

Uniform Policy

September
2024



VISION STATEMENT

At Coppice Academy we value all members of our school community, encourage and inspire an attitude to fulfil high aspirations for all. We are committed to providing a caring, secure and vibrant learning environment, which develops their sense of responsibility as tolerant citizens of the wider world. We encourage pupils to uphold the school values of respect, creativity, compassion, independence, co-operation and perseverance.

SCHOOL AIMS

- To create an enjoyable and healthy environment where individuals can achieve their potential.
- To provide a broad, balanced and challenging curriculum.
- To sustain a caring and supportive atmosphere in which all individual voices are listened to and valued.
- To encourage respect for others' beliefs, culture and moral values.
- To work as a team to develop responsibility for our actions.
- To encourage initiative and independent learning.
- To nurture a positive partnership between home and school.
- To develop creative and enquiring minds.
- To help pupils to develop skills needed for reflection in their lives and in their learning.
- To foster a sense of belonging to a school and wider community.
- To help pupils make a positive contribution in school life and beyond.

Coppice Values

Co-operation	Independence	Compassion
Respect	Perseverance	Creativity

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, 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 request changes to swimwear for religious reasons or if they are experiencing discomfort related to their sex, gender or gender reassignment

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 17office@coppice.solihull.sch.uk, 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 such as features of the school logo.

Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost and/or long-lasting items, such as ties

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

Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups

Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities

Considering alternative methods for signalling differences in groups for interschool competitions, such as creating posters or labels

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 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

School Uniform

<u>Winter Uniform</u>	<u>Summer Uniform</u>
White shirt Navy blue skirt or grey trousers Navy blue *logo branded cardigans and jumpers School tie Navy socks or tights Grey socks Black shoes	Navy blue checked dress Navy blue *logo branded cardigans and jumpers White socks Black shoes White polo shirt Grey shorts or trousers Grey socks

PE Kit

PE Kit *School logo optional PE top White t-shirt Plain navy blue tracksuit in winter Plain navy blue shorts White socks Plimsolls for indoor work Trainers for outdoor games lessons	Equipment An apron or old shirt for art. A water bottle A rucksack or bookbag Football afterschool club Football boots Shin pads
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Jewellery

Hair Styles

Children may not wear jewelry but may wear a watch. Smart watches (able to provide internet access) such as Apple watches are not permitted . Please do not allow your child to have their ears pierced during term time as they do need to be removed for school or taped up.	All long hair should be tied back. Hair bands and 'bobbles' should be school colours, eg blue, black, white, blue/white check, with no large bows please. Extreme hairstyles e.g. tram lines, colour, gel, wax or mousse are not permitted and pupils should not have less than a number 2 cut.
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<u>Shoes</u>	<u>Bad Weather</u>
<p>Shoes should be suitable for school wear enabling your child to play safely at playtimes. Children must NOT wear trainers or boots in school.</p> <p>Summer – flat, black shoes or sandals (open toed sandals and sling backed shoes are not acceptable). Please ensure toes are protected.</p>	<p>Children may wear boots or wellingtons to school on wet and snowy days but must change into their school shoes when they arrive at school. Again, please ensure all are clearly labelled with your child's name.</p>
<u>Religious Headcovering</u>	
<p>Headcoverings for religious purposes are permitted and should be plain navy or plain black.</p>	

Reasonable adjustments can be made for children with special educational additional needs.

4.2 Where to purchase it

Coppice Academy school uniform is available to buy from Clive Mark and Monkhouse Solihull.

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 the office at 17office@coppice.solihull.sch.uk 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 the school office at 17office@coppice.solihull.sch.uk 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 Associate Headteacher if the situation does not improve.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with by the Associate Headteacher.

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 every three years. At every review, it will be approved by the governing board.

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

- Behaviour policy

- Equality information and objectives statement

- Anti-bullying policy

- Complaints policy