SELSTED CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Here at Selsted, in our unique rural setting, we provide a happy, safe, stimulating environment where children develop a love of learning. Through mutual respect and trust, children are given a voice and responsibility. We are brave, resilient, and committed to making the impossible possible through God's loving care.

SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY

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Signed: Chair of Governors	
Signed: Headteacher	

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Statement of intent

Selsted CE Primary School believes a consistent school uniform policy is vital to promote the school's ethos and provide a sense of belonging and identity for all pupils, regardless of their protected characteristics or socio-economic circumstances.

This policy sets out the measures the school has taken to ensure a consistent, fair, and inclusive uniform policy, and to implement a uniform that reflects the needs of all pupils and is affordable and the best value for money for the school and pupils' families.

We believe that pupils learn most effectively and achieve their best outcomes when they are comfortable, able to be themselves, and dressed in a way that sets an appropriate tone for education.

1. Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Education Act 2011
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Equality Act 2010
- The UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)
- Data Protection Act 2018
- Education (Guidance about Costs of School Uniforms) Act 2021

This policy has due regard to all relevant guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- DfE (2021) 'Cost of school uniforms'
- DfE (2021) 'School Admissions Code'
- DfE (2021) 'School uniforms'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Complaints Procedures Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- LGBTQ+ Policy
- Tendering and Procurement Policy

2. Roles and responsibilities

The governing board is responsible for:

- Establishing, in consultation with the headteacher and school community, a practical and smart school uniform that accurately reflects the school's vision and values.
- Ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible and inclusive, and does not disadvantage any pupil by virtue of their protected characteristics or socio-economic status.
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of parents, pupils and the wider school community regarding changes to the school's uniform.
- Ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible and affordable.
- Demonstrating how best value for money has been achieved in the uniform policy.
- Ensuring compliance with the DfE's 'Cost of school uniforms' guidance.
- Processing and approving all eligible School Uniform Assistance Application Forms.

The headteacher is responsible for:

- Enforcing the school's uniform on a day-to-day basis.
- Ensuring that teachers understand this policy and what to do if a pupil is in breach of it.
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of the school community regarding the school's uniform and making appropriate recommendations to the governing board.

- Providing pupils with an exemption letter as appropriate, e.g., for a pupil with a broken arm who requires a loose-fitting top.

Staff members are responsible for:

- • Ensuring that pupils dress in accordance with this policy at all times.
- • Ensuring that pupils understand why a consistent, practical school uniform is important, e.g., for school identity.

Parents are responsible for:

- • Providing their children with the correct school uniform as detailed in this policy.
- • Informing the headteacher if their child requires a more relaxed uniform policy for a period of time, including the reason.
- • Ensuring that their child's uniform is clean, presentable, and the correct size.

Pupils are responsible for:

- • Wearing the correct uniform at all times unless the headteacher has granted an exemption.
- • Taking care of their uniform as appropriate.
- • Understanding and respecting why a school uniform is important to the school, e.g., school identity and community. y.

3. Cost principles

The school is committed to ensuring that its school uniform is affordable and accessible to all pupils and does not impose an unreasonable financial burden on parents.

In accordance with the 'School Admissions Code', the headteacher will ensure that the school's uniform policy does not discourage parents from applying for a place for their child.

The school will regularly assess the overall cost implications of its uniform policy, including before making any changes to the school uniform. When evaluating whether costs are reasonable and proportionate, the school will take into account the opinions and situations of:

- Economically disadvantaged parents.
- Parents with multiple children who are, or will be in the future, pupils at the school.
- Parents of younger children, as they are likely to grow quickly and require new sets of uniform more frequently.
- Parents of pupils with protected characteristics that may impact their ability to access the uniform due to costs.
- LAC and PLAC.

The school will evaluate the cost of its uniform based on the overall collection of uniform items that parents would need to purchase for a pupil, rather than on the cost-effectiveness of individual items; this will include consideration of the fact that parents will need to purchase multiple copies of certain items, e.g., shirts and socks, to ensure their child can come to school in clean uniform every day.

The school keeps branded uniform items to a minimum level that is reasonable for all members of the school community. The school defines a branded uniform item as any item of clothing that cannot be purchased at a range of retailers, including by virtue of logos, colors, design, and fabrics. When the school decides to require an item of branded clothing, it will conduct an assessment to keep prices as low as possible, e.g., by offering sew- or iron-on logo badges for jumpers that can be bought at retailers instead of requiring special branded jumpers.

The school is committed to meeting the DfE's recommendations on costs and value for money. Every care is taken to ensure that our uniforms are affordable for all current and prospective pupils and that the best value for money is secured through reputable suppliers.

The school works with multiple suppliers to obtain the best value for money. Any savings negotiated are passed to parents where possible, and the school does not enter into exclusive single-supplier contracts or cash-back arrangements. More information on supplier processes can be found in the 'School uniform supplier' section of this policy.

The school will not regularly amend uniform requirements and will consider the views of parents and pupils when considering any changes to school uniforms.

4. Equality principles

The school takes its legal obligation to avoid unlawful discrimination based on any protected characteristic very seriously, and aims to ensure that the uniform policy is as inclusive as possible so that all pupils are supported in accessing a school uniform that is comfortable, suitable for their needs, and reflects who they are.

The school will work to ensure that the cost of school uniforms does not disproportionately affect any pupils by keeping uniforms for all genders as equal in price as possible and by adhering to the cost principles laid out in section 3.

The school will ensure that parents and pupils are consulted over any changes to school uniform, and that views and advice is sought specifically from pupils, and parents of pupils, who:

- Are transgender, including non-binary pupils.
- Have SEND and/or sensory needs.
- Are of a religious or cultural background that has dress requirements.

The school implements a gender-neutral uniform, meaning that pupils are not required to wear specific items based on their gender and may wear any of the uniform items listed in the 'School uniform' section of this policy, regardless of the legal sex recorded in the school's records. Transgender pupils are supported in accessing the uniform that best reflects their gender.

The school ensures that pupils who are required to follow certain dress requirements, e.g., by virtue of their membership of a particular religious or cultural group, are afforded flexibility to wear a uniform that adheres to their requirements as far as possible. The school endeavors to meet all requests for amendments to the uniform for these purposes; however, it will ensure that the needs and rights of individual pupils are weighed against any health and safety concerns for the entire school community.

Parents' concerns and requests regarding religious clothing are handled on a case-by-case basis by the headteacher and governing board, and always in accordance with the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.

The school ensures that the needs of pupils with SEND and/or sensory difficulties are considered in the uniform policy, e.g., by using soft, stretchy fabrics and avoiding intricate buttons or hard seams. However, when the needs of these pupils cannot be met by the standard uniform policy, individual uniform adaptations will be considered and permitted wherever possible.

5. Complaints and challenges

The school endeavours to resolve all uniform complaints and challenges locally and informally, in accordance with the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.

To make a complaint, parents should refer to the Complaints Procedures Policy and follow the stipulations outlined.

When the school receives a complaint, it works with parents to reach a mutually acceptable outcome.

Governors are willing to consider reasonable requests for flexibility to accommodate a pupil's particular social and cultural circumstances.

6. School uniform supplier

Our current school uniform supplier is:

Springers, 51, Canterbury Road, Hawkinge or online: www.springersonline.co.uk

The governing board will ensure that a written contract is in place with the supplier for branded items.

7. Uniform assistance

The school supports vulnerable families in meeting uniform costs. The school provides uniform assistance via a voucher worth £20, which can be spent on school clothing. The school uniform assistance scheme is funded through pupil premium funds.

To claim school uniform assistance, parents should be eligible for FSM. Eligibility is determined by checking original documents from the relevant authority that confirm receipt of the benefit and the pupil's address.

Families who meet the criteria should complete the School Uniform Assistance Application Form and return it to the school office.

The school keeps second-hand school uniforms in the school office for parents to access; access to these uniforms is available upon request to the office staff, teachers or the headteacher. The school will also hold regular second-hand uniform sales. Parents are invited to donate their child's uniform when they no longer need it.

8. Non-compliance

Staff members are permitted to remind pupils regarding this policy.

The headteacher, or a person authorised by the headteacher, will speak with the child's parent regarding the uniform if required.

9. School uniform

Clothing

The school uniform is as follows:

UNIFORM

Sweatshirts and sky-blue polo shirts are available with the school logo.

Navy blue trousers/Navy skirt or pinafore dress

KS1 = sky blue polo shirt; KS2 = sky blue shirt with a school tie or sky blue polo shirt

School sweatshirt/cardigan in navy blue Dark coloured/White socks/tights

Suitable shoes/sandals - no trainers should be worn.

SUMMER WEAR

Navy shorts with a sky-blue polo shirt. Summer dresses (sky blue and white - stripes or checks).

For P.E. lessons: ALL pupils should have a red polo shirt and navy blue shorts.

P.E. Footwear: All pupils need black slip-on plimsolls for indoor P.E. and Dance. Trainers are needed for outdoor games.

Jewellery

Permitted jewellery that may be worn is:

- One pair of stud earrings – no other piercings are permitted.
- A sensible wrist watch, no 'smart watches', if worn these should not be linked to any other devices or used as a "smart watch" during school hours.

Jewellery is the responsibility of the pupil and not the school. Lost or damaged items will not be refunded. All jewellery must be removed during practical lessons, including PE lessons and science experiments.

School bag

Reception pupils will receive a school logo book bag as part of their induction. KS1 pupils should continue to use book bags.

KS2 pupils may use an alternative bag. This should be small enough to fit onto pegs. School bags featuring inappropriate images, slogans or phrases are not permitted. The school

encourages pupils to bring non-valuable bags to school. The school will not be liable for lost or damaged school bags.

Hairstyles

The school reserves the right to make a judgement on where pupils' hairstyles or hair colours are inappropriate for the school environment; however, will ensure that any such judgements do not discriminate against any pupil by virtue of their protected characteristics. Each individual pupil's scenario will be taken into account where any judgements on appropriateness are to be made, and parents will always have the freedom to complain via the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.

Pupils with long hair (shoulder length and longer) must have it tied back. This is for health and safety reasons in addition to reducing the spread of lice. Long hair can also impinge on a child's learning by being a distraction.

The following hairstyles are not considered appropriate for school:

- Brightly-coloured, dyed hair.
- Headwear with bold patterns or colours.
- Excessive hair accessories.

Makeup

Make up is not permitted at school

10. Adverse weather

All pupils are required to wear weather-appropriate clothing for extremes in temperatures.

In winter appropriate warm, water proof coats should be provided in inclement weather.

In the summer, sandals may be worn but these must be buckled/fixed. Flip flops or slip on sandals are not permitted. Sunhats must be provided and wearing of summer uniform is encouraged including loose summer dresses and shorts.

11. Labelling

All pupils' clothing and footwear should be clearly labelled with their name.

Any lost clothing is be taken to the lost property box in the school office. All lost property is retained for one term and is disposed of if it is not collected within this time.

12. Monitoring and review

The chair of governors and the headteacher review this policy annually.

The scheduled review date for this policy is September 2027.

School Uniform Assistance Application Form

Children who attend Selsted CE Primary School are eligible for school uniform assistance if they receive FSM.

This scheme is open to children in all year groups. The allowance is for buying suitable school wear and is paid once a year.

Part 1: Details of parent

Your full name:	
Title:	
National insurance number:	
Address:	
Postcode:	
Mobile no.:	
Landline no.:	
Email address:	

By supplying us with a phone number or email, you agree to being contacted to let you know if you are eligible.

Part 2: Details of each dependent child you are applying for

Surname	Other names	Date of birth

Please read this declaration before you sign it

- I declare I am the parent of the child(ren) that I am applying for.
- I declare that all the information I have given is correct and complete to the best of my knowledge.
- I have enclosed original documentation to prove that I am in receipt of one of the benefits listed at the top of this form.
- I am aware that I have a duty to notify the school in writing immediately of any changes in my circumstances which might affect my entitlement to school clothing assistance.

- I understand that information taken from this form will be stored electronically on the school's computers. The school is permitted to do this under the UK GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018. A copy of the school's registration is held for inspection.

Please return this completed for to the school office.

Your signature: _____ Date: _____

_____

What happens next?

If you apply for school uniform assistance and qualify, the school will be in contact to arrange how the payment will be given. This is usually directly to the uniform supplier on your behalf. If you do not qualify for the payment, we will let you know by letter and phone and explain why.