



## **Cornerstone Multi Academy Trust**

### **School Uniform Policy**

### **Department for Education**

The Department for Education's policy on school uniform is for the governing body of a school to decide whether there should be a school uniform policy and if so, what that should be. This flows from the duties placed upon all governing bodies by statute to ensure that school policies promote good behaviour and discipline amongst the pupil body. It is also for the governing body to decide how the uniform should be sourced.

The Department strongly encourages schools to have a uniform as it can play a valuable role in contributing to the ethos of a school and setting an appropriate tone.

Some religions and beliefs require their adherents to conform to a particular dress code, or to otherwise outwardly manifest their belief. This could include wearing or carrying specific religious artefacts, not cutting their hair, dressing modestly, or covering their head. Pupils have the right to manifest a religion or belief, but not necessarily at all times, places or in a particular manner.

Where a school has good reason for restricting an individual's freedoms, for example, the promotion of cohesion and good order in the school, or genuine health and safety or security considerations, the restriction of an individual's rights to manifest their religion or belief may be justified. The school must balance the rights of individual pupils against the best interests of the school community as a whole. Nevertheless, it should be possible for most religious requirements to be met within a school uniform policy and a governing body should act reasonably through consultation and dialogue in accommodating these.

Teachers can discipline pupils for breaching the school's rules on appearance or uniform. This should be carried out in accordance with the school's published behaviour policy.

A head teacher, or a person authorised by the head teacher, may ask a pupil to go home briefly to remedy a breach of the school's rules on appearance or uniform. When making this decision schools need to consider the child's age and vulnerability, the ease and time it will take, and the availability of the child's parents. This is not an exclusion but an authorised absence. However, if the pupil continues to breach uniform rules in such a way as to be sent home to avoid school or takes longer than is strictly necessary to effect the change, the pupil's absence may be counted as an unauthorised absence. In either case the pupil's parents must be notified and the absence should be recorded. If a school is considering excluding a pupil in response to breaches of uniform policy, then this must be in line with the legal requirements for exclusion.

At Cornerstone we wish to ensure there is a consistent approach to school uniform and a clear understanding for all parents as to the position by the Academy Trust across all schools.

The key points are outlined below:

1. We wish all children to be wearing smart black school shoes and not black trainers.
2. All children need a logoed school jumper or school cardigan that should be worn to school every day.
3. All children should wear a white polo shirt. A logoed polo shirt is available; this is our preferred option, although this is optional.
4. We would like boys to wear grey trousers and girls to wear either grey trousers or skirt, or in the summer term a checked royal blue dress. Some children do wear black trousers, but the preference is grey.

5. All children should have a PE kit consisting of a logoed navy t-shirt with navy sports shorts and navy socks. On colder days the children will need the logoed navy hoody with matching navy jogging trousers. We have differentiated the colour from the uniform to ensure that children do change and that they do not get their school uniform sweaty or dirty.
6. Children will need to wear trainers rather than plimsolls for PE. These can be any make and any colour but affordable and good quality.
7. From Year 1 upwards we require children to have a pair of football boots for use in the winter months on the field. Football boots can be of any style. Children who are doing such activities, but don't have boots will be unable to participate in the lessons. You will be informed in good time, when your child is expected to do a field-based sport. We understand there is a cost implication however, football boots in the wet, winter months are required for health and safety. Trainers are not adequate footwear and when they get muddy, the mud is transferred on to the playgrounds and indoors which creates further issues for the school.
8. There are a range of other school uniform options including the reversible school fleece, a school cap for the summer, a book bag and a school ruck sack. The book bags are provided to all new intake children, however if they are lost and need replacing then these will need to be purchased.
9. In Year groups where children have access to their own locker, a Cornerstone branded school bag is a compulsory requirement of school uniform. The size of bag needed to fit inside the locker is very specific, and such, we cannot have a range of bags being brought in. If a bag is too big to fit inside the locker, and is left on the floor of the corridors, this would cause a health and safety risk.

Please note you are able to order school uniform from the Wisepay shop. You can get to this by going to the school website and clicking on the 'Wisepay' link on the front page. The uniform will then be delivered to school for you to collect.

We do not carry a stock of spare uniform (including P.E kit). If your child is in an afterschool activity but does not have their right clothing to participate, then we will place them into the after-school care provision, and you will be charged at the published rates.

The Executive Head and the Leadership Team, in consultation with the Trustees, will decide on the suitability of the appearance of a pupil attending a TCAT school – extreme hair styles, of either cut or colour, are not permitted.