

Vallis First School

Uniform Policy



Approved by the Governing Body of Vallis First School

Date: September 2024

Proposed Review Date: September 2026

This policy will be reviewed two-yearly, and following any concerns and/or updates to national/local guidance or procedures.

Introduction

Our uniform policy reflects our values and reinforces our school's culture of high expectations and academic achievement. All pupils must dress according to the uniform policy. Our school uniform is important to us. It is one way in which we identify ourselves as a school community at the heart of Frome and it promotes a strong, cohesive identity which supports high standards and expectations in all areas of school life. It promotes harmony between different groups represented in the school, and it enhances security.

Aims of wearing our school uniform

We ask parents and carers to support all decisions by school staff regarding whether or not clothing is appropriate or inappropriate for school. The school's Governing Body decide the policy for school uniform which is reviewed every 2 years and request that the policy is adhered to by all families in a consistent way. The school and Governing Body take into consideration the cost of branded items by carrying out a uniform audit when reviewing the uniform policy.

1. Uniforms unite the school and creates a sense of belonging and pride; children make a commitment that when they put on their Vallis uniform they will abide by the rules of the community.
2. Uniforms reduce distraction; wearing a uniform prevents children from coming into school in fashion clothes that could be distracting in class.
3. It is inclusive and makes children feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance and thus helps to support positive behaviour: whether families have high incomes or low incomes, the pupils come to school looking the same way.
4. It is practical, the children look smart and ready to learn.

For these reasons, we expect children at Vallis to wear the school uniform correctly at all times.

Our school uniform is:

- Dark grey skirt, pinafore, trousers or shorts
- White polo shirt (including white shirts)
- Green sweatshirt/cardigan/fleece embroidered with the school logo
- Black, low heel shoes or ankle boots
- PE – plain black shorts or black/dark green tracksuit bottoms and a white or dark green t-shirt

There will be time when other items of kit or equipment will be required such as gardening clothes, additional PE items (trousers, plimsols, trainers) and swimming kit.

Swimming trunks (not Bermuda shorts) / swimming costumes (one-piece not bikini). Swim caps and goggles can be worn.

School uniform can be purchased from Cosmic Monkey – please ask at the office for further details.

General Standards of Presentation

Watches:

Children may wear a sensible analogue watch to school (no character watches).

Children may wear watches that count steps, as well as the time.

Please note that watches that take photographs or are GPS/cellular enabled **are not permitted**.

Jewellery

On health and safety grounds we do not allow children to wear jewellery in our school.

The exceptions to this rule are: ear-ring studs in pierced ears and small objects of religious significance, such as a crucifix on a chain or Sikh

We ask the children to remove these objects during PE, games and swimming for health and safety reasons or tape stud earrings securely. The school advises parents who wish their children to have their ears pierced to do so at the beginning of the school holidays.

Footwear

The school wants all children to grow into healthy adults. We believe that it is dangerous for children to wear shoes that have platform soles or high heels, so we do not allow children to wear such shoes in our school.

Footwear should be in sound condition and the appropriate size for the child's foot, black ankle boots may be worn. Sandals may be worn in the summer but must have an ankle strap and must NOT be open toed (i.e.: no flip flop/crocs) type of footwear.

Non-compliance with the Uniform Policy

It is the responsibility of all staff to ensure that the school uniform policy is adhered to. Parents and carers of pupils that do not wear the correct uniform will be contacted and asked to bring the correct uniform into school. If this is not possible then pupils will, where possible, be provided with the correct item of uniform, they are missing for the day.

Accessibility to school uniform

We recognise the need to ensure that the uniform is affordable. We will therefore use any donated uniform to hold 'good as new sales' regularly throughout the year. We encourage parents to donate any unwanted or pre-loved uniform for this purpose. For parents experiencing financial hardship we will, wherever possible, supply new or nearly new replacements for lost items.

Vallis recognises its obligations to accommodate reasonable requirements within the official school uniform and to ensure it is not discriminatory on the grounds of disability, gender, race, religion or belief. Please be aware that what is and is not acceptable will be decided by the school in line with this policy and with due regard to the Equality Act, 2000. Please note that by sending your child to Vallis First School, you are agreeing to ensure that you and your child/children abide by guidelines outlined within this policy.

There will be occasions when the school decides that school uniform is not appropriate e.g. when taking part in a physical activity day, wearing different clothes as a part of a fund-raising event or topic or activity day. Parents and carers will be notified in advance of the revised dress code on these days.