

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Uniform



Does the school make any money from sales of school uniform?

No, all money from the sale of uniform goes directly to the supplier/manufacturer.

What does the Department for Education guidance say in relation to school uniform?

The Department for Education guidance clearly states that *'it is for the governing body of a school to decide whether there should be a school uniform policy and if so what that should be'*. The DfE recommends that value for money is considered which is why the school moved to a new supplier when adding the trousers and skirts to the compulsory list. The cost of badged trousers and skirts at the current supplier is competitive when compared to similar products purchased as part of a statutory uniform in other schools.

Are you allowed to have a single supplier for uniform?

Yes, the DfE guidance states that this is acceptable and recommends that schools regularly review that the supplier is providing value for money comparatively. Stokesley School is committed to reviewing the supplier and/or costs regularly.

Why has the school chosen a supplier in York?

School Shop trades mostly online which is the way many people prefer to shop; with free returns, students can try items on at home and return what they don't want/need. It is also worth noting that the previous supplier for Stokesley School was not locally based. School Shop also provides a sizing event in school during the summer term and we, as a school, support parents with receiving orders into school if it is more convenient for them. School Shop were also the most competitively priced for the most expensive item on the uniform list: the blazer.

What if I have difficulty affording school uniform?

Please get in touch. Any child receiving free school meals can receive automatic support with the cost of uniform and other items; we also help other families in need, just let us know your circumstances.

What if I am unhappy with the fit of the uniform?

The uniform comes in a range of sizes – boys have a choice of three fitting types (slim, regular and sturdy) and girls have two fittings in the trousers (regular and slim). Girls also have a choice of a skirt to be worn with tights. Hundreds of students already wear the uniform every day comfortably and with pride.

Why do you even have badged trousers and skirts?

Uniform means uniform; having a clearly defined item means guidance is not open to interpretation. As a result, teachers and support staff do not waste time chasing infringements and can concentrate on teaching. Furthermore, there is no pressure on young people to conform to a certain style.

Why can't I simply have my own badge sewn on a pair of trousers I have bought from the high street?

This would undermine the principles outlined above that led to the introduction of the uniform in the first place.

Can my child be disciplined for not being in the correct uniform?

Yes. DfE guidance states that

'teachers can discipline pupils for breaching the school's rules on appearance or uniform. This should be carried out in accordance with the school's published behaviour policy. A head teacher, or a person authorised by the head teacher, may ask a pupil to go home briefly to remedy a breach of the school's rules on appearance or uniform. When making this decision schools need to consider the child's age and vulnerability, the ease and time it will take, and the availability of the child's parents. This is not an exclusion but an authorised absence. However, if the pupil continues to breach uniform rules in such a way as to be sent home to avoid school, or takes longer than is strictly necessary to effect the change, the pupil's absence may be counted as an unauthorised absence. In either case the pupil's parents must be notified and the absence should be recorded. If a school is considering excluding a pupil in response to breaches of uniform policy then this must be in line with the legal requirements for exclusion.'

Clearly, Stokesley School does not wish to sanction pupils and risk them missing valuable education; therefore, we expect all parents and children to comply with our uniform policies to avoid this eventuality.

Can the school be taken to court over uniform?

The school's uniform policy and the decision-making process that informed it have been reviewed by a senior solicitor at North Yorkshire County Council and have been deemed fair and proportionate.

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