry their books and equipment. It must hold A4-sized workbooks comfortably without causing any damage.

School bags, clothing, badges or accessories featuring inappropriate images, slogans, political messages or phrases will not be permitted.

The school will discourage pupils from bringing valuable bags to school. The school will not be liable for lost or damaged school bags.

Hairstyles and headwear

The school reserves the right to make a judgement on whether a pupil's hairstyle, hair colour or headwear is inappropriate for the school environment; however, the school will ensure that any such judgements do not discriminate against any pupil by virtue of their protected characteristics. Each individual pupil's scenario will be taken into account where any judgements on appropriateness are to be made, and parents will always have the freedom to complain via the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.

- Pupils with long hair must ensure that this does not impede their vision, cover their face, or cause a health and safety risk.
- Long hair must be tied up during practical lessons, e.g. during PE.
- Bobbles/hairbands should be white, black or match the school colours where possible. Oversized bows or scrunchies are not permitted for health and safety and practicality reasons.
- Hair colour should be appropriate for school. Requests linked to a protected characteristic, medical need or individual circumstance will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Makeup and cosmetics

The school rules on makeup and cosmetics are as follows:

- No fake tan or makeup should be worn for school, unless an individual adjustment has been agreed for a specific reason, e.g. medical need.
- Braids, protective hairstyles and hair wraps are permitted where they are related to a pupil's hair type, culture, religion, ethnicity, medical need or personal identity, provided they do not create a health and safety risk. Decorative hair wraps or accessories that are not linked to these needs should be modest and in school colours where possible.

Pupils wearing makeup will be required to remove it.

Consequences

If, following supportive discussion with the pupil and parent/carer, the uniform policy is still not adhered to, a member of SLT may follow up with the family. Consequences will be proportionate and will not unnecessarily remove pupils from learning. Where there may be financial difficulty, SEND, medical needs, protected characteristics or other family circumstances, support and reasonable adjustments will be considered before any consequence is issued.

Labelling and lost property

Parents will be advised to ensure that all pupils' clothing and footwear is clearly labelled with their name and year group.

Any lost clothing will be stored in the office for one month. All lost property will be retained for one month and will be donated to charity if it is not collected within this time.

Monitoring and review

Any changes to this policy will be communicated to all staff, pupils, parents and other relevant stakeholders.

The next scheduled review date is September 2027.

Appendix 1 Overview for parents

Here is a copy of our school uniform. Plain, non-branded items can be purchased from supermarkets, high-street retailers or second-hand uniform providers. Branded items are available from Cloud 9 Leisure and may also be available second-hand. If you have any financial worries, please come and talk to us - we are here to help.

Main uniform

- Burgundy sweatshirt or cardigan embroidered with the school logo, available from Cloud 9 Leisure or second-hand uniform providers. [Shanklea Primary | mysite \(cloud9leisure.co.uk\)](https://www.shankleaprimary.co.uk/mysite/cloud9leisure.co.uk)
- Plain white polo shirt (no logos please).
- Grey or black trousers or skirt (no logos or stripes please). Children can wear plain black leggings for school. Please make sure there are no logos on leggings. **No joggers please.**
- Black or grey tights (no coloured patterns please).
- **From summer:** A gingham dress which matches the school colours.
- In the summer, all pupils can wear shorts as long as they are practical and appropriate for school activities.

Shoes

Black school shoes only. No black trainers please.
Please ensure shoes are:

- Plain (with no logos) black shoes or ankle boots (no knee high boots)
- Flat (no heels)
- Give adequate protection against the weather.

PE Kit:

- Plain black leggings or joggers for PE (no logos e.g. adidas or Nike ticks please).
- Plain black shorts (no logos or stripes e.g., Adidas, please).
- Plain white t-shirt (no logos please) or burgundy t-shirt from Cloud 9. **Please note:** hoodies are for PE wear only and are not part of the school uniform.
- Any colour trainers for PE.

Hair

- Bobbles/hairbands should be white, black or match the school colours where possible. Oversized bows or scrunchies are not permitted for health and safety and practicality reasons.

Hair dye

- Hair colour should be appropriate for school. Requests linked to a protected characteristic, medical need or individual circumstance will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Fake tan, makeup and hair accessories

- No fake tan or makeup should be worn for school, unless an individual adjustment has been agreed for a specific reason, e.g. medical need.
- Braids, protective hairstyles and hair wraps are permitted where they are related to a pupil's hair type, culture, religion, ethnicity, medical need or personal identity, provided they do not create a health and safety risk. Decorative hair wraps or accessories that are not linked to these needs should be modest and in school colours where possible.

Earrings

- No earrings for school please, if your child is unable to take them out please use plastic inserts (these must be plain, no colour, jewels or patterns).

Watches

- Please ensure no smart watches are worn for school or any watches that can take photos, videos, send messages, voice record or connect to the WIFI.



Black plimssoles, leather or suede sports shoes, brands such as Adidas, Converse, Lacoste, Nike, Puma and Vans are **not** allowed even though they appear in Schoolwear sections in some stores.

These type of shoes / boots are examples of those **not allowed**:

