



School uniform statement (September 2025)

It is recognised that schools have rigid school uniform policies and rules about appearance, as school uniform can play a key role in promoting the ethos of a school, offer a sense of belonging and identity, and can set an appropriate tone for behaviour. A school's uniform policy/statement requires a statement to support parents with the cost of branded school items. Non-statutory guidance for schools is issued under the Education (Guidance about Costs of School Uniforms) Act 2021. This Act requires schools to have regard to this guidance when developing and implementing their school's uniform policy. Schools also need to consider other relevant legal obligations, in particular duties under equalities legislation.

At The Avenue School, branded school uniform t-shirts and sweatshirts/jumpers are available to purchase and wear with dark trousers/skirts. School uniform items may be worn with similar items, eg. white polo tops, blue jumpers, etc., though we do not have a rigid adherence to this policy as we need to accommodate students with sensory processing differences or other needs. Many of our students with sensory processing differences find certain fabrics, individual items of clothing, tags, or seams uncomfortable. We recognise that school uniform can be a daily sensory battle that starts the day with stress, anxiety, and dysregulation. Individual developmental needs may also lead to preferences around items such as pull up trousers, velcro fastenings, wearing shorts or leggings, etc.

We consider each individual student's needs when developing and implementing our approach to school uniform, recognising that we have students who require a consistent routine, including the same clothing each day. For others, flexibility in uniform choices may be preferred.

When students are in school, we are flexible in our approach to students removing or wearing individual items of clothing, always dynamically risk assessing with health and safety the priority. For example, with changing weather and temperature conditions students will be supported to wear a coat or conversely take a jumper off. Concerning footwear, safety has to be the overriding concern for the individual pupil.

Priorities will always be balanced between comfort, protecting decency, safety, and health needs. Not having a rigid school uniform policy means we are upholding children's right to access education in a way that works for them.

Having an open dialogue with parents/carers about the individualised approach to school uniform at The Avenue School is crucial. If you have any concerns or questions, please don't hesitate to contact myself or the class teacher, as we recognise that needs can change over time.

We do have a range of branded school uniform items available to purchase. If you would like to purchase branded school uniform items for your child, please contact Karen at Reception.

SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY

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