



The Colleton Primary School

Colleton Drive

Twyford

Berkshire

RG10 0AX

T (0118) 934 0530

F (0118) 934 4641

E admin@colleton.wokingham.sch.uk

www.colleton.wokingham.sch.uk

School dress code policy

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1. Aims

This policy aims to:

- Set out our approach to our dress code that is of reasonable cost and offers the best value for money for our families
- Explain how we will avoid discrimination in line with our legal duties under the Equality Act 2010
- Clarify our dress code expectations

2. 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.

To avoid discrimination, our school will:

- Avoid listing items based on gender to give all pupils the opportunity to wear the clothing they feel most comfortable in
- Allow all pupils to have long hair (though we reserve the right to ask for this to be tied back)
- Allow all pupils to style their hair in the way that is appropriate for school yet makes them feel most comfortable
- Allow pupils to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons
- Allow pupils to wear headscarves and other religious or cultural symbols
- Allow for adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents to get in touch with us who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests

3. Expectations for school clothing

3.1 Our school

Central to the ethos of our school is the individuality and independent spirit of each child. We therefore do not have a required school uniform. We have instead a dress code the object of which is to retain, as far as possible, pupil individuality whilst ensuring that clothes worn to school reflect respect for the school and community and are suitable for a school setting. Our dress code including swimwear, coats and bags, allows families to purchase clothing and items from a wide range of retailers as all items are unbranded.

Families are able to purchase t-shirts and sweatshirts with our Colleton school logo on if they wish. These are entirely optional to purchase.

The only uniform we specifically ask is for pupils taking part in school sport events to wear a red PE t-shirt with the Colleton logo on and a pair of plain black shorts.

Please refer to our website for details of our dress code. [Dress Code - Colleton Primary School](#)

3.2 Where to purchase it

Families can purchase the optional sweatshirts and t-shirts with the Colleton school logo on through [myclothing.com](#). The link to My Clothing is on our website by clicking on this link:

[Dress Code - Colleton Primary School](#)

The red PE t-shirt for school sport events is also available to purchase through My Clothing.com.

Our PSA regularly holds a second-hand sale of the Colleton branded sweatshirts and t-shirts.

4. School dress code

Our school has a duty to make sure that any uniform we 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 families' ability to 'shop around' for a low price.

We will make sure any uniform we require:

- Is available at a reasonable cost
- Provides the best value for money for families

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
- 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 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 cohorts
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- Considering alternative methods for signaling differences in groups for interschool 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 our school community

5.1 Pupils

Pupils are expected to wear items in accordance with our dress code at all times (other than specified days for instance: dress up 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

5.2 Families

Families are expected to make sure their child is dressed in accordance with the dress code and brings a PE kit, and that every item is:

- Clean
- Clearly labelled with the child's name
- In good condition

Families are also expected to contact us if they want to request an amendment to the dress code policy in relation to:

- Their child's protected characteristics
- The cost of the red PE t-shirt

Families are expected to lodge any complaints or objections relating to the dress code in a timely and reasonable manner.

Disputes about the cost of our dress code 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 monitor pupils to make sure they wear suitable clothing to school. They will give any pupils and families breaching the dress code the opportunity to comply but will follow up with the Headteacher if the situation doesn't improve.

Ongoing breaches of our dress code 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 the dress code, 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 dress code 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 triennially by the Full Governing Body.

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

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