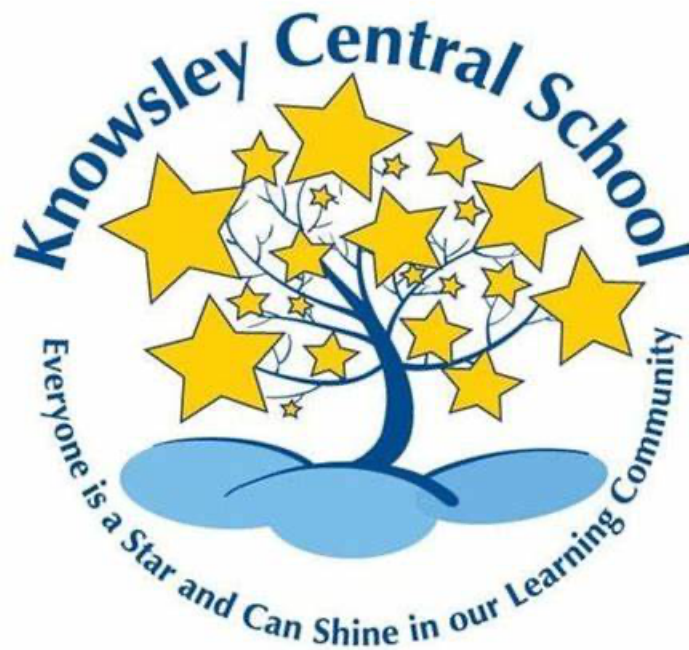


School Uniform Policy



Knowsley Central School

Approved by:

Date: September 2026

Last reviewed on:

Next review due by:
September 2028

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

Within our school we promote an atmosphere which encourages effort, enjoyment and a celebration of the achievements of all our pupils. Our high standards are also reflected in the pride we take in our school uniform and the feeling of belonging it creates. It is our school policy that all children wear school uniform when attending school or when participating in a school organised event outside of normal school hours. The uniform is part of our school ethos and in coming to Knowsley Central School; parents agree to support our policy.

1. Aims and Objectives

Our policy for uniform is based on the belief that school uniform:

- Promotes a sense of pride in the school
- Develops a sense of community and belonging towards the school;
- Identifies children within our school when taking part in out of school educational activities and visits;
- Is practical and looks smart;
- Makes children feel equal to others in terms of appearance;
- Is not distracting in class (as fashion clothes and hairstyles can be);
- Is regarded as suitable wear for school and considered by most parents as good value for money;
- Is designed with health and safety in mind.

The school cannot accept any responsibility for misplaced clothing but, if clothing is clearly marked, will make every effort to see lost items are returned. Please reduce the 'risks' by ensuring that every garment or piece of clothing (including footwear) is clearly Marked/labelled with your child's name.

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 sex, race, religion or belief, 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 the way that is appropriate for school yet makes them feel most comfortable
- Allow pupils to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons
- Allow pupils to wear headscarves and other religious or cultural symbols
- Allow for adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents to get in touch with Michelle McFadden, who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests

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 on the cost of school uniform.

We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that have 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 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

- Keeping the number of optional branded items to a minimum, so that the school's uniform can act as a social leveler
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year or class groups
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- Considering alternative methods for signaling 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

A blue polo shirt, grey skirt, grey trousers or grey jogging bottoms and a navy school sweatshirt or cardigan.

All school shoes must be safe footwear to ensure that a child cannot slip or trip when wearing them. Whole shoes rather than slip-on's or strappy shoes are safer and preferred to protect your child's feet. We do understand that many of our children have sensory needs and may not wish to wear shoes throughout the day but we will seek to encourage children to keep shoes on when possible.

P.E. Kit: A yellow t-shirt printed with the school logo and navy shorts.

Swimming Kit: Swim trunks (not shorts) or costume (not bikini/2-piece) Towel Spare underwear and socks

Earrings

Stud earrings are allowed to be worn in school, however pupils must be able to tolerate wearing plasters to cover them during PE sessions.

4.2 Where to purchase it

The Uniform Factory

Our uniform is supplied by:
The Uniform Factory
51 Boundary Lane
Liverpool L6 5JG
Tel: 0151 260 3469

Email: sales@uniformfactory.co.uk

Website: www.uniformfactory.co.uk

We do offer several opportunities throughout the school year at whole school events where parents/carers can access second hand or donated uniforms.

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 Emma Jenkins (Parent Liaison) if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics.

Knowsley Central School understands that many of our children have sensory needs and therefore may not tolerate certain aspects of the school uniform. We therefore work with parent/carers to ensure that children are comfortable throughout the school day and can access the curriculum.

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 are expected to contact Michelle McFadden (Assistant Head Teacher) 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 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 to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

5.3 Staff

Staff will monitor pupils to make sure they are in correct uniform. 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 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 every three years. At every review, it will be approved by the full 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