



Uniform Policy

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Purpose & Principles

Waterloo Primary School has a school uniform because it supports a strong sense of identity, belonging and pride; provides practical and safe clothing for learning; and helps reduce visible differences in what pupils wear.

Our approach is guided by the principles that uniform should be:

- affordable, durable and widely available;
- comfortable, practical and suitable for an active school day;
- inclusive and capable of being adapted to meet individual needs;
- simple for families to understand; and
- implemented fairly, sensitively and without preventing a pupil from accessing education.

The policy applies during the school day and, where appropriate, on educational visits, sporting events and other school-organised activities.

Our School Uniform

Pupils may wear any appropriate combination from the list below. The uniform is not divided into separate requirements for girls and boys.

Top	Plain white polo shirt, shirt or blouse.
Sweatshirt/cardigan	Red sweatshirt, jumper or cardigan. The Waterloo logo is optional.
Lower garment	Plain grey trousers, shorts, skirt or pinafore dress.
Summer option	Red-and-white gingham dress.
Socks/tights	Plain grey socks, or grey tights.
Footwear	Plain black, closed-toe school shoes.
Outdoor clothing	A suitable coat for the weather. A branded Waterloo coat is not required.
Headwear	Religious or cultural headwear is welcome. Other hats may be worn outdoors when appropriate for the weather.

All items may be bought from supermarkets, high-street shops, online retailers or the school's named suppliers. No item carrying the Waterloo logo is compulsory.

Physical Education Kit

- plain red T-shirt;
- plain navy shorts, skirt or sports leggings;
- plain navy jogging bottoms and a plain navy sweatshirt or tracksuit top for outdoor PE in colder weather; and
- black trainers suitable for outdoor activity and black pumps or suitable trainers for indoor PE, as directed by the school.

The Waterloo logo is optional on every PE item. Fashion sportswear, football kits and clothing with large logos or slogans are not part of the PE kit.

For swimming, pupils need suitable close-fitting swimwear and a towel. A swimming cap may be required by the venue; goggles may be worn where permitted. The school will provide lesson-specific information in advance.

Affordability and Branded Items

Waterloo gives the highest priority to affordability and value for money. From September 2026, primary schools may require no more than three compulsory branded items across uniform and PE kit. Waterloo requires no compulsory branded items.

Logo items remain available as an optional choice from:

- Monkhouse Schoolwear, 80a Coronation Rd, Crosby, L23 5RH; and
- Paul's Place, 272 Stanley Rd, Bootle, L20 3ER.

The school will review supplier arrangements regularly, considering price, quality, durability, availability and value for money.

Pre-Loved Uniform & Financial Support

Good-quality pre-loved uniform is available throughout the year from the Main Entrance by the School Office. Families may take items regardless of their circumstances. A voluntary donation to School Fund may be invited, but no donation is required.

Families are encouraged to donate clean, good-quality items that their children have outgrown. Items that cannot be reused will be recycled appropriately.

No child will be disadvantaged because their family is experiencing financial difficulty. Parents and carers who need help obtaining uniform should contact the School Office or a member of the pastoral team. Requests will be handled sensitively and confidentially.

Equality, Inclusion & Reasonable Adjustments

The school will apply this policy consistently with the Equality Act 2010, the Human Rights Act 1998 and the Public Sector Equality Duty.

We will consider reasonable adjustments or variations where needed because of:

- disability, medical need or sensory difference;
- religion or belief;
- race, culture or hair type;
- gender reassignment or a pupil's individual circumstances; or
- another exceptional welfare or safeguarding consideration.

Requests should be made to the Headteacher or SENDCO. Each request will be considered individually, respectfully and proportionately. Cultural and protective hairstyles - including braids, locks, twists, cornrows, plaits, natural Afro hairstyles and skin fades - are permitted.

Hair, Jewellery & Personal Appearance

Hair should be clean and secured away from the face when this is necessary for learning, food preparation, PE or another health and safety reason. Hair accessories should be practical and, where possible, in red, black, white or grey. Rules will not prohibit hairstyles associated with race, culture, religion or identity.

For safety, jewellery should be limited to:

- one pair of small, plain stud earrings; and
- a simple analogue or digital watch (not a smart watch capable of calls, messaging, photography or recording).

Jewellery must be removed for PE, swimming and any activity where it presents a risk. Pupils should be able to remove their own earrings. Parents should arrange new piercings so that earrings can be removed safely for school activities. The school cannot accept responsibility for loss or damage.

Make-up, false eyelashes, nail varnish, acrylic or false nails and temporary tattoos are not appropriate for school. Exceptions will be considered for cultural, religious, medical or other individual needs. Staff will not use chemical products to remove make-up or nail varnish from a child.

Labelling & Lost Property

Parents and carers should label every item clearly with the child's name and check labels periodically. Named items will be returned wherever possible.

Unclaimed property will be retained for one month, before being displayed or made available for families to reclaim. The school cannot accept liability for lost or damaged personal belongings.

Supporting Pupils to Meet the Policy

Where a pupil is not wearing the expected uniform, staff will respond discreetly and seek to understand the reason. The school will consider whether the issue arises from cost, availability, SEND, sensory or medical needs, religion, family circumstances or another barrier.

The response may include:

- a quiet reminder and conversation with the pupil;
- contact with parents or carers;
- offering clean spare or pre-loved uniform;
- agreeing a reasonable adjustment or a short period in which to resolve the issue; and
- a meeting with the Headteacher where concerns are repeated or unresolved.

A pupil will not be denied education, prevented from taking part in the ordinary curriculum or routinely sent home solely because of an unintentional or unaffordable uniform breach. Responses to deliberate and persistent refusal will be reasonable, proportionate and consistent with the school's Behaviour Policy. Exclusion will not normally be appropriate for a uniform breach.

Responsibilities

The Local Governing Body will:

- approve and review this policy;
- ensure it complies with statutory guidance, equality duties and the limit on compulsory branded items;
- consider the affordability and availability of each item; and
- make sure second-hand uniform arrangements are publicised.

The Headteacher will:

- implement the policy consistently and sensitively;
- ensure families can access support and reasonable adjustments;
- monitor supplier and pre-loved arrangements; and
- resolve concerns or complaints at school level where possible.

Staff will model high expectations, respond discreetly to concerns and refer barriers or requests for support to an appropriate leader.

Parents and carers are asked to support the policy, label belongings, contact the school promptly if there is a difficulty and return borrowed items in good condition.

Pupils are expected to wear the uniform with pride, look after their belongings and treat others respectfully, including pupils who have agreed variations or adjustments.

Complaints & Review

Questions or concerns should first be raised with the Headteacher. Formal complaints will be considered under the Trust Complaints Policy.

The school will review this policy annually and sooner if statutory guidance changes. When making significant changes, it will consider the views of pupils and parents and assess equality and affordability implications.

