

School Uniform Policy

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This document applies to all academies and operations of Cambrian Learning Trust.

www.cambrianlearningtrust.org

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In this document:

Parent refers to:

- Any person who has parental responsibility for a child / young person
- Any person who has care of a child / young person (i.e. lives with and looks after the child/young person)

1. Aims

This policy aims to:

- Set out our approach to requiring a uniform that is of reasonable cost and offers the best value for money for parents and carers
- Explain how we will avoid discrimination in line with our legal duties under the Equality Act 2010
- Clarify our expectations for school uniform

2. Our school's legal duties under the Equality Act 2010

The [Equality Act 2010](#) prohibits discrimination against an individual based on the protected characteristics, which include age, sex, disability, race, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity, and gender reassignment.

To avoid discrimination, The Elms will:

- Avoid listing uniform items based on sex, to give all pupils the opportunity to wear the uniform they feel most comfortable in.
- Make sure that our uniform costs the same for all pupils
- Allow all pupils to have long hair (though we reserve the right to ask for this to be tied back)
- Allow all pupils to style their hair in a way that is appropriate for school and makes them feel most comfortable
- Allow pupils to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons or if they are experiencing discomfort related to their sex or gender.
- Allow pupils to wear headscarves and/or other religious garments
- Allow pupils with medically supported sensory or physical needs to make reasonable adaptations to their uniform depending on their specific needs
- Allow for reasonable adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents to get in touch with Shelley McIntosh at

office@tep.cambrianlt.org, who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

3. Limiting the cost of school uniform

The Elms has a duty to make sure that the uniform we require is affordable, in line with statutory [guidance](#) from the Department for Education (DfE) on the cost of school uniform.

We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that need to have a school logo or a unique fabric/colour/design) cannot be purchased from a wide range of retailers and that requiring many such items limits parents' ability to 'shop around' for a good price.

We will make sure our uniform:

- Is available at a reasonable cost
- Provides the best value for money for parents
- Is machine washable

We will do this by:

- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary
- Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics where possible
- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost and/or long-lasting items, such as ties
- Considering cheaper alternatives to school-branded items, such as logos that can be ironed on, as long as this doesn't compromise quality and durability
- Avoiding specific requirements for items pupils could wear on non-school days, such as coats, bags and shoes
- Keeping the number of optional branded items to a minimum, so that the school's uniform can act as a social leveller
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- Considering alternative methods for signalling differences in groups for interschool competitions, such as creating posters or labels
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents to acquire second-hand uniform items
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents of any changes

- Consulting with parents and pupils on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy

4. Expectations for school uniform

4.1. Our school's uniform

Wearing a uniform helps children feel part of our school community. It demonstrates a sense of pride, belonging and a respect for the school and the Cambrian Learning Trust. This can only be achieved if the below is adhered to. Thank you for your support.

All children are expected to come to school wearing school uniform.

School Uniform is:

- Grey or black skirt (knee or below) or Grey pinafore dress or Grey or black trousers or Blue and white checked gingham dress or Grey or black culottes (knee or below)
- Navy sweatshirt or Navy Blue jumper / cardigan (Plain or School logo) White / Pale Blue shirt or polo shirt (School logo / plain)
- Black shoes, plain black trainers
- Suitable black boots
- Suitable sandals can be worn in the summer.
- Heels and 'slip on' ballet style shoes and are not permitted.
- Shoes should always be secure and have a strap across the foot to offer support.
- Plain grey, black, navy or white socks / tights

School PE kit is:

- A plain black or navy or school logoed jumper/hoodie
- White T-shirt (no football shirts)
- Plain black or navy shorts including cycling shorts (no football shorts), jogging bottoms or black leggings

- Trainers - black
- Long hair must be tied back
- Earrings removed or covered by plasters

PE kit must only be worn on PE days

Jewellery:

- Silver or Gold single ear-studs in the lobe only
- Make-up and nail varnish are not permitted at school.

Hair cut/ style:

- Hair should be of natural colour - dyes and highlights are not permitted
- Style and cut should be appropriate for school

4.2. Where to purchase it

We have uniforms that can be purchased from 'high-street' retailers.

Branded logo items can be purchased from PMG Schoolwear (www.pmgsschoolwear.co.uk)

Second hand uniform is available and is organised by The Elms Parent Association.
Details can be obtained from the school office.

5. Expectations for our school community

5.1. Pupils

Pupils are expected to wear the correct uniform at all times (other than specified non-school uniform days) while:

- On the school premises
- Travelling to and from school
- At out-of-school events or on trips that are organised by the school, or where they are representing the school (if required)

Parents/carers or pupils are also expected to contact Shelley McIntosh at office@tep.cambrianlt.org if they want to request an adaptation of the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics.

5.2. Parents

Parents are expected to make sure their child has the correct uniform and PE kit, and that every item is:

- Clean
- Clearly labelled with the child's name
- In good condition

Parents are also expected to contact Shelley McIntosh at office@tep.cambrianlt.org if they want to request an adaptation of the uniform policy in relation to:

- Their child's protected characteristics
- The cost of the uniform

Parents are expected to lodge any complaints or objections relating to the school uniform in a timely and reasonable manner.

Disputes about the cost of the school uniform will be:

- Resolved locally wherever possible
- Dealt with in accordance with our school's complaints policy if necessary

The Elms will aim to work closely with parents to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

5.3. Headteacher, Leadership and Staff

Staff will closely monitor pupils to make sure they are in correct uniform. They will give any pupils and their parents breaching the uniform policy the opportunity to comply but will follow up with senior leaders/the headteacher if the situation doesn't improve.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with under the school's Behaviour policy.

In cases where it is suspected that financial hardship has resulted in a pupil not complying with this uniform policy, staff and leaders will take a mindful and considerate approach to resolving the situation.

5.4. Local Governing Committees (LGCs)

The LGC will review local arrangements and make sure that this policy:

- Is appropriate for the school's context
- Is implemented fairly across the school
- Takes into account the views of parents and pupils
- Offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all pupils

The Governors will also make sure that the school's uniform supplier arrangements give the highest priority to cost and value for money, for example by avoiding single supplier contracts and by re-tendering contracts at least every 5 years.

6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed locally by LGCs annually and approved by Trustees every 3 years.