

2023-2026

**DCS 2-13
UNIFORM
GUIDANCE**

Focus: DCS Schools & Settings

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AIMS

This guidance aims to:

- Set out DCS Schools & Settings' approach to requiring uniforms for children 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 at the following stages of learning:
 - **Learning Phase 1** (2 years old to 5 years old)
 - **Learning Phase 2** (Year 1 to Year 4)
 - **Learning Phase 3** (Year 5 to Year 8)

EQUALITY ACT

The Equality Act 2010 prohibits discrimination against an individual based on the protected characteristics, which include age, sex, disability, race, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity, and gender reassignment.

To avoid discrimination, our schools 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 pupils to wear head-scarves and/or other religious garments
- Allow pupils with sensory or physical needs to make reasonable adaptations to their uniform depending on their specific needs.

LIMITING COST

Our schools have a duty to make sure that the uniform 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.
- 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 frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents of any changes.

Note: All uniforms items can be purchased locally and meet the DfE requirements of reasonable cost as per legislation September 2021.

Learning Phase 1

Children attending a DCS Setting are not required to wear any form of uniform - please speak to the Setting Manager regards to the types of clothes suggested for wear during the sessions.

Children in Foundation Stage 1 are also not required to wear a uniform. However, as a number of activities are outside, it is suggested that children start to wear hats, coats and suitable footwear to meet the weather conditions.

Children in Foundation Stage 2 will wear a uniform for the first time. This matches the uniform for Learning Phase 2 (detailed below).

Children in Year groups 1, 2, 3 and 4 are required to wear the [Lower School Uniform](#) Each school has a localised uniform policy. The following is the generic expectation for all of our schools:

Day Uniform

- School polo shirt (see localised policy for colour)
- Grey shorts or grey skit.
- White socks.
- Black shoes.
- Plus additional items such as a school hat, school jumper and / or coat.

Optional Uniform

- In some locations a gingham dress in the school colours can be worn.
- DCS uniforms have a named logo. If parents purchase a piece of uniform without a logo (eg from a high street shop) the school will sell sew on badges to be added to parental sourced uniform items.

PE Uniform (which should not be worn to of from school).

- School PE shirt.
- School PE shorts which are different to the Day Uniform.
- Trainers and or plimsolls (depending on the activity).

Swimming

- Swim shorts / swimming suit and rash vest
- All in one swimming costumes.

Note: Bikini type swimwear or beach wear can not be worn.

Children in Year groups 5, 6, 7 and 8 are required to wear the [Upper School Uniform](#) Each school has a localised uniform policy. The following is the generic expectation for all of our schools:

Day Uniform

- White shirt or blouse (short sleeved shirts and blouses are appropriate for hotter climates).
- School tie.
- School jumper (where appropriate).
- Grey shorts, grey trousers or a grey skit.
- White socks.
- Black shoes

PE Uniform (which should not be worn to of from school).

- School PE shirt.
- School PE shorts which are different to the Day Uniform.
- Trainers and or plimsolls (depending on the activity).

Swimming

- Swim shorts / swimming suit and rash vest
- All in one swimming costumes.

Note: Bikini type swimwear or beach wear can not be worn.

Learning Phase 3

This is the overarching guidance for all DCS Schools and Settings. There will be some localised adaptations which can be found on the individual school or setting pages.