

# Whickham Parochial C of E Primary School



## Uniform Policy

**'Let your light shine before people, that they may see the good things you do and praise your Father in Heaven.'**

Matthew 5:16

### **Mission Statement**

At our Parochial school we aim to provide a stimulating and caring environment with Christianity at the heart of all we do, in which every child has the opportunity to let their light shine - for themselves, for their community and for the world.

### **Aims**

At Whickham Parochial we believe that every child is entitled to enjoy their childhood, celebrate their individuality and reach their full potential. We aim to do this through:

- Creating a caring school family living by Christian values.
- Celebrating everyone's strengths and efforts.
- Valuing the opportunities we have to contribute to our community and the wider world.
- Offering wide ranging, quality experiences that stimulate children's minds.
- Encouraging respect for others, positive behaviour and good manners, enabling all children to feel secure and valued.
- Building strong links between school, home and church.
- Preparing children for future challenges in a changing world.

We wish every child to take with them happy memories of Whickham Parochial into their future life.



## Introduction

At Whickham Parochial, we feel that the wearing of school uniform has many benefits. School uniform provides pupils with a sense of cohesion and community. It also reinforces our value that we are all equal and that we should be treated with equity. Uniform creates a “level playing field” that reduces socioeconomic disparities, and gives children the opportunity to focus on learning and playing rather than their clothes. While we are happy to celebrate our pupils’ unique characteristics, we would like to feel that they can express their individuality in ways that go beyond their outward appearance.

This policy has been produced in line with non-statutory guidance from the Department for Education ([School uniforms - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-uniform-guidance)) and guidance and training from the [Children’s Society](https://www.childrensociety.org.uk/).

## Aims

- Uniform should be smart and promote community and pride in our school
- Children should be comfortable
- All children should be able to access uniform without this creating an unreasonable financial burden
- Uniform should be inclusive and offer gender neutral options, where desired

## Our Uniform

| Main uniform                              | Winter Uniform<br>(Terms 2, 3 and 4)                                                                                                                                            | Summer Uniform<br>(Terms 1, 5 and 6) |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Trousers / Skirts /<br>Pinafores / Shorts | Grey                                                                                                                                                                            | As Winter                            |
| Summer Dresses                            |                                                                                                                                                                                 | Yellow and White Checked             |
| Shirts / Blouses / T-shirts               | White Shirt or Blouse                                                                                                                                                           | Gold / Yellow Polo T-Shirts          |
| Jumper / Cardigan                         | Grey knitted                                                                                                                                                                    | As Winter                            |
| Tie                                       | Black with a Gold Stripe                                                                                                                                                        | No Tie Worn with Polo T-Shirts       |
| Shoes                                     | Black                                                                                                                                                                           | Black                                |
| P.E. uniform                              | Winter Uniform<br>(Terms 2, 3 and 4)                                                                                                                                            | Summer Uniform<br>(Terms 1, 5 and 6) |
| Tops                                      | White, round necked or polo t-shirt with no logos or graphics, or<br>Parochial sport t-shirt.<br>A dark or grey hoodie can be worn, or a Parochial logo hoodie is<br>available. |                                      |
| Bottoms                                   | Black Joggers or Tracksuit Bottoms                                                                                                                                              | Black Shorts                         |

Jewellery is not permitted in school, with the exception of studded earrings – which must be removed or covered for P.E., and should at no point hang below the lobe of the ear, and a watch, which can be a fitness tracker but must not be enabled for messaging or internet connection whilst in school. Long hair should be tied back neatly and should not obstruct your child’s vision. Make-up, including nail varnish, is not permitted



except on dressing up days where facepaint can be worn (this does not include ordinary non-uniform days). Builder gels and false, extended nails are not permitted at any time. The winter uniform is worn from the children's return after October half term until the Easter holidays, except for the Reception children. Summer uniform is worn on return to school in September up until half term, and then again from Easter until the summer holiday.

## **Parent Voice**

In May 2022 we sent a survey to parents to find their views on our uniform, especially the cost effectiveness and the summer/winter uniform change. Most parents like the winter uniform but were concerned by the fact that the gold shirts (traditionally worn by girls) were more expensive and difficult to source. About half of respondents felt that this colour should only stay if it could be sourced from a supplier at an equivalent cost to the grey. The majority of parents knew that pupils were welcome to wear unbranded versions of our grey jumpers and cardigans, and some families have made use of this option, but most parents were happy to buy branded.

Our Uniform Exchange was launched in Summer 2022. We have organised the donated, gently used uniform into sizes and this is freely available to all parents. In our survey we found that parents were very enthusiastic about both using and contributing to the exchange, and over Autumn 2022 we have found that it is well used.

## **Equality and Discrimination Considerations**

Parochial is an inclusive primary school. If any pupils' faith required adaptations to our uniform, we would be more than happy to make these changes, and have done so in the past (for example, allowing Muslim pupils to wear P.E. trousers rather than shorts etc). Parents should feel free to approach us to discuss any special arrangements that are required.

Our uniform has not included specified differences for gender for some time now. The tradition of grey shirts for boys and gold for girls has caused issues with cost (the gold shirts are hard to source and are more expensive) and has also become contentious for children who wish to wear the same uniform as their opposite gender friends. In order to combat this – and improve cost efficiency – we are going to phase out the grey and gold winter shirts and move to white. This will change over 2023/24 and be fully implemented by Autumn 2024.

## **Cost Efficiency and Financial Support**

We endeavour to keep our uniform costs as low as possible. One way we do this is to minimise the items that bear a logo, and to emphasise to parents that there is no requirement for a logoed uniform to be worn. We are moving to a white shirt to replace the gold and grey as this will further reduce cost (and provide us with a gender neutral uniform option). School also seeks to ensure that unbranded versions of our uniform are able to be sourced locally and for a reasonable price. In order to be transparent about the cost to parents, we have created a costing chart. The uniform survey gathered information about the number of each item of uniform each child needed. We used this to cost out our current uniform per child, both the branded version from our supplier and an unbranded version from two supermarkets. We will use this information as a baseline moving forward and try to ensure that our uniform does not increase in cost beyond inflation and that the gap between the branded and supermarket versions does not widen. This information can be found in Appendix 1.

We moved to our new supplier in Summer 2022 as they offered similar cost effectiveness to our previous supplier but had a local distributor (Team Valley and Swalwell), reducing delivery costs and giving parents an option to try items on their child for size. As a small school, we feel that a single supplier is sufficient, especially given that so few of our items are logoed. We will revisit the contract to ensure best value for money every three years.



We encourage all parents to visit our uniform exchange before buying new uniform as this is a far more cost effective and environmentally sustainable option.

If parents are struggling to pay for school uniform, we encourage them to come and see us. We will be able to support families of pupils in receipt of free school meals or pupil premium, and will endeavour to help families who are experiencing financial difficulty.

We have asked that all gently used items are returned to school once they are outgrown, to be added to our uniform exchange.

### **Review of Policy**

|                           |                       |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Headteacher</b>        | Mrs Rachel Walton     |
| <b>Chair of Governors</b> | Mrs Lorraine Ferguson |
| <b>Date of Approval</b>   | March 2026            |
| <b>Date of Review</b>     | September 2028        |





## Prices are from Autumn 2022

The numbers below are based on average items require for a week, and range from a 4-5year old size to a 10-11 year old. Items required for a week have been rounded up. Ties are recorded at the Logos Unlimited price. The last column gives the lowest cost supermarket option combined with the traditionally branded items from Logos Unlimited.

| Item                              | Average no. req. | Logos Unlimited (* indicates logo) | Sainsbury's                   | Matalan                       | Mix and Match                 |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Grey jumper / Cardigan            | 3                | £14.95 - £17.50*                   | £7.00 - £12.00 (2 pack)       | £8.00 - £13.00 (2 pack)       | £14.95 - £17.50*              |
| Gold/yellow polo t-shirt          | 4                | £4.50 - £5.95                      | £3.00 - £5.00 (2 pack)        | £3.00 - £5.00 (2 pack)        | £3.00 - £5.00 (2 pack)        |
| Grey skirt                        | 3                | £8.95 - £11.50                     | £14.00 - £20.00 (3 pack)      | £9.00 - £15.00 (2 pack)       | £14.00 - £20.00 (3 pack)      |
| Grey trousers                     | 3                | £10.99 - £14.50                    | £7.00 - £11.00 (2 pack)       | £11.00 - £17.00 (2 pack)      | £7.00 - £11.00 (2 pack)       |
| Grey pinafore                     | 3                | Not available                      | £6.00 - £8.00                 | £8.00 - £10.00                | £6.00 - £8.00                 |
| Grey / gold shirt                 | 4                | £12.50 - 14.50 (2 pack)            | Not available – used LU price | Not available – used LU price | Not available – used LU price |
| Black and Gold tie                | 2                | £4.50 - £6.00*                     | Not available – used LU price | Not available – used LU price | £4.50 - £6.00*                |
| P.E. t-shirt                      | 2                | £5.95 - £8.50*                     | £3.00 - £5.00 (3 pack)        | £2.00 - £6.00 (2 pack)        | £5.95 - £8.50*                |
| P.E. hoodie                       | 1                | £11.50 - £14.50*                   | £4.00 - £6.00                 | £9.50 - £10.50                | £11.50 - £14.50*              |
| P.E. joggers                      | 2                | £10.50                             | £8.00 - £10.00 (2 pack)       | £5.00 - £7.00                 | £8.00 - £10.00 (2 pack)       |
| P.E. shorts                       | 2                | £4.95 - £7.50                      | £3.00 - £5.00 (2 pack)        | £4.00 - £5.00 (2 pack)        | £3.00 - £5.00 (2 pack)        |
| <b>Total with trouser option</b>  |                  | £172.22 - £195.30                  | £86.00 - £123.00              | £102.50 - £139.50             | £133.25 - £167.00             |
| <b>Total with skirt option</b>    |                  | £166.10 - £186.30                  | £86.00 - £121.00              | £98.50 - £135.50              | £133.25 - £165.00             |
| <b>Total with pinafore option</b> |                  | Not available                      | £90.00 - 125.00               | £104.50 - £135.50             | £137.25 - 169.00              |

Grey and gold shirts / blouses were not available at these supermarkets or at most others. Replacing the shirts with a white version will reduce the overall unbranded cost /mixed cost by approximately £20.

