

INSTOW COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

School Uniform Policy March 2025

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Section 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

Section 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 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 symbols
- Allow for adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents to get in touch with Mrs Lucy Mardling by telephoning 01271 860545 or via

email: admin@instowcps.co.uk , who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests

Section 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.
- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost or long-lasting items, such as school jumpers/cardigans
- Considering cheaper alternatives to school-branded items, such as logos that can be ironed on, as long as this doesn't 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

Section 4 -Expectations for school uniform

4.1 Our school's uniform

The uniform required for both boys and girls consists of:

- navy blue sweatshirt, cardigan or hoodie
- Navy blue polo shirt
- navy or grey trousers, shorts or skirt
- black shoes or trainers (no logo or flashes of colour, including white)
- navy fleece optional

In the summer, children may wear a blue/white checked dress

Instow Community Primary and Pre-School offer branded uniforms if parents wish to purchase this however there is no expectation that parents have to buy the branded items.

- Jumpers, cardigans and hoodies can be brought with the school logo on (this includes Pre-School which has a different logo; a sandcastle). Branded uniforms are not an expectation.
- For PE, children are expected to wear a white t-shirt or a white polo shirt, black or navy bottoms (leggings, tracksuit bottoms, skort), a navy hoodie and trainers
- Jewellery: Bracelets, necklaces, dangling earrings and other accessories are not permitted for reasons of health and safety. Children are permitted to wear small studs in their ears. Please note that these must be removed on PE days. Should we notice that your child is wearing an item of jewellery which is deemed unsafe, a member of staff will ask your child to remove the item and it will be placed somewhere safe for collection at the end of the day. Jewellery worn for religious reasons will be permitted upon direct agreement, in writing, from the headteacher.
- Hairstyles: we kindly ask that all long hair is tied up in a ponytail, plait or other controlled style. Headwear worn for religious purposes is permitted.

4.2 Where to purchase it

Branded items such as sweatshirts, cardigans, hoodies and polo shirts can be purchased online through School Threads.

The website can be found at: <https://schoolthreads.org>

Contact email address for enquiries: hello@schoolthreads.co.uk

- Parents and carers can also obtain the uniform without the branding from most high street retailers. However, we do ask that this is plain and does not have any branding on it.

- Parents can also buy second-hand uniforms from the PTFA directly or from one of the organised pre-loved uniform sales which take place after school. These are advertised in the school newsletter.



Section 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 the Headteacher, Mrs Lucy Mardling, telephone number: 01271 860545, 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 the 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 the 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
- Implemented fairly across the school
- Taking into account the views of parents and pupils
- Offering 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.

Governors have agreed to be part of the Uniform Intelligence Hub which will be launched by the DfE in the last half of 2025. This centralised platform will store photographs of all school uniforms nationwide to support police investigating safeguarding cases.

Section 6 -Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed every two years by the Full Governing Board.

Section 7 - Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

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

Lucy Mardling

Review date: March 2027