

The Vineyard

School Uniform Policy



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1. Aims

This policy aims to:

- Explain why we have a uniform
- Set out our approach to requiring a uniform that is of reasonable cost and offers the best value for money for families 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

2. Why do we have a uniform?

At The Vineyard, our school uniform is a symbol of belonging. It reflects our shared values and promotes pride, equality, and unity across the school.

Wearing the uniform correctly helps pupils to:

- Show respect for themselves and others
- Promote equality by reducing pressures around fashion and cost
- Support a calm, focused learning environment
- Stay safe and ready for all activities
- Represent the school positively in the community

A clear, consistent uniform policy ensures fairness and supports families with simple, practical expectations.

In line with common practice across UK primary schools, our uniform helps create a strong sense of belonging and shared identity, while easing pressures around clothing choices.

At the same time, we fully recognise that children express their creativity and individuality in many valuable ways beyond what they wear. Our curriculum and school culture actively encourage pupils to celebrate their uniqueness through their ideas, actions, learning, and relationships.

3. 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. This policy has taken all of this into account when being created.

4. 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.

In response to the latest government guidance we have significantly reduced the number of branded items that are required. Please continue to use any appropriate branded uniform until it needs to be replaced. However, if you still wish to purchase branded items you may be able to do so until stock runs out.

We will make sure our uniform:

- Is available at a reasonable cost
- Provides the best value for money for families/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 ties
- Considering cheaper alternatives to school-branded items
- 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 inter school competitions, such as creating posters or labels
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for families to acquire second-hand uniform items
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on families of any changes
- Consulting with families and pupils on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy

5. Expectations for school uniform

5.1 Our school's uniform

The school uniform is as follows:

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| School Uniform |
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| Navy or grey skirts no shorter than 5cm above the knee, pinafores, tailored school trousers or shorts (not corduroy, denim, cycling shorts, leggings or cargo pants). Leggings or cycling shorts may be worn under skirts or dresses |
| The Vineyard polo shirt or a plain white polo shirt |
| Black, navy or red plain hair accessories |
| Navy or black school shoes - no trainers, sandals or boots (above ankle height) |
| Navy, white or red tights Dark grey, navy or black socks |
| School sweatshirt or cardigan/jumper with logo or plain navy jumper/cardigan |
| Light blue and white checked summer dress no shorter than 5cm above the knee |
| Waterproof coat with hood |

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| PE and Physical Activity Extra Curricular Uniform |
| Waterproof coat with hood |
| Navy sport shorts, tracksuit bottoms or leggings, no tight fitting cycling shorts. Cycling shorts can be worn under loose fitting sport shorts |
| Navy School PE shirt with logo |
| Navy School PE hoodie or plain navy blue hoodie |
| Sport trainers for outdoor PE - not above ankle height |
| Change of socks (due to wet weather) |

Hair and Nail varnish

Hair longer than shoulder length must be tied up regardless of gender (black/navy/red plain hair accessories). Hair bands should not have large flowers or other decorations attached. Children should be able to access PE without their sight restricted.

Make up and nail varnish should not be worn to school. Extreme hairstyles are not appropriate for school. The use of styling products should be kept to a minimum and children should not have decorative patterns cut into their hair or have hair coloured or dyed.

Jewellery

In the interests of your child's safety, please ensure that jewellery is not worn in school, other than for religious reasons. If a child wears jewellery for religious reasons then permission will need to be sought from the headteacher. Young children are physically active in school and accidents can result from earrings, rings, necklaces, bracelets and braids being caught or pulled. Children can wear studs in pierced ears. Children may wear wrist watches providing that they take personal responsibility for them and they can not be smart watches.

School bag

For EYFS and KS1 this should be either a Vineyard bookbag or plain navy bookbag. We are unable to accommodate rucksacks.



For KS2 this should be a small backpack.

School bags featuring inappropriate images, slogans or phrases are not permitted.

PE Recommendations

Children should have on their person a waterproof coat with a hood attached. The coat should be lightweight and have the flexibility for a range of motion. The hood should be toggled to allow it to stay upright during movement and for peripheral vision.

Sport trainers should allow the foot to move freely whilst providing plenty of stability and support.

Sports trainers should be cushioned to reduce impact and injury to developing bodies.



Plastic studded boots should be worn for physical activity on the grass field. Shin pads for all football activities.

4.2 Where to purchase it

Our current school uniform supplier is:

- [Mapac Group Ltd](#)

Non branded uniform items can be purchased via any supermarket.

The school will retender the uniform contract every **five years**, whether changes to the uniform are made or not. The governing board will be able to demonstrate how uniform is procured at the best value for money. The headteacher will work to ensure that the items are procured as cheaply as possible without compromising on the quality, e.g. by requesting standard-style items from the supplier rather than more intricate and unique designs.

4.3 Uniform assistance

The school supports vulnerable families in meeting the costs of uniforms. School uniform assistance is provided on request up to 50% of school clothing. The budget for the school uniform assistance scheme comes from pupil premium funds and also Richmond Parish_Lands Charity (for non PPG children). We encourage families to purchase second hand uniform from the PTA at a reduced rate.

To claim school uniform assistance, families should be eligible for FSM. For non FSM families, all claims will be authorised by the headteacher. Please contact our school business manager to discuss this further (sbm@vineyard.richmond.sch.uk)

The PTA holds second-hand school uniforms sales throughout the academic year. Their second hand uniform shop is currently open every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, between 2.45 and 3.15 and families can browse and buy our items at this time. They also offer special opening times for those who need it. All such requests should be emailed uniform@vineyardpta.org

Families are invited to donate their child's uniform when they no longer need it.

4.3 Labelling

All pupils' clothing and footwear must be clearly labelled with their name. Any lost clothing is to be taken to the lost property box in school. All lost property is passed on to the PTA at the end of each week where families can search for their child(re) garments. The rest of the uniform will be washed and if suitable will go on sale as second hand. All labelled lost uniforms will be returned to a child's classroom.

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 Families

Families 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 full name
- In good condition

Families are also expected to contact Frances Bracegirdle on headteacher@vineyard.richmond.sch.uk if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to:

- Their child's protected characteristics
- The cost of the uniform

Families 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 families 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 our behaviour policy.

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
- Is implemented fairly across the school
- Takes into account the views of families and pupils
- Offers 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, for example by avoiding single supplier contracts and by re-tendering contracts at least every 5 years.

6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years by The Headship Team. At every review, it will be approved by a governing body committee.

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

- Behaviour policy
- Equality information and objectives statement
- Complaints policy