



Anker Valley Primary Academy

School Uniform Policy 2026-2027

Document Control

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Version Control

Version	Date	Amended by	Comments
2	September 2024	NH	References to Head of School amended to Headteacher.
3	September 2025	MH	No changes
4	September 2026	MW	Mr Wilkinson - Headteacher
4.1	September 2026	MW	Clarified grey shorts. Updated jewelry guidance from AfPE Added financial hardship and uniform compliance. Added reasonable adjustments and exceptional circumstances

Section	Changes Made

Contents

1. Aims

This policy aims to:

- Set out the Anker Valley Primary 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 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 smart for school yet makes them feel most comfortable. We do not accept tram lines or dyed hair.
- 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 contact Mr Wilkinson 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 continue to 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 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 does not 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 leveler.
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house 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 uniform

- Grey skirt, pinafore, or trousers (required)
- Pupils may wear grey tailored shorts as part of the school uniform. Shorts must be plain grey, tailored in appearance, and appropriate for school. Sports shorts, PE shorts, jersey-style shorts, and other casual or athletic styles are not permitted as part of the daily uniform.
- Grey or white socks or tights (required)
- Black shoes- plain with no logo or ornateness (required). Shoes should be practical, black, flat and suitable for active school life. Boots, high heels, open-toed sandals, trainers (except for PE) and fashion footwear are not permitted.
- White school shirts (short or long-sleeved) (required)
- AVPA School ties (required)
- Red/ white hair bands (optional)
- Red sweatshirt or cardigan. A school logo version is optional.
- Summer dress with red and white gingham (optional in summer)
- For Forest school- wet weatherproof clothing, wellington boots and a hat, as appropriate. (required).

- A schoolbook bag with the AVPA logo printed on it. (Logo optional) Alternative plain red bags may be used where families choose not to purchase branded versions.
- A school coat which is warm and readily identifiable by the child. (required)
- A red AVPA PE bag. (Required - logo optional)

The school does not have an exclusive supplier arrangement, and parents may purchase equivalent generic uniform items from retailers of their choice, provided they meet the school's colour and style requirements.

Named items that are found by the school will be returned where possible. Unclaimed uniform may be added to the school's second-hand uniform stock after a reasonable period.

PE Kits

- School PE Kit: plain black t-shirt, plain black shorts and plain black trainers suitable for physical activity (required).
- During colder weather, pupils may wear plain black jogging bottoms and a plain black sweatshirt or hoodie for outdoor PE activities.
- In line with The Association for Physical Education (AfPE) all jewellery should be removed before PE lessons, including earrings, studs, and other body piercings, to create a safe environment for all pupils.
- Where a child has recently had their ears pierced and the earrings cannot be removed due to the healing process, parents/carers should notify the school. Parents are advised to seek guidance from the piercing provider or healthcare professional regarding appropriate healing times before earrings can be safely removed.
- During the healing period, pupils will not be excluded from PE. Instead, the school will make reasonable adaptations to enable the child to remain involved in learning while reducing the risk of injury to themselves and others. This may include modified practical activities, officiating, coaching, observation, analysis, or other curriculum-related tasks as determined by the teacher.
- Once the healing period has ended and earrings can be safely removed, pupils will be expected to remove them before all PE lessons and sporting activities. Parents are encouraged, where possible, to arrange ear piercing at the beginning of a long holiday period to minimise disruption to participation in PE.
- Staff will not be able to remove earrings for pupils; the responsibility for removing and replacing earrings rests with the pupil and their parent/carer.

Jewellery

- Watches may be worn but smartwatches capable of recording images, audio, or accessing the internet are not permitted.
- One small pair of stud earrings may be worn.

Hairstyles

- Hairstyles should be appropriate for school and not include extreme styles, shaved patterns, tramlines or unnatural colours. Makeup, false eyelashes, temporary tattoos, acrylic nails, gel nails and nail varnish are not permitted.

4.2 Where to purchase it

- Parents and carers can obtain the uniform more widely, e.g., from 'high street' retailers e.g., Asda, Marks, and Spencer or Sainsburys.
- SK School Supplies (School Uniform with logo)
- The school Office also has a selection of quality second-hand uniforms which have been donated by parents.
- Families experiencing financial hardship should contact the school confidentially. The school will seek to support families through access to second-hand uniform and other appropriate assistance where available.

4.3 Health and Safety

The school reserves the right to make reasonable adjustments to uniform requirements where necessary for health, safety or medical reasons. During practical activities, including PE, Forest School and educational visits, pupils may be required to wear specific clothing, remove jewellery or tie back long hair to ensure safety.

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) whilst:

- 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 Mr Wilkinson 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 are also expected to contact Mr Wilkinson 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 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 doesn't improve.

Where a pupil repeatedly attends school without the correct uniform, the school will work with parents/carers to understand and address any barriers to compliance. Sanctions will not be applied where non-compliance results from genuine financial hardship.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with by Mr Wilkinson. 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 Local Governing 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 if appropriate.

6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Headteacher, Mr Wilkinson. At every review, it will be approved by the full Local Governing Board.

Reasonable Adjustments and Exceptional Circumstances

The Headteacher may agree temporary or permanent variations to the uniform requirements where required for medical reasons, disability, sensory needs, religious observance, family hardship or other exceptional circumstances.

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

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