

## Guidance Note for Schools

# School Uniform

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## [Guidance on School Uniform]

The DCSF has issued new guidance to schools on school uniform and related policies; the guidance is summarised below. The complete document is to be found at <http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/atoz/u/uniform/>

### 1. Why Uniform?

The DCSF strongly encourage schools to have a school uniform or dress code

- it can instil pride
- it can support positive behaviour and discipline
- it can encourage identity with, and support for, school ethos
- it can ensure pupils of all races and backgrounds
- it protects pupils from social pressure to dress in a particular way
- it nurtures cohesion
- many schools believe that it supports effective teaching and learning

### 2. Who decides?

There is NO legislation that deals specifically with School Uniform. It is the responsibility of the Governing Body to decide whether or not to have a School Uniform Policy. This stems from the duties placed on the Governing Body by statute to conduct the school and to ensure that school policies promote good behaviour and discipline among the pupil body.

The Governing Body are also responsible for demonstrating to parents how best value has been achieved and for keeping the cost of the uniform under review.

### 3. Cost of Uniform

The DCSF expects the Governing Body to give high priority to cost considerations. The guidance states that 'no school uniform should be so expensive as to leave pupils or their families feeling unable to apply to a school of their choice due to the cost of the uniform.'

The guidance recommends that the uniform should be widely available from High Street retailers and the internet.

**Section 1.3 of the Information to Parents 2010/2011** Admissions and Transfers to schools gives details of how parents may apply for clothing grants.

### 4. Non-compliance with School Uniform Policy

A Headteacher can discipline a pupil for breach of uniform/appearance policy.

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A pupil may be sent home, for younger children a parent should collect the child, to remedy a breach of the school's rules on appearance or uniform. In such cases parents must be notified and the absence recorded.

However, DCSF does not consider exclusion to be an appropriate response except where there are persistent and defiant breaches of the policy.

Schools must be sensitive to the needs of the pupil e.g. financial difficulties of parents, uniform lost, stolen or damaged.

### **5. Human Rights Act 1998**

The act protects the individuals' rights to 'manifest one's religion or belief.'

It may be possible for religious requirements to be met within a School Uniform Policy and a school should act reasonably in accommodating religious requirements.

The full guidance lists the requirements of the major religions.

### **6. Equality and discrimination issues**

Governing Bodies should ensure that it considers its obligations not to discriminate unlawfully and to promote equality when formulating its policy.

If you require any clarity on this guidance note please contact;

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