



SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY

MIDDLEWICH HIGH SCHOOL

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Statement of Intent

Middlewich High School is committed to promoting equality and value for money and to ensuring that no child is discriminated against due to their religion or belief, economic circumstances or social and cultural background. This policy contains provisions to meet these objectives and has been created with health and safety, value for money and practicality at its heart.

Additionally, 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.

We also believe it is important for children to wear clothing that is conducive to a successful learning environment, including activity-appropriate clothing, such as sports attire.

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'
- Cost of School Uniform Guidance DFE 2021

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies and documents:

- Home-School Agreement
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Complaints Policy

Key Personnel in Relation to this Policy

Role(s)
Chair of Governors
Head Teacher
Deputy Head Teacher

Roles and Responsibilities

The Governing Board is responsible for:

- In consultation with the Head Teacher 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.

The Head Teacher 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 uniform is sustainable for the environment, including the provision of good quality second hand uniform items.
- Tender for uniform renewal contracts every 5 years.
- Limiting branded uniform items to allow purchase of generic clothing e.g. socks, trousers, shirts
- Providing assistance for families in need of uniform e.g. Students in receipt of pupil premium funding

Teaching and Support Staff are responsible for:

- Ensuring that pupils dress in accordance with this policy at all times.
- Taking appropriate action when pupils are in breach of this policy using the green card system.
- Ensuring that pupils understand why having a consistent and practical school uniform is important e.g. to establish school identity.

Parents/Carers are responsible for:

- Providing their children with the correct school uniform as detailed in this policy.
- Informing the Head Teacher 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.

Pupils are responsible for:

- Wearing the correct uniform at all times, unless the Head Teacher 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, Middlewich High 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 2022 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 as advised on the school website.

The school tenders' suppliers to obtain the best value for money possible. Any savings negotiated are passed to parents where possible and the school does not support school profit income from uniform sales internally e.g. ties.

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.

Middlewich High School endeavours to allow religious requirements to be met, wherever possible. Governors have adopted a policy for the wearing of Ceremonial Wear. Please make an appointment with the Head / Deputy to discuss the policy and to make any requests for Ceremonial 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 Head Teacher and Governing Board. This is always conducted in accordance with the school's Complaints Policy.

Equality

The school is required to ensure that this policy does not discriminate unlawfully.

Every step has been taken to ensure that the cost of similar uniform items, for example, trousers versus skirts, are not disproportionate.

The school endeavours to ensure that our uniform is as gender neutral and inclusive as possible. We do not insist that children of any sex must wear specific items of clothing.

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 supplier is:

<https://www.swischoolwear.co.uk/>

Main Telephone: [01928 752 610](tel:01928752610)

We have a small supply of second-hand uniform at school.

Non-Compliance

On occasions of non-compliance school adults are permitted to ask a pupil to take off the clothing.

In the event that they cannot take the clothing off safely, parents/carers will be contacted and they will be asked to bring in more suitable uniform/clothing. School uniform is held in stock and available for students to wear for the day e.g. shoes.

If a child requires an item of uniform for a specific activity and no spare clothing is available in school, for example, Forest School, parents/carers may be asked to bring the item into school.

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 (Safeguard) where appropriate.

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

- School blazer
- School tie
- House badge
- White shirt
- Black trousers – tailored in style and not jeans or skinny fit. Leggings are not allowed.
- Black tights or black/white socks.
- Black shoes – black sensible shoes (not boots, trainers, canvas or Converse shoes). No dangerous high heels or canvas footwear will be allowed. It should be noted that reasonably-robust school shoes are desirable for safety reasons.

Optional:

- School skirt (Branded from SWI)
- School jumper (Branded from SWI or plain black V neck)

Jewellery, Nails and Hairstyles

It is not appropriate to wear make-up or nail varnish at school. Acrylic nails are not permitted and if worn present a safety risk.

Extremes of hairstyle or hair colour are inappropriate for school and will be deemed unacceptable.

Only a signet or other plain ring is permitted.

Students may wear one simple stud earring in the lobe of each ear and one simple bracelet only. One charity bracelet may also be worn.

Nose studs, ear stretchers/tunnels or other body piercings are not permitted at school.

Skin coloured ear tunnel plugs are acceptable for students with existing piercings. (Large holes pose a health and safety risk). No other plugs or tunnels are acceptable in school.

PE Kit

Students must wear a school T-shirt, school socks and a choice of bottoms from the following range from our supplier:

- Shorts, skort, leggings, tracksuit bottoms; any girls representing the school must wear a skort.
- Students may wish to purchase the half zip top for cold weather.
- All jewellery must be removed for PE lessons and sporting events.

Forest School Clothing

There may be occasions where students are required to wear additional items of clothing for safe working in Forest School.

Forest School clothing is as follows:

- Waterproof coat (or waterproof jacket in warmer weather)
- Comfortable tracksuit bottoms or leggings (not shorts)
- Long-sleeved top
- Wellington boots or old trainers
- Appropriate hat for the weather
- Scarf and gloves (in colder weather)

School Bag

Pupils must use an appropriately sized waterproof bag to carry their books and equipment.

School bags featuring inappropriate images, slogans or phrases are not permitted.

The school encourages pupils to bring non-valuable bags to school. The school will not be liable for lost or damaged school bags.

Water Bottle

All children should bring a water bottle into school every day: this can be refilled by children at break times.

Hot Weather

Students should be wearing:

- Sunscreen (children must be able to apply this)
- Hat e.g. for sports day should be neutral.

At the discretion of the Head Teacher uniform may be flexible e.g. no blazers, no ties.

Cold Weather

During cold weather, pupils are required to wear scarves, gloves, coats and hats when they are outside.

Additional layers underneath the usual school uniform are accepted if not visible.

The school has heating during cold weather and outside coats are to be removed before entering the building. A teacher may use discretion for coats in classrooms when ensuring adequate ventilation.

Labelling

School staff encourage good organisation of clothing and footwear, for example, designated lockers for children to keep belongings in. All clothing should be labelled.

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 is stored in lost property box. All lost property is retained for a term and is disposed of if it is not collected within this time.

Appendix 1 – Quick Reference Guide to School Shoes

<https://www.mhs.school/page/?title=School+Shoes&pid=233>