



Great Marlow School

Excellence • Compassion • Integrity

Uniform Policy 2025-2026

Recommended by the Leadership Team:

November 2025

Approved by GMS Governors:

December 2025

Adopted by GMS Governors:

December 2025

Review Due:

Autumn Term 2026

Indicate as appropriate:

There **has been** changes to the previous policy.

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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, sexual orientation, disability, race, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity, and gender reassignment.

To avoid discrimination, our school will:

- Avoid listing uniform items based on sex, to give all pupils the opportunity to wear the uniform they feel most comfortable in or that most reflects their self-identified gender
- 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 wear headscarves and/or other religious garments
- Allow pupils with 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/carers to get in touch with the Director of Learning for the specific year group, 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

Our school 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/carers' ability to 'shop around' for a low price.

We will make sure our uniform:

- Is available at a reasonable cost
- Provides the best value for money for parents/carers

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
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents/carers to acquire second-hand uniform items
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents/carers of any changes
- Consulting with parents/carers 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

- Skirt - Only the specified skirt may be worn, which is plain and black. It can be purchased from Hawkinsport or Sportscrest.
- Trousers - Plain black trousers in a wide leg style are the only type acceptable. They can be purchased from high street shops. Fitted or lycra-style trousers are not appropriate for school.
- Shirt - Plain and white. Shirts should always be tucked in; top buttons should be done up; all garments worn under a shirt should not be visible.
- Tie - There is a school crested tie, in one of the three House colours. Ties can be purchased from Hawkinsport or Sportscrest. The school logo should always be visible when wearing the tie.
- Jumper - Plain black, V-neck, long sleeved jumper is an optional extra. Cardigans, sweatshirts and hooded tops are not allowed.
- Socks - Plain in colour. Tights should be black or neutral in colour.
- Footwear - School shoes must be plain and black. Black trainers or any kind of canvas shoes are not permitted as uniform shoes; this includes plimsole or converse-style shoes, in either leather or fabric. Boots are not permitted at all in Years 7-11. If parents/carers or students are uncertain about any aspect of school footwear, they are advised to contact the school before purchasing, as we do not wish to cause unnecessary expense. See **appendix 1**

- Blazer - A black blazer with the school badge on the breast pocket can be purchased from Hawkinsport or Sportscrest.
- Belt - A black belt, simple and plain in style.
- Coat - During the winter students should have a suitable winter coat to wear.
- Hats - A hat for warmth in winter or for sun protection in summer is permitted, but they must not be worn indoors.

4.2 Our school's PE kit

All PE clothing is unbranded and can be purchased from SportsCrest in High Wycombe.

Compulsory

- Red polo shirt
- Black shorts or black skort
- Red football socks/white socks
- Trainers (not plimsolls)
- Shin pads
- Rugby shirt

Optional but Recommended

- Tracksuit top/rain jacket
- Tracksuit bottoms
- Black base layer

4.3 Where to purchase it:

There are two local suppliers of Great Marlow School branded uniform:

- Hawkinsport in Bourne End
- Sportscrest in High Wycombe
- In addition, Friends of Great Marlow (FoGMS) hold second hand uniform sales throughout the school year
- Financial assistance may be available for help with uniform costs for children in receipt of free school meals

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)

Pupils are also expected to contact their Director of Learning if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics.

5.2 Parents and carers

Parents and carers 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/carers are also expected to contact their Director of Learning if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to:

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

Parents/carers 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
- Dealt with in accordance with our school's complaints policy

The school will work closely with parents/carers to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

5.3 Staff

Staff will closely monitor pupils to make sure they are in correct uniform. They will give any pupils and families breaching the uniform policy the opportunity to comply but will follow up with the headteacher if the situation does not improve.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with by the Director of Learning.

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

5.4 Governors

The governing board will review this policy and make sure that it:

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

The board 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 annually by the Leadership Team. At every review, it will be approved by the Governing body.

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

- Behaviour policy
- Equality information and objectives statement
- Anti-bullying policy
- Complaints policy

Appendix 1

Examples of acceptable shoe styles



Examples of unacceptable shoe styles

