

Levens CE School

Expectations on Uniform

Statement of Intent

Levens CE Primary School is committed to promoting equality and value for money and to ensuring that no child is discriminated against due to their religion or beliefs, economic circumstances, or social and cultural background.

It is important that our pupils feel a sense of belonging to our school. We believe that wearing a smart and practical uniform allows all children, regardless of their backgrounds, to feel equal to their peers and confident in their appearance. Staff also follow expectations on how they present themselves in school; these are outlined in the Staff Code of Conduct.

Having high expectations of how we present ourselves, alongside our mission to poverty-proof our school day, is integral to the aims of this policy.

We also believe it is important for children to wear clothing that is conducive to a successful learning environment and positive learning behaviours; as well as ensuring that our expectations ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of everyone.

This policy pays due regard to the recommendations of the DfE on uniform in schools: [School uniforms: guidance for schools - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/school-uniforms-guidance-for-schools)

Parents and Carers completed a survey on uniform in the spring term of 2025. Changes to our policy since the last review in September 2022 have responded to feedback from parents and have included:

- reducing number of items with logos to three;
- change to colour of PE hoodie to dark blue;
- changing pre-loved uniform sales to swaps, involving no payment or donation, and holding them more regularly throughout the school year;
- review of policy in response to school's commitment to poverty-proofing the school day;
- removal of expectations around colour of socks;
- permitting the option of plain black PE bags from high-street shops, not just our uniform suppliers.

Legal Framework

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

- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Education Act 2011
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Equality Act 2010
- The General Data Protection Regulation
- Data Protection Act 2018

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

- DfE (2014) 'School Admissions Code'
- DfE (2013) 'School Uniform'
- DfE (2021) 'Costs of School Uniforms'

Roles and Responsibilities

The Governing Board is responsible for:

- in consultation with the Headteacher and school community, establishing a practical and smart school uniform that accurately reflects the school's vision and values;
- ensuring that equal opportunities are considered regarding the school's uniform and that no person is discriminated against;
- listening to the opinions and wishes of parents/carers, pupils and the wider school community regarding changes to the school's uniform;
- ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible and affordable;
- ensuring that the school's uniform is practical, comfortable and easy care;
- ensuring that the principles of best value and quality are balanced to deliver a uniform that is affordable for families;
- ensuring that items with logos are no more than three, in line with government requirements on uniform for schools across England;
- ensuring that some core uniform items are readily available from suppliers such as supermarkets;
- ensuring that arrangements are in place for the regular exchange of pre-loved uniform at no cost throughout the school year;
- ensuring that the school undertakes a tender process at least every 5 years;
- ensuring that school leaders engage regularly with suppliers, parents and other stakeholders with relation to cost and quality of uniform;
- ensuring that consideration of the total cost of uniform is undertaken and that no family is deterred from attending Levens School due to the cost of a school uniform.

The Headteacher is responsible for:

- enforcing the school's uniform on a day-to-day basis;
- ensuring that school staff understand this policy and know what to do if a pupil is in breach of the policy;
- listening to the opinions and wishes of the school community regarding the school's uniform and making appropriate recommendations to the Governing Board;
- providing pupils with exemptions as appropriate e.g. for a pupil who has a broken arm and requires a loose-fitting top;
- ensuring that staff and other adults in school act as role models and dress appropriately;
- communicate with parents and carers about our expectations through emails, newsletters and website information throughout the school year.

All staff are responsible for:

- ensuring that they take personal responsibility to act as role models, dressing in accordance with the professional expectations outlined in the Staff Code of Conduct at all times;
- ensuring pupils dress in accordance with this policy at all times;
- taking appropriate action when pupils are in breach of this policy in accordance with our Behaviour and Relationships Policy;
- ensuring that pupils understand why having a consistent and practical school uniform is important e.g. to establish school identity;
- working with parents to support families to meet our expectations on uniform.

Parents/carers are responsible for:

- providing their children with the correct school uniform as detailed in this policy;
- informing the Headteacher if their child requires a more relaxed uniform policy for a period of time, including why;
- ensuring that their child's uniform is clean, presentable and the correct size;
- naming items to ensure that lost or misplaced uniform can be reunited with their owner.

Pupils are responsible for:

- wearing the correct uniform at all times, unless the Headteacher has granted an exemption;
- looking after their uniform as appropriate;
- respecting why a school uniform is important to the school e.g. to develop a sense of belonging.

Cost and Availability

In accordance with the School Admissions Code, Levens CE School ensures that the School Uniform Policy does not discourage parents/carers from applying for a place for their child. The school is committed to meeting the DfE's recommendations on costs and value for money. Every care is taken to ensure that our uniforms are affordable for all current and prospective pupils, and that the best value for money is secured through reputable suppliers.

The school may work with multiple suppliers to obtain the best value for money possible. Any savings negotiated are passed to parents where possible. The school does not specifically enter into exclusive single supplier contracts and tenders on at least a 5 yearly basis. The school does not amend uniform requirements regularly and takes the views of parents/carers and pupils into account when considering changes to school uniforms. Where changes are required, the school ensures that assistance is provided to parents/carers struggling to meet the associated costs.

Religious Clothing / Ceremonial Wear

Some religions and beliefs require their members to conform to a specific dress code. The school does not discriminate against any religion or belief; however, the school weighs the needs and rights of individual pupils against the health and safety concerns of the entire school community.

Levens CE School endeavours to allow religious requirements to be met, wherever possible. Please make an appointment with the Headteacher to discuss the policy and to make any requests for religion-specific wear to be worn in school.

Parents'/carers' concerns and requests regarding religious clothing are dealt with on a case-by case basis by the Headteacher and Governing Board.

Equality

The school is required to ensure that this policy does not discriminate unlawfully. The school endeavours to ensure that our uniform is as gender neutral and inclusive as possible.

Complaints and Challenges

The school endeavours to resolve all uniform complaints and challenges locally and informally, in accordance with the school's Complaints Policy. To make a complaint, parents/carers should refer to the Complaints Policy and follow the stipulations outlined. When a complaint is received, the school works with parents/carers to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome. Governors are willing to consider reasonable requests for flexibility to allow a pupil to accommodate particular social and cultural circumstances.

School Uniform Supplier

Our school uniform suppliers are: Coniston Corporate Embroidery Ltd, The Squash Court, Coniston LA21 8AE

Non-Compliance

On rare occasions, for example, if slogans on clothing are offensive, the Headteacher and/or Deputy Head Teacher are permitted to ask a pupil to take off the clothing, such as a sweatshirt / jumper. In the event that they cannot take the clothing off, parents/carers will be contacted and they will be asked to bring in more suitable uniform/clothing.

On other occasions, for example, if a child is wearing inappropriate footwear, teaching and/or support staff will inform parents/carers by telephone or in-person. If a child requires an item of uniform for a specific activity and no spare clothing is available in school, for example, outdoor learning, parents/carers may be asked to bring the item into school. If pupils do not have the correct kit for PE lessons, then they may be required to wear items of spare kit to facilitate participation or to miss their PE lesson.

Individual family circumstances will be considered in the event that a child is not wearing the correct uniform. However, in accordance with our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, these should be recorded using our electronic recording system (CPOMs) where appropriate.

If children disregard the expectations of our uniform, then further steps may be taken in line with our Behaviour and Relationships Policy. However, sanctions for breaches of this policy are a last resort: the school endeavours to work with families to resolve breaches of this policy in a timely manner.

Our Uniform

The school endeavours to ensure that our uniform is as gender neutral as possible. The uniform is as follows:

- royal blue sweatshirt, fleece or royal blue cardigan with the school logo
- white/pale blue polo shirt - no logo required
- skirt or trousers or shorts in grey or black (joggers can be worn in Nursery) or blue gingham dress - no logo required
- black, sensible shoes (not trainers)
- grey or black tights
- royal blue book bag with the school logo – all year groups.

Trainers, open-toed sandals and boots (with exception of ankle boots in winter) are not considered suitable footwear for school. High heels are not permitted: sensible, plain black shoes must be worn. Black jean-type trousers and leggings are not permitted for day-to-day uniform.

All items of clothing and footwear must be labelled with the pupil's name.

Our PE Kit

Children are asked to have their PE kit in school every day. Pupils in Early Years may be asked to come into school on the day of their PE lesson wearing their PE kit. They can wear it for the full school day. Parents/carers are responsible for ensuring their child is dressed appropriately for PE.

The PE kit is as follows:

- pale blue or white t-shirt – no logo required
- pale blue or navy school PE hoodie – with logo
- plain black/dark blue/dark grey tracksuit bottoms or leggings - no logo required
- plain black/dark blue/dark grey shorts or skorts (in summer or indoor sessions) - no logo required
- suitable trainers or black pumps - no logo required
- plain black PE Bag – from high-street shops or uniform suppliers

Outdoor Learning and Trip Clothing

Children may be asked to come into school on the day of their trip or outdoor session wearing specific clothing. Parents/carers will be informed about requirements via a trip letter or a newsletter. The aim of the change being to ensure that children are best dressed for their experience and to protect uniform. Staff may ask for usual uniform to be brought in for them to change into as children may get muddy and/or wet.

Jewellery

The only permitted jewellery that may be worn is:

- one pair of stud earrings (no other piercings are permitted)
- a sensible wristwatch (not a smartwatch)

Jewellery is the responsibility of the pupil and not the school.

All jewellery must be removed during practical lessons, for example, PE lessons / swimming lessons. If children cannot remove their own earrings, then this should be

done at home on the day of PE. New piercings should be avoided during term time: school recommends that these should only be arranged at the start of the summer holidays.

Water Bottle

All children should bring a basic water bottle into school every day that must only contain water. These can be refilled by children whenever necessary during the day. Water bottles must be labelled with the pupil's name and have a closed lid to avoid spillages.

Hair Styles

Hairstyles should be smart and moderate in style. Coloured hair and hair extensions are not permitted. Long hair should be tied up at all times to avoid health and safety risks, ensure that children's vision is not impeded and reduce the risk of head lice. Large, excessive hair accessories should not be worn; however, small hair clips or plain headbands are acceptable. Children should not have shaved shapes and lines carved into their hair.

At the Headteacher's discretion, there may be exceptions to the above in extreme circumstances e.g. a pupil may be permitted to cover their hair if they have hair loss / illness etc.

Make-Up

False nails and nail extensions are not permitted. Children are not allowed to wear make-up or nail varnish. Pupils wearing make-up are required to remove it using soap and water.

At the Headteacher's discretion, there may be exceptions to the above in extreme circumstances e.g. a pupil may be permitted to cover heavy scarring/skin damage.

Adverse Weather

Hot Weather

Everyone working at/attending the school during hot weather conditions is required to wear sun-safe clothing that covers as much of their skin as possible.

This includes wearing:

- loose fitting tops with collars or covered necklines
- tops that cover the shoulder area
- grey or black shorts or pale blue gingham summer dresses of an appropriate length
- sun-safe hats – ideally legionnaire or bucket hats
- sunscreen (children should be able to apply this themselves and it must be labelled and stored centrally in classrooms).

During hot weather, lightweight clothing is required to reduce the risk of overheating. Pupils are not required to wear their jumpers/cardigans during heatwaves. If outside during break and lunch times, pupils not wearing sun-safe clothing/sunscreen are advised to stay in an area protected from the sun.

Cold Weather

During cold weather, pupils are required to wear scarves, gloves, coats and hats when they are outside. All items should be named. Additional layers underneath the usual school uniform are acceptable but should not be visible. Where possible, pupils not wearing warm clothing are provided with spare clothing where possible, particularly when outside during break and lunch times.

Labelling

School staff encourage good organisation of clothing and footwear, for example, designated spaces for children to keep belongings and checking of labels. However, all pupils' clothing and footwear must be clearly labelled with their name. Clothing and footwear are the responsibility of the pupil and not the school.

If a child goes home in another child's clothing by accident, for example, their jumper, parents/carers should send the clothing not belonging to them back into school to their child's class teacher.

Any lost clothing should be advised to the staff at the beginning or the end of the day.
It is not school policy to retain and store lost property

This Policy is approved by Suzan Bishop, Chair of Governors, and will be ratified by the Board at their Meeting – July 2025

Signed S Bishop
(Chair of Governors – S Bishop)

Date 10.7.25

Ratified by the Board of Governors of Levens CE School

Signed S Bishop (Chair of Governors) Date 10th July 2025

This Policy to be reviewed in Autumn 2028 (routinely every three years or earlier if there is significant change).