Wittersham Church of England Primary School Uniform Policy 2026

We strive to cooperate and work alongside all members of our community to feel valued, nurtured, and empowered as they embark upon their journey to become the very best that God intended. Throughout their voyage of discovery with us, we ensure all children are provided with a rich curriculum and experiences that promote courage and a strong moral purpose underpinned by our Christian values, preparing them to become compassionate citizens within our rural community and the wider world

Revision History

Version	Date	By	Description
V02	October 2022	G. Hawkins	Policy update
V03	October 2023	G.Hawkins	Annual Review
V04	October 2024	Stella Coulson	Annual Review
V05	September 2025	Stella Coulson	Annual Review
V06	September 2026	Stella Coulson	Annual Review

Introduction

At Wittersham Church of England Primary School, we take pride in being smart, well presented and ready to learn.

Our uniform helps pupils feel that they belong to our school community. It reflects our shared identity and supports an inclusive environment in which children can focus on learning.

Pupils are expected to wear the school uniform when attending school and, where appropriate, when taking part in school-organised events outside normal school hours.

This policy has been developed with regard to:

- the Department for Education's statutory guidance on the cost of school uniforms;
- the Department for Education's guidance on developing a school uniform policy;
- the Education Act 1996, as amended by the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026;
- the Equality Act 2010; and
- the Human Rights Act 1998.

Aims

Our school uniform policy aims to:

- promote a sense of pride in our school;
- create a shared sense of identity, community and belonging;
- support equality and inclusion;
- help pupils feel comfortable and ready to learn;
- reduce peer pressure connected with clothing and fashion;
- provide practical clothing suitable for school activities;
- support health, safety and safeguarding;
- ensure that uniform is affordable and provides good value for money; and
- ensure that no pupil is prevented from attending school or participating fully because of the cost of uniform.

Affordability and branded items

The school and Governing Body are committed to keeping the cost of school uniform as low as reasonably possible.

From 1 September 2026, primary schools must limit the number of compulsory branded items of school uniform and PE kit to three or fewer.

Wittersham Church of England Primary School does not require pupils to purchase any compulsory branded items.

Uniform and PE kit displaying the school logo are available, but these items are optional. A suitable plain, unbranded alternative in the correct colour is always acceptable.

Families may purchase generic uniform items from any retailer. Parents are not required to use a particular supplier for generic items.

The school will:

- keep branded items to a minimum;
- ensure that branded versions of uniform remain optional;
- permit suitable generic alternatives;
- consider the cost of individual items and the total cost of the uniform;
- avoid requiring separate clothing for different sports or extracurricular activities;
- avoid frequent or unnecessary changes to the uniform;
- consider quality, durability, sustainability and value for money;
- make second-hand uniform accessible to current and prospective families; and
- provide confidential support where a family is experiencing financial difficulty.

No pupil will be prevented from attending lessons, PE, breaktimes, trips or extracurricular activities because their family is unable to afford the correct uniform.

Everyday school uniform

The following items form the school's everyday uniform. Pupils may choose from the available options according to their comfort, needs and preferences.

Required everyday uniform

- White shirt, white blouse or white polo shirt
- Dark green sweatshirt, jumper, cardigan or fleece

- Grey trousers, skirt, pinafore or tailored shorts
- Grey, black or white socks or tights
- Plain black, sensible school shoes

Optional seasonal uniform

- Green and white checked or striped summer dress
- Plain black boots during colder or wet weather

School-logo sweatshirts, jumpers, cardigans and fleeces are available but are optional. Plain dark green alternatives are acceptable.

Uniform items should be comfortable, practical, appropriate for school and suitable for the weather.

PE kit

All pupils should have a suitable PE kit so that they can participate safely and comfortably.

Indoor and warmer-weather PE kit

- Yellow polo shirt or T-shirt
- Plain black shorts, skort or opaque sports leggings
- Plimsolls or suitable trainers

Outdoor and colder-weather PE kit

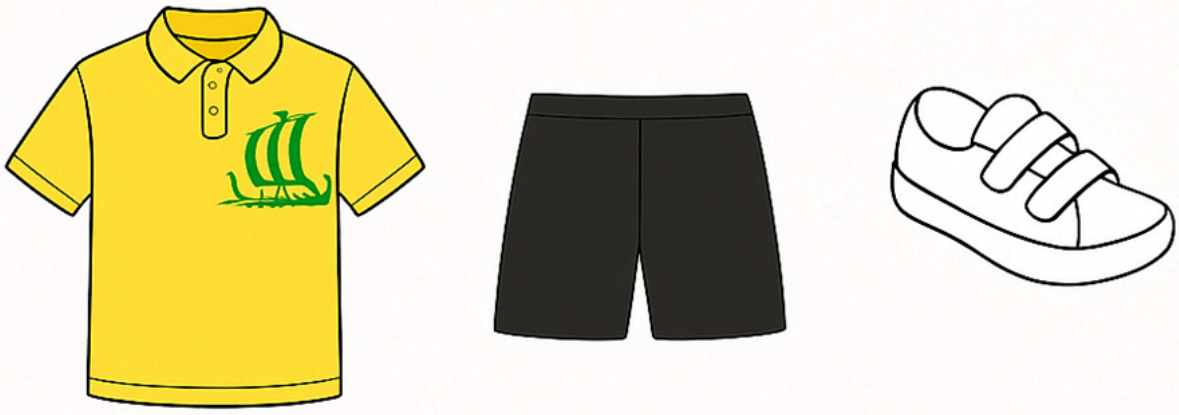
- Yellow polo shirt or T-shirt
- Plain black tracksuit bottoms or opaque sports leggings
- Plain black or green sweatshirt or hoodie
- Suitable trainers

A yellow PE top or green hoodie displaying the school logo is available but is not compulsory. Plain, unbranded alternatives in the correct colours are acceptable.

Pupils should not be required to purchase additional clothing for individual sports, school clubs or inter-school competitions. Where specialist clothing is needed for a school activity, the school will seek to lend or provide it.

PE kit should be practical, comfortable and appropriate for the activity. Clothing should not have large, visible designer logos or slogans.

For indoor and warmer weather PE:



For outdoor and colder weather PE:





Outdoor learning and weather

Children take part in outdoor learning throughout the year and in a range of weather conditions.

All pupils should have:

- a pair of clearly labelled wellington boots that can remain at school; and
- a suitable, weather-appropriate coat.

During colder weather, families are encouraged to provide:

- gloves;
- a scarf; and
- a warm hat.

Families of younger children are strongly encouraged to provide a clearly labelled spare set of clothing or uniform to be kept at school.

The school may temporarily adapt uniform expectations during extreme or adverse weather. This may include permitting lighter clothing or PE kit during very hot weather and additional warm clothing during periods of severe cold.

Coats worn when travelling to and from school may include reflective or high-visibility features to support road safety.

Footwear

Pupils should wear plain black, sensible school shoes.

Shoes should:

- be safe and comfortable;
- provide appropriate support;
- be suitable for movement around the school site; and
- have fastenings that the pupil can manage independently wherever possible.

Shoes with Velcro or buckle fastenings are recommended where a child is not yet able to tie their own laces.

Trainers, high heels, platform shoes, open-toed shoes and footwear that presents a safety

risk are not suitable as everyday school shoes.

Plain black boots may be worn during colder or wet weather.

Where a pupil requires different footwear for a medical, sensory or disability-related reason, parents should speak to the school so that an appropriate adjustment can be agreed.

Jewellery

For health and safety reasons, jewellery should not normally be worn in school.

Pupils may wear:

• one small, plain stud in each pierced ear; and
• items required for religious, cultural or medical reasons, subject to an appropriate safety assessment.

Earrings must be removed for PE, swimming and other physical activities. Pupils should be able to remove and replace their own earrings independently. Staff are not able to remove earrings for pupils.

Parents are encouraged to arrange new ear piercings at the beginning of the summer holiday so that earrings can be removed safely when pupils return to school.

The school cannot accept responsibility for the loss of or damage to jewellery or other valuable items brought into school.

Hair and appearance

Hair should be clean, tidy and worn in a way that allows pupils to participate safely in learning and physical activities.

Long hair should be tied back for PE, swimming, practical activities and whenever required for health and safety.

Hair accessories should be simple, safe and suitable for school. Large accessories that may distract from learning or present a safety risk should not be worn.

The school will not discriminate against pupils because of their natural hair, hair texture or protective hairstyles associated with race, religion or culture.

Make-up and nail varnish should not normally be worn in school unless agreed as part of a medical, cultural or reasonable adjustment.

Any concern about a pupil's appearance will be considered sensitively, reasonably and in consultation with the pupil and their family.

Religious, cultural and equality considerations

The school is committed to ensuring that its uniform policy is inclusive and does not unlawfully discriminate.

The same range of uniform choices is available to all pupils.

The school will act reasonably in accommodating clothing, headwear, hairstyles, jewellery or other items worn because of religion, belief, race or culture, provided that any necessary health, safety and safeguarding requirements can be met.

Where a requirement affects a pupil because of a protected characteristic, the school will consider whether an adjustment or alternative is necessary and reasonable.

Parents should speak to the Headteacher if they wish to request a variation to the uniform policy for religious, cultural or equality-related reasons.

Special educational needs, disabilities and medical needs

The school recognises that some pupils may find particular items of clothing, materials, fastenings or footwear difficult because of:

- special educational needs;
- a disability;
- sensory processing differences;
- a medical condition;
- physical needs; or
- emotional or wellbeing needs.

Reasonable adjustments will be considered on an individual basis. These may include:

- alternative fabrics or fastenings;
- adapted clothing or footwear;
- less restrictive clothing;
- sensory-friendly alternatives;

- additional clothing for warmth or protection; or
- temporary changes following an injury, illness or medical procedure.

Parents should contact the Headteacher, SENCO or school office to discuss their child's needs. Any agreed adjustment will be communicated to relevant staff sensitively.

Labelling and lost property

All clothing, footwear and personal items should be clearly labelled with the pupil's full name.

The school will take reasonable steps to return labelled items to pupils. Unlabelled lost property will be kept for a reasonable period before being donated, recycled or disposed of.

The school cannot accept responsibility for items that are lost, damaged or left unclaimed.

Second-hand uniform

The school supports the reuse of good-quality uniform as an affordable and environmentally responsible option.

Parents are encouraged to donate clean, good-quality items that their children have outgrown.

Financial support

Families experiencing difficulty with the cost of uniform are encouraged to contact the Headteacher or school office confidentially.

Depending on availability and individual circumstances, support may include:

- access to second-hand uniform;
- loaned items;
- donated items;
- temporary flexibility while appropriate uniform is obtained; or
- information about other sources of financial assistance.

The school will approach these conversations with compassion and discretion.

Financial hardship will not be treated as a behavioural matter, and no pupil will be disadvantaged, excluded from learning or prevented from participating in school life

because their family cannot afford an item of uniform.

Non-uniform and themed days

The school may occasionally hold non-uniform, themed or dressing-up days.

The school will:

- provide families with clear information in advance;
- avoid expectations that require families to purchase costumes or new clothing;
- offer simple and affordable ways to participate;
- ensure that participation is not dependent upon making a financial contribution; and
- consider the effect of the event on pupils and families experiencing financial difficulty.

Clothing worn on non-uniform days must remain safe, practical and appropriate for the school environment. Clothing must not display offensive, discriminatory or otherwise inappropriate words, images or slogans.

The following items are not permitted:

- Crocs, sliders, open-toed shoes or other unsuitable footwear;
- High heels or platform shoes;
- Very short skirts, dresses or shorts;
- Cropped tops or other clothing that does not provide appropriate coverage;
- Pyjamas, onesies, slippers or nightwear, unless specifically requested by the school for a themed event; and
- Make-up or nail varnish, unless explicitly permitted as part of a school event.

Pupils should wear sensible, secure footwear and clothing that allows them to participate safely and comfortably in lessons, playtimes and all planned school activities.

School trips, activities and competitions

Pupils may be asked to wear school uniform for educational visits, performances, sporting events or other school activities where this supports safety, identification or the nature of the event.

The school will not normally require families to purchase additional branded clothing for these activities.

Where specialist or branded clothing is needed for safety, identification or competition, the

school will aim to lend or provide it. A suitable alternative will be considered where a pupil cannot wear the provided item for a medical, health, disability or religious reason.

Supporting pupils to follow the policy

The school expects pupils to wear the correct uniform and will work positively with pupils and families to resolve any difficulties.

Where a pupil is not wearing the expected uniform, staff will consider whether this may be connected with:

- financial hardship;
- lack of access to clean uniform;
- a special educational need or disability;
- a medical or sensory need;
- religion or belief;
- family circumstances;
- an item having been lost or damaged; or
- another reason outside the pupil's control.

The school will speak with the pupil sensitively and contact the family where appropriate. Support and reasonable time to resolve the matter will be provided.

Persistent or deliberate refusal to follow the policy may be addressed in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy, but any response will be reasonable and proportionate.

A pupil will not be prevented from attending classroom lessons, PE, breaktimes, trips or extracurricular activities because of financial hardship or circumstances outside their control.

Role of pupils

Pupils are expected to:

- wear the agreed school uniform;
- take pride in their appearance and school identity;
- look after their uniform and belongings;
- place named belongings in the appropriate storage areas; and
- show respect for the clothing, appearance, culture and choices of others.

Role of parents and carers

Parents and carers are asked to ensure that their child:

• attends school wearing the correct uniform;
• has suitable PE kit and outdoor clothing;
• wears clothing that is clean and in reasonable condition;
• has all clothing and footwear clearly labelled; and
• has footwear and clothing that are safe, comfortable and appropriate for school.

Parents should contact the school if they:

• are experiencing difficulty obtaining uniform;
• require financial or practical support;
• wish to request a reasonable adjustment;
• have a concern about a uniform requirement; or
• believe that an aspect of the policy may affect their child because of a protected characteristic, medical condition or additional need.

Role of staff

Staff will:

• apply the policy consistently, fairly and sensitively;
• model and reinforce positive attitudes towards the school uniform;
• avoid embarrassing pupils or drawing unnecessary attention to uniform difficulties;
• consider reasons for non-compliance before taking action;
• refer requests for support or adjustments to the appropriate member of staff;
• report any bullying or discrimination relating to clothing, uniform, hair or appearance; and
• ensure that pupils are not prevented from participating because of financial hardship.

Role of the Headteacher

The Headteacher is responsible for:

• implementing this policy;
• ensuring expectations are communicated clearly;
• responding to requests for reasonable adjustments;
• supporting families experiencing financial difficulty;

- ensuring that any response to non-compliance is fair and proportionate;
- ensuring the uniform requirements support attendance and participation; and
- reporting significant issues to the Governing Body where appropriate.

Role of the Governing Board

The Governing Board will:

- support the Headteacher in implementing the policy;
- ensure the policy is fair, inclusive and affordable;
- have regard to the statutory guidance on the cost of school uniforms;
- ensure that the number of compulsory branded items remains within the legal limit;
- consider the total cost of the school uniform and PE kit;
- consider the views of pupils and parents when making significant changes;
- ensure suitable second-hand uniform arrangements are available;
- review supply arrangements and value for money;
- ensure that the policy complies with equality and human rights legislation; and
- review the policy regularly.

Concerns and complaints

Parents are encouraged to raise any concern about the uniform policy with the Headteacher in the first instance. The school will seek to resolve concerns fairly and through discussion wherever possible.

If a concern cannot be resolved informally, parents may use the school's Complaints Policy.

Requests connected with disability, religion, belief, race, culture or another protected characteristic will be considered carefully and individually.

Monitoring and review

The Headteacher and Governing Body will monitor the implementation of this policy.

The policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if:

- statutory requirements or Department for Education guidance change;
- uniform requirements are changed;
- concerns about cost or accessibility arise; or
- feedback from pupils, parents or staff indicates that a review is required.

Any significant proposed change will consider:

- the views of pupils and parents;
- affordability and value for money;
- the effect on families with low incomes;
- equality and inclusion;
- comfort and practicality;
- health, safety and safeguarding; and
- the environmental impact of replacing existing uniform.

Where changes are introduced, families will normally be given reasonable notice and pupils will be permitted to continue wearing existing uniform for an appropriate transition period.