



School Uniform Policy

Reviewed:	Summer 2026
Next review:	Summer 2027
Person in charge	Head of School
Governance:	Local Governing Body

Pastoral Care/Spiritual Development

We place the pastoral care of pupils, staff and families at the heart of how we work. This informs our policy framework. The quality of relationships between all members of school staff, pupils and stakeholders, and the relationship with parents and carers is the area that is most commonly associated with the ethos of the schools in our Trust. It is expressed in the terms of sharing and caring.

In the Church schools in our Trust, we follow the teachings of:

‘Love your neighbour as yourself’ – Matthew 22:39.

‘This is my commandment: love each other’ - John 15:17.

In the none Church schools in our Trust, we follow the spiritual ethos of treating others as we would ask to be treated and to care for others with kindness and respect.

In our schools we believe every pupil is an individual who is valued for who they are.

We have a series of overlapping networks of relationships, which includes governors, staff, children, parents, church members, and members of the community, which the school seeks to serve. Our pastoral work will strive to meet the significant challenge to create and maintain such networks including in our Church schools in ways which reflect the Gospel values of love and care. Those who are in leadership roles, which includes all who have a particular responsibility, ensure that by their personal example they set the high standards expected.

It is from this premise that both respect and care will pervade all aspects of life at Northern Lights Learning Trust. A desire for everyone to flourish, knowing that everyone reflects God’s image is pivotal in all of our schools, including our Church schools. This will influence how we reward and teach discipline. It will affect how we value work and the achievements of pupils and staff. It will be seen in the way in which the school environments are created and cared for, in the way in which the needs of pupils, parents, and community are met, and in the way in which teaching and non-teaching staff work together effectively as a team.

Pastoral care pervades all aspects of school life and therefore will be reflected in the way the schools are organised and the policies are written and implemented.

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Statement of intent

Holley Park Academy believes that a consistent school uniform policy is vital to promote the ethos of the school and provide a sense of belonging and identity for all pupils, regardless of their protected characteristics or socio-economic circumstances.

This policy lays out the measures the school has taken to ensure a consistent, fair and inclusive uniform policy, and to implement a uniform that reflects the needs of all pupils, is affordable and the best value for money for the school and pupils' families.

We believe that pupils learn most effectively and achieve their best outcomes when they are comfortable, able to be themselves, and dressed in such a way that sets an appropriate tone for education.

1. Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Education Act 2011
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Equality Act 2010

This policy has due regard to all relevant guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- DfE (2025) 'Cost of school uniforms'
- DfE (2021) 'School Admissions Code'
- DfE (2021) 'School uniforms'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Health and Safety Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Equality Policy

2. Roles and responsibilities

The governing board is responsible for:

- Establishing, in consultation with the Head of School and school community, a practical and smart school uniform that accurately reflects the school's vision and values.
- Ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible and inclusive, and does not disadvantage any pupil by virtue of their protected characteristics or socio-economic status.
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of parents, pupils and the wider school community regarding changes to the school's uniform.
- Ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible and affordable.
- Demonstrating how best value for money has been achieved in the uniform policy.
- Ensuring compliance with the DfE's 'Cost of school uniforms' guidance.
- Processing and approving all eligible School Uniform Assistance Application Forms.

The Head of School is responsible for:

- Enforcing the school's uniform on a day-to-day basis.
- Ensuring that teachers understand this policy and what to do if a pupil is in breach of the policy.
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of the school community in regard to the school's uniform and making appropriate recommendations to the governing board.
- Providing pupils with an exemption letter as appropriate, e.g. for a pupil who has a broken arm and requires a loose-fitting top.

Staff members are responsible for:

- Ensuring that pupils dress in accordance with this policy at all times.
- Engaging initially with parents/cares of pupils who are in breach of this policy.
- Ensuring that pupils understand why having a consistent and practical school uniform is important, e.g. school identity.

Parents are responsible for:

- Providing their children with the correct school uniform as detailed in this policy.
- Informing the Head of School if their child requires a more relaxed uniform policy for a period of time, including why.
- Ensuring that their child's uniform is clean, presentable and the correct size.

Pupils are responsible for:

- Wearing the correct uniform at all times, unless the Head of School has granted an exemption.
- Looking after their uniform as appropriate.
- Understanding and respecting why a school uniform is important to the school, e.g. school identity and community.

3. Cost principles

The school is committed to ensuring that its school uniform is affordable and accessible to all pupils and does not place an unreasonable financial burden on parents.

In accordance with the 'School Admissions Code', the Head of School will ensure that the school's uniform policy does not discourage parents from applying for a place for their child.

The school will assess the overall cost implications of its uniform policy regularly, including prior to making any changes to the school uniform. When evaluating whether costs are reasonable and proportionate, the school will take into account the opinions and situations of:

- Economically disadvantaged parents.
- Parents with multiple children who are, or will be in the future, pupils at the school.
- Parents of younger children, as they are likely to grow quickly and require new sets of uniform more frequently.
- Parents of pupils with protected characteristics that may impact their ability to access the uniform due to costs.
- LAC and PLAC.

The school will evaluate the cost of its uniform based on the overall collection of uniform items that parents would need to purchase for a pupil, rather than on the cost effectiveness of individual items; this will include consideration of the fact that parents will need to purchase multiples of certain items, e.g. shirts and socks, to ensure their child can come to school in clean uniform every day.

The school keeps variations in school uniform for different groups of pupils, e.g. year group-specific items or house colours, to a minimum where possible to ensure that pupils can get the most wear out of their uniform possible and that parents can pass some items down to younger siblings.

The school keeps branded uniform items to a minimal level that is reasonable for all members of the school community. The school defines a branded uniform item as any item of clothing that cannot be purchased at a range of retailers, including by virtue of logos, colours, design and fabrics. Where the school decides to require an item of branded clothing, it will conduct an assessment to ensure prices are kept as low as possible.

The school is committed to meeting the DfE's recommendations on costs and value for money. Every care is taken to ensure that our uniforms are affordable for all current and prospective pupils, and that the best value for money is secured through reputable suppliers.

The school will not amend uniform requirements regularly and will take the views of parents and pupils into account when considering any changes to school uniforms.

4. Equality principles

The school takes its legal obligation to avoid discriminating against any protected characteristic unlawfully very seriously, and aims to ensure that the uniform policy is as inclusive as possible so that all pupils are supported to access a school uniform which is comfortable, suitable for their needs, and reflects who they are.

The school will work to ensure that school uniform's cost does not disproportionately affect any pupils by ensuring that uniforms for all genders are as equal in price as possible and by adhering to the cost principles laid out in section 3.

The school will ensure that parents and pupils are consulted over any changes to school uniform, and that views and advice are sought specifically from pupils, and parents of pupils, who:

- Are transgender, including non-binary pupils.
- Have SEND and/or sensory needs.
- Are of a religious or cultural background that has dress requirements.

The school implements a gender-neutral uniform, meaning that pupils are not required to wear specific items based on their gender, and may wear any of the uniform items listed in the 'School uniform' section of this policy regardless of the legal sex recorded on the school's records. Transgender pupils are supported to access the uniform that best reflects their gender expression in line with the LGBTQ+ Policy.

The school ensures that pupils who are required to follow certain dress requirements, e.g. by virtue of their membership of a particular religious or cultural group, are afforded flexibility to allow them to wear a uniform that adheres to their requirements as far as possible. The school endeavours to meet all requests for amendments to the uniform for these purposes; however, will ensure that the needs and rights of individual pupils are weighed against any health and safety concerns for the entire school community.

Parents' concerns and requests regarding religious clothing are dealt with on a case-by-case basis by the Head of School and governing board, and always in accordance with the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.

The school ensures that the needs of pupils with SEND and/or sensory difficulties are considered in the uniform policy, e.g. ensuring soft, stretchy fabrics and avoiding intricate buttons or hard seams; however, where the needs of these pupils cannot be met in the standard uniform policy, individual adaptations to the uniform will be considered and permitted wherever possible.

5. Complaints and challenges

The school endeavours to resolve all uniform complaints and challenges locally and informally, in accordance with the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.

To make a complaint, parents should refer to the Complaints Procedures Policy and follow the stipulations outlined.

When a complaint is received, the school works with parents to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

Governors are willing to consider reasonable requests for flexibility to allow a pupil to accommodate particular social and cultural circumstances.

6. School uniform supplier

Our current school uniform supplier is:

The School Outfit

11 Brockwell Road, Crowther Industrial Estate, Washington

Tel: 01914168889

The school ensures value for money through regular review and benchmarking of suppliers in line with DfE guidance.

7. Uniform assistance

The school holds good quality, clean second-hand school uniforms for parents to access; access to these uniforms is available upon request made to the office. Parents are invited to donate their child's uniform when they no longer need it.

8. Non-compliance

Staff members are permitted to discuss the uniform policy with parents and pupils breaching this policy, in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy.

The Head of School or a person authorised by the Head of School, is permitted to ask a parent to briefly take a pupil to home to remedy breaches to the school's uniform.

When deciding whether to allow a pupil to return home, the school considers the pupil's age and vulnerability, the length of time it will take, and the availability of the pupil's parents.

Where a pupil has been sent home to rectify uniform breaches, the absence is recorded as 'authorised'.

If a pupil repeatedly breaches uniform rules, or takes longer than necessary to rectify the absence, the absence is counted as 'unauthorised'.

Parents will be notified in all cases.

9. School uniform

School colours

Our school colours are as follows:

- Red and Blue school Uniform and Blue, Red, Yellow and Green for PE House Team uniforms

Clothing

The 2026–2027 academic year will be a transitional period for the introduction of our updated school uniform, following [consultation with parents in 2025-26](#).

During this time, pupils may continue to wear the current uniform if they already have these items. Families will not be expected to replace existing uniform immediately.

As items need replacing due to wear, growth, or renewal, parents should purchase the new uniform. By the end of the transitional period, the new uniform will become the standard expected uniform for all pupils.

From September 2026 the uniform will be as follows:

Item	Optional or required	Branding	How to acquire	Cost per item from school supplier
Regular school uniform				
Blue Sweatshirt jumper/cardigan (Reception to Year 6) (or pre-owned Blue knitted jumper/cardigan) Red jumper/cardigan (Nursery and School Council)	Required	School logo on left-hand side	Branded jumper and cardigan available from school supplier and second hand from school office. Non logo jumper or cardigan can be bought from regular retailers.	Sweatshirts from £9.99 Cardigans from £10.99

Members) (or pre-owned Blue knitted jumper/cardigan)				
White polo shirt (Or pre-owned white shirt)	Required	No branding	Available from regular retailers.	From £6.99

Blue school fleece	Optional	School logo on left-hand side	Available from school supplier	From £14.99
Grey trousers or grey skirt	Required	No branding	Available from school supplier and available from regular retailers.	N/A
Sensible, plain black shoes	Required	No branding	Available from regular retailers.	N/A

PE kit

House Team coloured t-shirt	Required	School logo on left-hand side	Available from school supplier.	From £4.99
Plain black/blue shorts	Required	No branding	Available from school supplier and available from regular retailers.	N/A
Plain black/blue leggings or jogging bottoms during winter months.	optional	No branding	Available from regular retailers.	N/A
Plain black/blue sweatshirt during winter months	optional	No branding	Available from regular retailers.	N/A
Suitable PE shoes/plimsoles	Required	No branding	Available from regular retailers.	N/A

Accessories

			Available from school	
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School book bag	Optional	School logo	supplier.	£5.99
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Trainers are not considered suitable footwear other than for PE lessons. High heels are not permitted.
 Parents who do not wish to buy the optional branded PE kit must acquire a PE kit meeting the following criteria:

- **Plain T-shirt of appropriate house team colour with no branding or logos from professional sports teams**
- **Plain shorts or tracksuit bottoms with no branding or logos from professional sports teams**

- **Suitable trainers**
- **Plain blue or black hoodie or sweatshirt with no branding or logos from professional sports teams**

Parents are responsible for ensuring their child wears a full PE kit to school when needed.

Jewellery

Jewellery including studded earrings is not permitted as it poses a risk of injury, clear spacers are permitted. Any child who comes to school wearing earrings will be asked to remove them. If the child is not able to do so a parent/carer will be contacted and asked to come to school to remove the earrings.

In line with our Acceptable and Responsible Use of the Internet Policy, we do not allow smart watches with camera or recording functions to be worn. A sensible watch is permitted for the telling of time only.

School bag

Pupils must use an appropriately sized waterproof bag to carry their books and equipment. It should hold A4-sized workbooks comfortably without causing any damage.

School bags featuring inappropriate images, slogans or phrases are not permitted.

The school encourages pupils to bring non-valuable bags to school. The school will not be liable for lost or damaged school bags.

Hairstyles

The school reserves the right to make a judgement on where pupils' hairstyles or hair colours are inappropriate for the school environment; however, will ensure that any such judgements do not discriminate against any pupil by virtue of their protected characteristics. Each individual pupil's scenario will be taken into account where any judgements on appropriateness are to be made, and parents will always have the freedom to complain via the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.

Pupils with long hair must ensure that this does not impede their vision, cover their face or provide a health and safety risk. Long hair must be tied up during practical lessons, e.g. during PE.

The following hairstyles are not considered appropriate for school:

- Coloured or dyed hair.
- Patterns or lines shaved or cut into the hair.
- Excessive hair accessories which can impede learning

Makeup

Makeup including nail varnish is not permitted in school.

10. Adverse weather

All pupils are required to wear weather-appropriate clothing.

For hot temperatures, this includes wearing:

- Blue or red summer dresses.
- Short socks
- Grey short trousers.
- Jumpers and cardigans may be removed during hot weather unless the children are outdoors without sun protection in which case the child may be asked to cover arms with a jumper or cardigan.
- A sun hat or cap should be provided to protect face, head and neck.
- Sunglasses with UV protection when outside, where possible.
- Appropriate black school shoes should continue to be worn.

If outside during break times, pupils not wearing sun-safe clothing are advised to stay in an area protected from the sun, or spare clothing is provided.

For cold temperatures, this includes wearing:

- Scarves, gloves, coats and hats when they are outside.
- Warm jumpers that conform to the school's uniform policy.
- Trousers, or thick tights with skirts.
- Boots may be worn for outdoors and changed into school shoes when indoors.

11. Labelling

All pupils' clothing and footwear should be clearly labelled with their name.

Any lost clothing will be taken to the lost property box. All lost property is retained for half a term and is disposed of if it is not collected within this time.

12. Monitoring and review

This policy is reviewed annually by the Chair of Governors and the Head of School.