Micklands Primary School Uniform Policy

Publication date: 1st September 2024

Review date: 31st August 2027

Status: Non-statutory

1. Rationale

The wearing of uniform can:

- encourage identity and support for the school and instil a sense of pride.
- support positive behaviour management and discipline
- protect children when off site and make them easily identifiable to staff.
- ensure pupils of all races and backgrounds feel welcome;
- protect children from social pressures to dress or alter their appearance in a particular way;
- nurture cohesion and promote good relations between different groups of pupils.
- support effective teaching and learning.

We also believe that school uniform prevents the inevitable loss of self-esteem caused to individual children should a family not be able or willing to provide the newest, most expensive or fashionable clothing and equipment.

The Governing body at Micklands Primary school will respect variations to our school uniform if they are directly related to established religious or cultural traditions.

However, any variation will be dealt with on an individual basis and judgements will remain at the discretion of the Headteacher and the Governing Body.

Children come to school to learn. We believe that fashion items are best kept for home, and for reasons such as health, safety and inclusion fashion accessories such as make-up, nail polish, hair gel, jewellery other than stud earrings and watches, should not be worn.

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

2. Equality Impact Assessment

This policy is designed to ensure that all individuals and groups receive equal access and opportunities to develop and learn. There is no discrimination arising from disability, ethnicity or gender.

3. Monitoring and Evaluation Arrangements

This policy will be monitored and reviewed on a three-yearly basis by the Headteacher.

It is our school policy that all children wear school uniform when attending school, or when participating in a school-organised event outside normal school hours. We provide a complete list of the items needed for school uniform in our school prospectus.

Through this policy we aim to ensure that within our school we wish to promote an atmosphere which encourages effort, enjoyment and a celebration of the achievements of all our pupils. The schools concern for these high standards is also reflected in the pride we take in our school uniform and feeling of belonging it creates.

4. School Uniform List

The school has a compulsory uniform detailed below. Micklands children gain a sense of belonging to the school and look tidy and smart:

School uniform

- grey trousers/shorts
- grey skirt or pinafore dress
- white cotton shirt, white polo shirt or white blouse
- red pullover or school sweatshirt or cardigan
- white or grey socks/tights
- red/white small check gingham dress (summer)

PE uniform

This is necessary in order to ensure safety and promote hygiene:

- a red polo or T-shirt
- a pair of black traditional PE cotton shorts suitable for physical exercise
- a pair of trainers or running shoes suitable for outdoor games
- a plain coloured tracksuit and/or Micklands fleece for cold winter weather

Footwear

Children should wear a pair of flat, black smart school shoes or flat sandals in the summer term, weather permitting. No trainers (except for PE).

Jewellery

On health and safety grounds we do not allow children to wear jewellery in our school. The exceptions to this rule are one pair of small earring studs in pierced ears, and compulsory objects of religious significance.

We ask the children to either remove these objects during PE and games, or cover earrings with a plaster (provided by their parents), to prevent them from causing injury.

Children may wear watches but the school does not take responsibility for any damage to or loss of watches. Watches must be taken off for PE and given to the class teacher for safe keeping.

Bracelets (including charity bands) are not permitted.

Unbranded uniform

There is no expectation that children must wear uniform that is branded with the Micklands logo. Similarly styled unbranded uniform may offer a cheaper alternative and is fully acceptable within the parameters of the uniform policy.

5. Extreme hairstyles

The school does not permit children to have 'extreme' haircuts, e.g. Mohicans or shaved designs, or colours which could be a distraction to other children or put pressure on families to follow the latest styles.

Extreme hair fashion accessories are also discouraged including the excess use of hair gel. All children are requested to tie hair up where it is long especially during sport activities

6. Cosmetics

The school does not allow children to wear nail varnish, cosmetics or fake tattoos. Children will be reminded and asked to remove this by the next day.

Religious/Cultural observation cosmetics (for example henna patterns) are allowed only at the times of festivals.

7. 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. Neither do we allow children to wear trainers to school; this is because we think that this footwear is appropriate for sport or for leisurewear, but is not in keeping with the smart appearance of a school uniform. We require all children to wear shoes as stated in the uniform list.

8. P.E. and Games Kit

For health and safety reasons, it is essential that children are dressed appropriately for any physical activity. Appropriate footwear is essential: trainers or plimsolls should be worn, or bare feet for gymnastics only.

Uniform may vary depending on the age of the children, the type of P.E. (i.e. Games, Dance, Gymnastics, Athletics) and where the lesson takes place, for example on the school field, in the playground or in the school Hall.

The kit should be kept in school and taken home at weekends to be washed. All items of PE clothing should be identified with the child's name.

9. Swimming

Children in Year 4/5/6 who go swimming need a towel, swimming trunks or costume and brought to school in a separate waterproof bag.

The safety code for swimming is set out below:-

- No earrings to be worn in the pool
- No food or drink to be taken to the pool
- No aerosols / deodorants
- Long hair should be tied back or worn up in a cap
- No money, watches or other valuables to be taken to the pool
- Inhalers may be brought if appropriate

10. Other types of clothing

Children should wear some form of protective clothing during art/craft activities. This ideally should be long-sleeved. An old shirt tied back to front is acceptable. Each class has a collection for this purpose but your child may wish to wear their own.

Children may need to bring appropriate clothing to school for activities that are outside of the normal classroom activities. Class teachers will advise on this when necessary.

11. The role of parents

We ask all parents who send their children to our school to support the school uniform policy. We believe that parents have a duty to send their children to school correctly dressed in uniform that is clean and in good repair, ready for their daily schoolwork.

If any parent would like the school to modify the uniform policy, they should make representation, in the first instance, to the Headteacher.

The school welcomes children from all backgrounds and faith communities. If there are serious reasons, for example on religious grounds, why parents want their child to wear clothes that differ from the school uniform, the school will look sympathetically at such requests.

Similarly, should an item of school uniform prove problematic for a pupil with disabilities then parents are invited to draw this to the attention of the Headteacher.

12. The role of governors

The governing body supports the Headteacher in implementing the school uniform policy. It considers all representations from parents regarding the uniform policy and liaises with the Headteacher to ensure that the policy is implemented fairly and with sensitivity. It is the governors' responsibility to ensure that the school uniform meets all regulations concerning equal opportunities.

Governors ensure that the school uniform policy helps children to dress sensibly, in clothing that is safe and practical.

13. Procedures for the non-compliance with the Uniform Policy

There may be good reasons why a child is not wearing school uniform. In this case, parents and carers should share the reasons with the Headteacher either in person or by letter. The Headteacher will then agree a suitable alternative uniform with the parent and indicate the length of time that this will suffice.

If a child deliberately persists in not wearing the agreed uniform or alter their appearance in a particular unacceptable way, the Headteacher will inform the parents personally or by phone and share the reasons why we have a policy in place and explain the 'unfairness' of allowing a few children to not wear the uniform or arrive in school in an unacceptable way. If this continues, the Headteacher will then share the policy with the parents and carers and seek their support.

14. Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed every three years. The date of the next review is 31st August 2027.