



Uniform Policy

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Updates:

July 2026	Appendices 1-5	Long list of uniform removed for each School and replaced with a link to the School's website and uniform lists.
July 2026	Cost	Change of wording to reflect the new DfE guidance and limit on branded items.
July 2026	Cost	Contracts with suppliers - removal of sentence stating that contracts with single suppliers are avoided.
July 2026	Role of the Trust Board	Uniform suppliers – removal of the sentence stating that DET does not have a single supplier.
July 2026	Throughout	The detailed lists of uniform were removed for each School and replaced with a link to the School's website and uniform lists, to ensure this information remains accurate.
July 2026	Introduction	Changing reference to “pre-loved” to “secondhand” to align with new DfE guidance.

1. Introduction

In its statutory guidance on School Uniforms, updated in July 2026, the Department for Education (DfE) states:

“We strongly encourage schools to have a uniform, as it can play a key role in:

- promoting the ethos of a school;
- providing a sense of belonging and identity;
- setting an appropriate tone for education.

By creating a common identity among all pupils, regardless of background, a uniform can:

- act as a social leveller;
- reduce bullying and peer pressure to wear the latest fashions or other expensive clothes.”

This is the Uniform Policy for Discovery Educational Trust (DET) and its Schools:

- Chase High School (CHS);
- Hogarth Primary School (HPS);
- Kelvedon Hatch Community Primary School (KHCPs)
- Larchwood Primary School (LPS);
- St. Martin’s School (SMS).

The Policy is published on the DET and School websites and is available in hard copy from the relevant School Office/Reception.

2. Scope

This Policy is consistent with the DET Equality Policy and its Equality Statement and Objectives and applies equally to all pupils, irrespective of their sex, gender reassignment, race, disability, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity or religion or belief or special educational needs, subject to considerations of safety and welfare.

3. Legislation and Regulation

This Policy meets DET’s responsibilities under the [Equality Act 2010](#), which prohibits discrimination against an individual based on the protected characteristics, which include sex, race, religion or belief, and gender reassignment.

To avoid discrimination, DET and its Schools:

- Avoid listing uniform items based on sex, in order to provide all pupils, the opportunity to wear the uniform that they feel most comfortable in or that most reflects their self-identified gender;
- Ensure that uniform costs are equitable for all pupils attending the same DET School;
- Allow pupils to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons;
- Allow pupils to wear headscarves and other religious or cultural symbols (refer Sections 6.6 and 7.2 below);

- Allow for adaptations to this Policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents/carers to contact the Headteacher (HT) with questions and requests about the Policy.

This Policy also has regard to the following guidance and advice:

- [Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years \(DfE, January 2015\)](#);
- [School Admissions Code: Mandatory requirements for statutory guidance for admission authorities, governing bodies, local authorities, schools' adjudicators and admission appeals panels \(DfE, September 2021\)](#);
- [Suspension and Permanent Exclusion from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England, including pupil movement: Guidance for maintained schools, academies, and pupil referral units in England \(DfE, September 2023\)](#);
- [School uniform \(gov.uk\)](#)
- [Cost of school uniforms \(DfE, July 2026\)](#).
- [Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026 \(Gov.uk, June 2026\)](#)

4. Aims and Objectives

This Policy is based on the principle that uniforms in DET Schools:

- engender an expectation of high behavioural standards;
- promote a sense of pride in DET and its Schools;
- engender a sense of community and belonging towards DET and its Schools;
- are practical and smart and designed with health and safety in mind;
- identify children with DET and its Schools;
- prevent children from coming to school in fashion clothes that could be distracting in class;
- make children feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance and mask any inequality in home circumstances;
- support DET's and its Schools' commitment to inclusion;
- are considered good value for money by the majority of parents/carers.

5. Cost

In accordance with [DfE Statutory Guidance on the cost of school uniforms](#) and also the values and culture of DET and its Schools, this Policy reflects the importance of value for money, but also environmental sustainability.

In producing this Policy, the following points have been considered:

- **Overall cost implications** – awareness of how uniform costs could mount up where multiple items of the same garment may be needed. For example, when a child may grow out of an item quickly or where spare items are likely to be needed.

Response: this Policy does not place any expectation on parents/carers to purchase a set number of any item.

- **Variations in uniform** – for example, different colours or different items across Year Groups/classes/house groups/genders, and the impact on total cost and the ability of parents/carers to pass uniform items down between siblings.

Response: this Policy does not place any expectation on parents/carers to purchase variations on items.

- **Avoidance of frequent changes to minimise financial impact** – schools should be able to demonstrate how any change in uniform specification secures the best value for money and why the change is required.

Response: DET and its Schools will only make changes to Uniform Policy if value for money for parents/carers can be demonstrated. Also, where any change is implemented, pupils are able to continue to wear “old” uniform for a reasonable period to minimise cost.

- **Affect on different groups of pupils** – understanding of how the cost of the uniform might affect each group represented at each DET School.

Response: no changes are made to uniform policy without considering all groups of pupils across all DET Schools.

- **Views of parents/carers and pupils** – full engagement and consultation with parents/carers and pupils on the cost implications of uniforms and any proposed changes.

Response: DET and its Schools always seeks parent/carer and pupil input and feedback on proposed uniform changes via a number of mechanisms – surveys, focus groups, parental representation at Local School Committee (LSC), News & Views and other parent/carer correspondence, assemblies, Junior Leadership Team.

- **Additional uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities** – avoidance of need for parents/carers to purchase additional uniform for activities such as sport, music and drama.

Response: DET and its Schools do not place additional requirements on parents/carers for extra-curricular uniform items.

- **Branded items** – All branded items should be kept to a minimum, with the following requirements from September 2026:
 - schools must limit the number of compulsory branded items of uniform and PE kit to 3 or fewer
 - secondary and middle schools must limit the number of compulsory branded items of uniform and PE kit to 4 or fewer, if one is a tie

Response: branded items are kept to a minimum across DET and its Schools.

- **Multiple expensive items** – avoidance of requirement for parents/carers to purchase items such as coats, bags, trainers and footwear for sport.

Response: DET and its Schools do not require the purchase of multiple expensive items.

- **Non-school day items** – avoidance of specific requirements for items that can be worn by children outside of School, i.e. coats, bags and shoes.

Response: The requirements of DET and its Schools do not preclude items such as coats, bags and shoes from being worn out of School.

- **Second-hand Uniform provision** – ensuring that arrangements are in place for parents/carers to acquire second-hand uniform items.

Response: all DET Schools offer a second-hand uniform provision.

- **Contracts with suppliers** – proactive engagement with existing and prospective suppliers with aim of reducing costs. Ensuring that written contracts are in place for the supply of branded items. All savings negotiated are passed to parents/carers. No cashback arrangements are entered into.

Response: DET believes that its current uniform suppliers ensure best value for money. If a tendering process is entered into in the future, parents/carers will be consulted.

6. Uniform Requirements

6.1 Uniform requirements for each of the DET Schools, detailing those items that are compulsory and those that are optional, are detailed in Appendices 1 to 5.

6.2 Correct uniform must be worn at all times during the day (other than on specified non-uniform days), and when travelling to and from School. Uniform must also be worn whilst participating in relevant Educational Visits or, if appropriate, when representing the School at, for example, sports events. All items of uniform must be clearly marked with the pupil's name.

6.3 Pupils are required to wear uniform correctly and responsibly. DET and its Schools may discipline pupils in accordance with the School's Behaviour Policy if they are not wearing the correct uniform.

6.4 Pupils, who do not have the complete or correct uniform, must provide their Tutor/Class Teacher with a note explaining the reason why, and when the situation will be remedied.

6.5 Pupils, who continue to breach this Uniform Policy, may be asked by the HT to return home briefly, with parental consent, to remedy the breach.

6.6 DET and its Schools consider reasonable requests to alter its Schools' uniforms, for example, for transgender pupils, religious requirements and reasonable adjustments for disabled children.

Where there is any uncertainty as to whether an item may be worn, the matter must be referred to the HT, whose decision is final, subject to the procedure detailed in the DET Complaints Policy and Procedure.

7. Jewellery and Symbols of Faith

7.1 Pupils are not allowed to wear jewellery to School on health and safety grounds. The exceptions to this rule are:

- A wristwatch (at HPS, KHCPS and LPS, only pupils from Year Group 3 onwards are allowed watches);
- One small stud earring may be worn in the lower lobe of one or both pierced ears (CHS and SMS pupils only);
- Small objects of religious significance, for example, a crucifix necklace or a Sikh Kara;
- Medical identification bracelets worn by pupils, who have significant medical problems, e.g. diabetes or epilepsy.

All items of jewellery must be removed during PE, games and swimming lessons/events.

7.2 Certain items of headwear, such as a turban or hijab, may be worn by pupils when doing so is genuinely based on manifesting religious or racial beliefs or identity. Any such item of headwear must be plain with no embellishment, in colours consistent with the School uniform colours, and allow the School tie (if relevant) to be visible.

Where there is any uncertainty as to whether an item may be worn, the matter must be referred to the HT, whose decision is final, subject to the procedure detailed in the DET Complaints Policy and Procedure.

8. Hair and Make-up

8.1 Hairbands, ribbons/bows or “scrunchies” must be plain with no decoration attached and in colours consistent with the School uniform colours. Note that “scrunchies” are not permitted at HPS and LPS;

8.2 Long hair must be tied back for health and safety reasons;

8.3 Discreet make-up may be worn (by pupils at CHS and SMS only):

8.4 Nail varnish and other noticeable nail altering treatments are not permitted;

8.5 Eyebrow treatments and false lashes must not be worn;

8.6 Extreme haircuts are not permitted, as judged by the HT. Pupils should not have their hair coloured or dyed. The use of styling products should be kept to a minimum.

Where there is any uncertainty as to what is permitted under this section, the matter must be referred to the HT, whose decision is final, subject to the procedure detailed in the DET Complaints Policy and Procedure.

9. Footwear

9.1 Traditional plain black, flat, polishable school shoes must be worn by all pupils. Further detail is included in Appendices 1 to 5.

9.2 Shoes with platform soles or high heels are not to be worn in School for health and safety reasons.

9.3 Trainers and canvas shoes are not permitted in School as they are not in keeping with the smart appearance that the School uniform aims to promote.

Where there is any uncertainty as to what is permitted to be worn under this section, the matter must be referred to the HT, whose decision is final, subject to the procedure detailed in the DET Complaints Policy and Procedure.

10. The Role of Parents/Carers

10.1 All parents/carers are asked to support this Policy. Parents/carers have a duty to send their children to school correctly dressed and ready for their school day.

10.2 It is the responsibility of parents/carers to ensure that their children have the correct uniform and PE Kit and that both are kept clean and in good repair and are clearly labelled (write names inside labels rather than embroidered personalisation so that items can be passed on more easily).

- 10.3 If a parent/carer has difficulties in fulfilling the requirements of this Policy, they should speak, confidentially, to a member of the School's Senior Leadership Team (SLT). Parents/carers should be assured that DET and its Schools always do all they can to help.
- 10.4 DET and its Schools welcome children from all backgrounds and faith communities. If there are serious reasons, for example, on religious grounds, why parents/carers want their child to wear clothes that differ from the School uniform, DET and its Schools look sympathetically at such requests.
- 10.5 If any parent/carer would like DET/its Schools to consider modifying this Uniform Policy, they should, in the first instance, make representation to the HT.
- 10.6 If any parent/carer would like to request an exception to this Uniform Policy, they should, in the first instance, contact the HT.
- 10.7 If any parent/carer would like to lodge a complaint about the cost of the School uniform, they should follow the procedure detailed in the DET Complaints Policy and Procedure, which is available on the Trust and Schools' websites or from the relevant School Office/Reception in hard copy.

11. The Role of Staff

- 11.1 Staff closely monitor pupils to ensure that they are in correct uniform. They provide pupils and families breaching this Uniform Policy the opportunity to comply, but must follow-up with the Deputy Headteacher (DHT) (CHS), the HT (HPS, KHCPs and LPS) and the Director of Key Stage and DHT (SMS) if a situation does not improve.
- 11.2 Ongoing breaches of this Uniform Policy are dealt with in accordance with the School's Behaviour Policy.
- 11.3 In cases where it is suspected that financial hardship has resulted in a pupil not complying with this Uniform Policy, the Schools take a mindful and considerate approach to resolving the situation.

12. The Role of the Trust Board and Local School Committees

- 12.1 The Trust Board (TB) is responsible for ensuring that the Uniform Policy meets all requirements and regulations concerning equal opportunities.
- 12.2 The TB ensures that the Uniform Policy helps all children to dress sensibly, in clothing that is hardwearing, safe and practical.
- 12.3 The TB ensures that the DET School uniform supplier arrangements give the highest priority to cost and value for money (including the quality/durability of garments). An extensive review of all uniform supplier contracts was undertaken by the majority of DET Schools during academic year 2023/24, with the remaining School reviewed in 2025/26.
- 12.4 The LSCs support the HTs in implementing this Policy. They consider all representations from parents/carers regarding the Policy and liaise with the HTs to ensure that the Policy is implemented fairly and with sensitivity.
- 12.5 The LSCs monitor and review the Uniform Policy by:
- Seeking the views of parents/carers, to ensure that they agree with and support the Policy;
 - Considering, with the HTs, any requests from parents/carers for individual children to have special dispensation with regard to School uniform;

- Requesting the HTs to report to the LSCs on the way the Uniform Policy is implemented.

13.Links to Other Policies

This document should be read in conjunction with the following:

- School Anti-Bullying Policies;
- School Behaviour Policies;
- DET Complaints Policy and Procedure;
- DET Equality Policy and Equality Statement and Objectives.

Appendix 1 - Chase High School Uniform

Full details of CHS uniform requirements are detailed on the School website:

<https://www.chasehigh.org/parents/uniform-guide>.

Branded items of uniform can be ordered from Smarty Pants Schoolwear:

<https://www.smartypantsschoolwear.com/>

Second-hand Uniform

Second-hand uniform can be purchased through the 'Friends of Chase' Parent and Teacher Association (PTA). This can be done via its Facebook page or by email to friendsofchase@outlook.com.

Second-hand uniform can also be purchased from the library or through reception.

Appendix 2 - Hogarth Primary School

Full details of HPS uniform requirements are detailed on the School website:

<https://www.hogarthprimary.co.uk/uniform-information/>

Branded items of uniform can be ordered from Smarty Pants Schoolwear:

<https://www.smartypantsschoolwear.com/>

Second-hand Uniform

Second-hand uniform is available to buy during all Parents' Evenings and on School Open Days.

Appendix 3 - Kelvedon Hatch Community Primary School

Full details of KHCPs uniform can be found on the school website:

<https://www.kelvedonhatch.essex.sch.uk/parents/uniform/>

Branded items of uniform can be ordered from Smarty Pants Schoolwear:

<https://www.smartypantsschoolwear.com/>

Second-hand Uniform

Second-hand uniform is available from the KHCPs PTA: pta@kelvedonhatch.essex.sch.uk, a small amount is also held in the school office.

Appendix 4 - Larchwood Primary School Uniform

Full details of LPS uniform requirements are detailed on the School website:

<https://www.larchwoodprimary.co.uk/our-school/uniform/>

Branded items of uniform can be ordered from Smarty Pants Schoolwear:

<https://www.smartypantsschoolwear.com/>

Second-hand Uniform

The Larchwood Primary Parents' Association (LPPA) collects good second-hand uniform that it sells throughout the year.

Appendix 5 - St. Martin's School Uniform

Full details of SMS uniform requirements are detailed on the School website:

<https://www.st-martins.essex.sch.uk/parents/school-uniform/>.

Branded items of uniform can be ordered from Smarty Pants Schoolwear:

<https://www.smartypantsschoolwear.com/>

Second-hand Uniform

Second-hand uniform can be accessed through the School. For further information, parents and carers should contact the relevant Year Office.

The SMS website also includes links to:

- ◆ Sixth Form Dress Code.