

Abingdon Primary School



This school is an academy within The Legacy Learning Trust.



Uniform Policy

Status & review	Term	Year
Last review date/Policy adopted	Autumn	2026
Next review	Autumn	2027
Lead	Mrs K Venis	

1. Aims

At Abingdon Primary School, we believe that school uniform plays an important role in creating a strong sense of belonging, equality and community.

Our uniform policy aims to:

- Promote a strong sense of belonging, identity and pride in being part of Abingdon Primary School.
- Ensure that uniform is affordable, accessible and inclusive for every child and family.
- Provide best value for money and avoid unnecessary costs for parents and carers.
- Ensure that no child is disadvantaged or excluded from school life because of the cost or availability of uniform.
- Support our whole-school commitment to inclusion, equality and belonging.
- Set clear, simple and practical expectations for school uniform.
- Comply with the Department for Education statutory guidance on the cost of school uniforms and our duties under the Equality Act 2010.

The DfE recognises that uniform can promote identity and belonging and act as a social leveller. However, affordability is essential so that uniform does not become a barrier to attendance, participation or access to the school.

2. Our approach to inclusion and belonging

Uniform is an important part of our whole-school inclusion strategy.

We want every child to feel:

“I belong here. I am valued here. I can participate fully here.”

Our uniform should help children feel part of our school community rather than create differences between pupils based on family circumstances.

We therefore:

- Do not require any branded uniform items.
- Allow parents and carers to purchase generic uniform from a range of retailers.
- Keep the number of required items to a minimum.
- Provide support where families experience difficulty accessing uniform.
- Provide opportunities to access preloved uniform.
- Provide Nursery children with a free red T-shirt and jogging bottoms.
- Ensure that children are not prevented from participating in school because they do not have the required uniform.
- Consider individual circumstances and make reasonable adjustments where required.

This approach reflects our commitment to belonging, inclusion, equality and removing barriers to participation.

3. Our school uniform

Our uniform is intentionally simple, practical and affordable.



Required uniform

Children should wear:

- Red or white school polo shirt or plain red polo shirt
- Black or grey trousers, skirt, pinafore or shorts
- Red school sweatshirt/cardigan or plain red sweatshirt/cardigan
- Plain black school shoes or suitable black footwear

Summer options

During warmer weather, children may wear:

- Black or grey shorts
- Black or grey skirt
- Black or grey pinafore
- Optional red/white summer dress where appropriate

Please do not dress the children in multiple layers. During cold weather the school is heated. We do not want children to be uncomfortable or overheat.

PE

Children require practical PE clothing that is suitable for physical activity.

PE clothing should be:

- Comfortable
- Practical
- Affordable
- Suitable for the activity

No branded PE kit is required. Parents do not need to purchase specialist clothing for individual sports to ensure that the cost of PE kit does not prevent pupils from participating fully.

4. Branded uniform

No branded uniform items are compulsory at Abingdon Primary School.

Parents and carers are not expected to purchase school-branded sweatshirts, polo shirts, PE kit or other branded items.

Generic items in the appropriate colour are acceptable.

Where optional branded items are available, an equivalent unbranded alternative will always be acceptable.

This gives families choice and allows them to shop around for the best value.

This approach goes beyond the current DfE requirement, which from September 2026 limits primary schools to no more than three compulsory branded items.

5. Nursery uniform

We want every child to experience a strong sense of belonging from their very first day at Abingdon.



To support this, all children in Nursery will be provided with a red T-shirt and red jogging bottoms free of charge.

This ensures that:

- Every Nursery child can participate fully.
- Families are not required to purchase additional uniform before their child starts.
- Children feel part of the school community from the beginning.
- Cost is not a barrier to belonging.

6. Equality and inclusion

The Equality Act 2010 prohibits discrimination on the basis of protected characteristics. Our uniform arrangements will be inclusive and will not discriminate against pupils because of:

- Sex
- Disability
- Race
- Religion or belief
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Gender reassignment
- Age, where applicable

We will:

- Avoid unnecessary differences in uniform requirements based on sex.
- Permit pupils to wear the uniform option in which they feel most comfortable.
- Accommodate religious and cultural dress.
- Make reasonable adaptations for pupils with disabilities, medical needs or sensory needs.
- Consider requests for adjustments on an individual basis.
- Work with families to remove barriers to participation.

Parents or carers who require an adjustment should contact the school office.

The DfE expects schools to consider their duties under the Equality Act and Human Rights Act when developing and implementing uniform policies.

7. Preloved uniform

We are committed to making uniform accessible to every family.

Preloved uniform will be available through school uniform fairs and through the school. Families can also contact the school office at any time to request uniform.

We will provide support discreetly and sensitively.

Our aim is that no child should feel different, excluded or unable to attend because their family is experiencing financial difficulty.



The DfE statutory guidance states that opportunities to acquire second-hand uniform should be freely accessible to all parents and that information about this provision should be clear and available to families.

8. Cost and value for money

We recognise that the cost of school uniform can place pressure on families.

We will therefore:

- Keep compulsory uniform items to a minimum.
- Use generic items wherever possible.
- Not require branded uniform.
- Ensure items can be purchased from a range of retailers.
- Consider the cost of the whole uniform, including PE clothing.
- Provide access to preloved uniform.
- Provide uniform directly through school where families require support.
- Consider the needs of families experiencing financial hardship.
- Avoid unnecessary changes to uniform that create additional costs.

Parents should not have to purchase uniform from a single supplier.

The DfE requires schools to give high priority to cost and value for money and to ensure that uniform is not so expensive that it prevents pupils from attending or participating in school activities.

9. Appearance and personal expression

We recognise that children and families may have different cultural, religious and personal circumstances.

Hair should be clean, safe and suitable for school activities.

Children may have long hair and may wear hairstyles that reflect their cultural or religious identity.

Hair should be tied back where necessary for health and safety, particularly during PE, practical activities or other activities where loose hair may present a risk.

Religious garments and head coverings/hijab are permitted in plain white, black or red and tightly fitted. The loose part of the head covering is to be removed for PE however the undercap can still be worn.

10. Uniform and attendance

Uniform should support attendance, not become a barrier to it.

If a child arrives at school without the correct uniform, we will seek to understand and address the reason rather than allowing uniform difficulties to become a barrier to attendance or learning and the child will be supported accordingly.

Families experiencing difficulty with uniform should contact the school office.



The DfE specifically highlights the relationship between uniform and attendance and advises schools to consider how they can support pupils who do not have the correct or clean uniform.

11. Non-uniform days

When we hold non-uniform or themed days, we will consider the impact on families.

Participation will not depend on families spending money.

Where a theme or costume is suggested, an affordable alternative will always be acceptable.

No child should feel unable to participate because their family cannot afford a particular outfit.

12. Our commitment to families

At Abingdon Primary School, our uniform is not about what families can afford.

It is about creating a shared identity in which every child feels that they belong.

We want every child to arrive at school feeling:
“I belong. I am included. I am ready to learn.”

If your family needs support with uniform, please speak to the school office. We are here to help and will do so sensitively and without judgement.

Our Uniform Promise

Affordable – no unnecessary costs.

Inclusive – every child can participate.

Accessible – generic uniform can be purchased widely.

Supportive – help is available when families need it.

Sustainable – preloved uniform is encouraged.

Equal – no child should be disadvantaged because of their family's circumstances.

Belonging – every child is part of our school community.

