



Inspiring All to Excellence



Violet Way Academy

Uniform Policy

Document Control

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Policy Owner	Rebecca Harris
Policy Approver	LGB (Local Governing Body) of Violet Way Academy

Version Control

Version	Date	Amended by	Comments
1			

Section	Changes Made

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 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
- 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 reasons
- Allow for adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking parents to get in touch with Miss Evans, who can answer questions about the policy and ensure any requests are passed onto the Headteacher (requests from parents should be directed to the office email address: office@violetway.org)

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 and limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost or long-lasting items
- 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
- 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

We believe it is important for children to wear school uniform because it looks smart, wears well and fosters a sense of belonging and pride.

Our school uniform consists of:

- Violet Way polo shirt
- Violet Way cardigan or jumper
- Grey skirt, grey shorts or grey trousers
- Grey dress or violet gingham summer dress
- Black school shoes (with Velcro fastening if your child is unable to tie laces)

Although there are Violet Way fleeces and coats available from our suppliers, these are not required, and children can wear a suitable coat for school with their name written inside.

Our PE uniform consists of:

- Violet Way t-shirt and shorts
- Black pumps
- All PE should be kept in a drawstring bag clearly labelled with your child's name

For Forest School:

On your child's Forest School day, they need to wear:

- Their usual school uniform polo shirt and their uniform jumper or cardigan
- Black or navy-blue long trousers, leggings, joggers or similar (not jeans)
- Children can wear trainers on Forest School days
- All children should have a pair of wellies, labelled with their name, to keep in school for Forest School

All children need a book bag (Violet Way book bags can be purchased from our suppliers).

ALL children's clothing, footwear and bags **MUST** be clearly labelled with your child's name.

Jewellery and hairstyles:

- It is expected that jewellery is NOT worn, other than small, plain stud earrings (if children have pierced ears) and a watch.
- Children should NOT wear nail varnish to school.
- Pupils with long hair are advised to have their hair tied back to prevent it getting pulled.
- Hairstyles should be plain and hair should be neat and tidy. Hair should not be dyed. Hair accessories such as slides, ribbons bobbles, etc., should be fairly simple and, if possible, in school colours. Simple headbands, bobbles and hairclips can be worn but large hair accessories, such as large, oversize bows, headbands with ears or tall parts attached or similar large hair accessories should **NOT** be worn as these can restrict the view of other children in the class.
- If a child has sensory needs that are under the pediatrician/AOT for support, please see the SENco for reasonable adjustments.

4.2 Where to purchase it

The Violet Way jumpers, cardigans, polo shirts, PE t-shirts and shorts and book bags can all be purchased from our list of suppliers (please see details below).

Other school uniform items, such as grey skirts, grey shorts, grey trousers, grey dresses and violet gingham summer dresses, black or navy-blue leggings / joggers / trousers and wellies (for Forest school) black shoes, coats, drawstring bags for PE and black pumps can all be bought more widely, e.g. from 'high-street' retailers.

Second hand uniform: Our PTA keeps some second hand uniform stock and they also have sales at events during the year where parents can purchase second hand uniform. Parents and carers can call the school office or email office@violetway.org if you would like to request second hand uniform and we can see what we have in school.

Uniform Suppliers

My Uniform

Wellington Street
Burton upon Trent
DE14 2DS

Tel: 01283 619224

website: www.myuniformltd.co.uk

WB Global Trading

20 Bells End Road
Walton on Trent
DE12 8ND

Tel: 01283 224512

website: www.wbglobaltrading.co.uk

Pupils School Wear

35 West Street
Swadlincote
DE11 9DN

Tel: 01283 224512

website: www.pupilsschoolwear.co.uk

School Trends

Barlow Park Ltd (trading as School Trends)
9 Holbrook Enterprise Park
Enterprise Way, Sheffield
S20 3GL

website: www.schooltrends.co.uk

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)

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 Miss Evans (via the school office email, office@violetway.org) 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. Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with by a member of the Senior Leadership Team. 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.

6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed every two years by Mrs Kee (Headteacher). At every review, it will be approved by the Governing Body. If there are to be any significant changes to the uniform, there would be a consultation process with parents prior to the policy review.

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

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

