

Uniform Policy

1. Purpose

This policy aims to:

- Set out our approach to requiring a uniform that is child centred and focused on the needs of our pupils, of reasonable cost and offers the best value for money for parents 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. Our Approach

All of our pupils at TreeHouse school have an EHCP with autism as their main SEND need, as such it is entirely optional for parent/carers to purchase a school uniform for their child.

We know that some pupils (and indeed some of our parent/carers) benefit from having the routine of a uniform in place but uniform is not a requirement for any of our pupils.

We are also aware that some pupils have preferred items to wear and at times in can be a challenge for parent/carers to deviate from these items. We will always support parent/carers in relation to this.

Children can attend school in comfortable clothing matching their preferences and those of parent/carers because those with sensory sensitivity may find certain clothes itchy, heavy or tight which can lead to a sensory overload.

3. Statutory Duties

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:

- Avoids listing uniform items based on sex;
- Make sure that our uniform costs the same for all pupils;
- 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 parent/carers to get in touch with the Deputy Head, who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests.

4. Limiting the cost of school uniform

For those parent/carers who chose to purchase a school uniform, as a school, we have a duty to make sure that the uniform parent/carers can choose to buy is affordable, in line with statutory [guidance](#) from the Department for Education on the cost of school uniform.

Policy Owner	Head of School	Review Date:	June 2025
Policy No.	135b	Version No.	1.1

We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that 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 parent/carers' ability to 'shop around' for a low price. We are committed to supporting our families and as such will provide a THS jumper for all our pupils. If parent/carers require support to fund the purchase of more uniform with the THS logo on it, then we are happy to provide this.

We will make sure our uniform:

- Is available at a reasonable cost;
- Provides the best value for money for parent/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,
- 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 leveller;
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class groups;
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for curriculum activities, such as drama and dance;
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parent/carers of any changes;
- Consulting with parent/carers 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 Uniform and Cost

It is expected that our uniform shall include:

- Pupils in the primary department wear a green sweatshirt with the TreeHouse School logo on it, as their school uniform. These can be purchased from [My Clothing at Sweatshirt - Bottle Green - My Clothing Limited](#). The jumper costs £10.30 and the first one is supplied to each pupil by school.
- Secondary pupils wear a blue sweatshirt, which can be purchased here [Treehouse School \(Secondary School\) – My Clothing](#) and also costs £10.30, with the first one supplied by school.
- Sixth form pupils currently do not wear a uniform. They wear any comfortable clothes as long as they do not have offensive slogans on them or anything that may cause offence.

Policy Owner	Head of School	Review Date:	June 2025
Policy No.	135b	Version No.	1.1

- Summer uniform is available for pupils. This consists of a polo t-shirt in the Primary and Secondary colours outlined above. Pupils can also wear Summer dresses.

6. Expectations for our school community

6.1 Pupils

To support with routines and to ease the pressure on parent/carers pupils can wear the uniform to school but this is not compulsory and is dependent on the needs of our pupils.

Parent/carers can contact the Deputy Head if they wish to discuss uniform in more detail and/or want to talk about an amendment to the uniform in relation to their protected characteristics.

6.2 Parent/carers

Parent/carers are to ensure that their child wears comfortable and appropriate clothes to school and wherever possible to provide suitable clothes for the range of TreeHouse school experiences. For example:

- If your child is accessing activities such as swimming or horse-riding lessons, you will be asked to send in the appropriate items of clothing by the Sports department;
- Waterproof clothes (coats and boots etc.) for wet weather activities;
- Hot weather clothes (hats, suncream applied).

If required a set of spare clothes can be left at the school, organised with the staff. We can also wash clothes in school if this is helpful.

6.3 Staff

Staff will closely monitor the clothes that pupils wear and will talk with parent/carers in the first instance if there are any concerns. Parent/carers should also talk with staff if they need further help in relation to clothing in school, for example if they need support with the cost of clothing or even guidance in relation to pupils getting used to wearing a new item of clothing or shoes.

Staff will always prioritise the needs of our pupils in relation to uniform and the clothes that they wear and will always listen and take into account to pupils and parent/carers preferences.

6.4 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 parent/carers and pupils;
- Offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all pupils.

7. Links to other policies

Policy Owner	Head of School	Review Date:	June 2025
Policy No.	135b	Version No.	1.1

This policy should be read alongside the following TreeHouse School and Ambitious about Autism policies and procedures, which can be found [here](#).

- Behaviour Policy;
- EDI Policy;
- Anti-bullying Policy;
- Compliments and Complaints Policy.

Policy Owner	Head of School	Review Date:	June 2025
Policy No.	135b	Version No.	1.1