

Ysgol Gyfun Porthcawl Comprehensive School



Uniform Policy *Ffurfwisg Polisi*

Reviewed Summer 2019

PREAMBLE

It is our school policy that all children wear school uniform when attending school, or when participating in a school-organised event outside normal school hours. We provide a complete list of the items needed for school uniform in our school prospectus and pupils have a copy of this list in their pupil planner (see appendix 1).

This policy was written in conjunction with the Welsh Government guidance contained in circular 015/2011 "Guidance for governing bodies on school uniform and appearance policies"

POLICY

Aims and objectives

Our policy on school uniform is based on the notion that school uniform:

- provides a sense of identity and cohesion within the school and instils pride in its achievements;
- supports positive behaviour and school discipline;
- ensures pupils dress appropriately for learning activities;
- is regarded as suitable wear for school and good value for money by most parents;
- makes children feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance;
- enables pupils of all backgrounds to share in a common identity which embraces their particular requirements;
- identifies the children with the school;
- is designed with health and safety in mind.
- supports and promotes the ethos of the school.

Jewellery

On health and safety grounds we do not allow pupils to wear any jewellery in our school. The exceptions to this rule is a wrist watch. We ask the pupils children to remove these objects during PE and games, to prevent them from causing injury.

Extreme haircuts and colours

The school does not permit children to have 'extreme' haircuts and unnatural hair colours that could serve as a distraction to other pupils. Only basic hair accessories to be worn i.e. scrunchies, bobbles and headbands which should be appropriate.

Footwear

The school wants all children to grow into healthy adults. We believe that it is dangerous for pupils to wear shoes that have platform soles or high heels, so we do not allow pupils to wear such shoes in our school. Neither do we allow pupils to wear trainers to school; this is because we think that this footwear is appropriate for sport or for leisurewear, but is not in keeping with the smart appearance of a school uniform. We require all pupils to wear shoes as stated in the uniform list.

Outerwear

A suitable plain, dark coloured coat may be worn as outerwear to and from school. There should be no logos on this clothing.

Additional Guidance

TROUSERS: Plain, black classic school- style trousers.

These should be straight legged and not a tight, 'bootleg', 'drainpipe' or 'jeans' style nor should they be 'low-rise'. There should be no large belts or buckles.

Trousers should not be made out of a denim fabric or leather.

SKIRT: Skirts should not be tight, slit, or made of stretch fabric.

The hem of the skirt should be no more than 5cm above the knee.

HATS and Head Covering: No hats to be worn in school buildings. The wearing of a head scarf or hijab, for religious reasons, is permitted. Garments covering the face or whole body, for example the abaya and niqab are not permitted.

SHIRT/BLOUSE : Plain white, long or short sleeved shirt/blouse with stiff collar. The shirt/blouse should be tucked into the waistband when worn under a jumper/sweatshirt so that it is not visible below it.

Health and safety

Pupils with long hair or headscarves are required to tie them back safely for PE and work in science labs or technology workshops.

PROCESS

The role of parents/carers

We ask all parents/carers who send their children to our school to support the school uniform policy. We believe that parents have a duty to send their children to school correctly dressed and ready for their daily schoolwork. One of the responsibilities of parents/carers is to ensure that their child has the correct uniform, and that it is clean and in good repair.

The school welcomes children from all backgrounds and faith communities. If there are serious reasons, for example on religious or medical grounds, why parents want their child to wear clothes that differ from the school uniform, the school will look sympathetically at such requests. If any parent would like the school to modify the uniform policy, they should make representation, in the first instance, to the Head teacher.

We advise that all items should be clearly marked with the child's name on it.

The role of Governors

The Governing Body supports the Head teacher in implementing the school uniform policy. It considers all representations from parents/carers regarding the uniform policy and liaises with the Head teacher to ensure that the policy is implemented fairly and with sensitivity.

It is the Governors' responsibility to ensure that the school uniform meets all regulations concerning equal opportunities.

Governors ensure that the school uniform policy helps children to dress sensibly, in clothing that is hardwearing, safe and practical.

PROCEDURE

Complaints

Complaints about school uniform (or dress) and appearance codes/policies are dealt with in accordance with the governing body's complaints procedure.

Non-compliance with school uniform and appearance policies:

The Headteacher will decide what action to take when pupils infringe the school's uniform rules, after first trying to establish why a pupil is not complying with the policy. The Headteacher may ask pupils to go home to change their clothes without formally excluding them. This should be for no longer than necessary to effect the change of clothing and would only be appropriate where the change can be made quickly and easily. The pupil is expected to return to school immediately his/her clothes have been changed. Failure to do so could amount to an unauthorised absence.

Exclusion is not normally an appropriate response to breaches of school uniform/appearance policies. However, where these breaches are persistent and in open defiance of the school's uniform or appearance policy, and where all other avenues for resolving the uniform dispute have been exhausted, then the school may consider exclusion as a last resort depending on the circumstances of the case.

Welsh Government School Uniform Grant Scheme

Many local authorities across Wales offer financial assistance towards the cost of school uniform. At present such assistance is offered to secondary school pupils only. The scheme provides a grant to pupils entering Year 7 of maintained secondary schools in Wales who are eligible for free school meals and a reduced grant on entry to subsequent years. Eligibility will be set by the local authority,

Monitoring and review

The Governing Body monitors and reviews the school uniform policy through its committee work by:

- seeking the views of parents, to ensure that they agree with and support the policy;
- considering, with the Head teacher, any requests from parents for individual pupils to have special dispensation with regard to school uniform;
- requiring the Head teacher to report to the Governors on the way the school uniform policy is implemented.

The school will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.