

**Uniform Policy**

**Review Date: March 2022**

**Next Review Date: March 2023**

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Emma Bonnin Date

Headteacher

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**Ethos Statement**

Pakeman School offers a positive, safe learning environment for its community, in which everyone has equal and individual recognition and respect. We celebrate success and are committed to the continuous improvement and fulfilment of potential in every child. We encourage increasing independence and self-discipline amongst the pupils. Everyone within the school has an important role to play in sharing responsibility for the development of this policy.

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# 1. Aims

This policy aims to:

* Set out our approach to requiring a uniform that is 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 school’s legal duties under the Equality Act 2010

The [Equality Act 2010](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/contents) 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 uniform items based on sex, to give all pupils the opportunity to wear the uniform they feel most comfortable in or that most reflects their self-identified gender
* Make sure that our uniform costs the same for all pupils
* 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 Emma Bonnin who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests

# 3. Limiting the cost of school uniform

Our school has a duty to make sure that the uniform we require is affordable, in line with statutory [guidance](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cost-of-school-uniforms/cost-of-school-uniforms) 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 parents’ ability to ‘shop around’ for a low price.

We will make sure our uniform:

* Is available at a reasonable cost
* Provides the best value for money for parents/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 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 year/class/house groups
* 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 parents/carers to acquire second-hand uniform items
* Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents/carers of any changes
* Consulting with parents/carers and pupils on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy

# 4. Expectations for school uniform

4.1 Our school’s uniform and where to purchase it

Please [**click here**](https://www.pakemanprimary.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/School-Uniform-1.pdf)for more information about the correct uniform at Pakeman.

Pakeman Primary School’s uniform supplier is School Uniform Scotland.

[**Click here**](http://www.schooluniformscotland.com/search/pakeman) to place your order with them.

The prices of school uniform items are the same for all sizes.

The Pakeman branded items are:

* Polo shirt with school logo: £8
* Sweatshirt with school logo: £10
* Fleece with school logo: £15

First class delivery costs £4.50 and second class delivery costs £3.50

Pakeman school bags are not available from the supplier’s website.

They should be purchased from the school office for £4 each.

School trousers, skirts and dresses can be generic but have to be blue, navy, grey or black.

PE kits are not school branded. A white tee shirt is required but shorts or tracksuit bottoms.

Trainers and school shoes can be worn – no heels and no wheels on shoes allowed

Please note that for safety reasons children are not permitted to wear jewellery at school. Plain stud earrings are allowed.

Second hand uniform sales happen throughout the year and will be advertised in the school newsletter and via text to parents/carers.

# 5. Expectations for our school community

5.1 Pupils

Pupils are expected to wear the correct uniform at all times (other than specified non-school uniform 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 (if required)

Pupils are also expected to contact Emma Bonnin if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics.

5.2 Parents and carers

Parents and carers are expected to make sure their child has the correct uniform and PE kit, and that every item is:

* Clean
* Clearly labelled with the child’s name
* In good condition

Parents are also expected to contact Emma Bonnin if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to:

* Their child’s protected characteristics
* The cost of the uniform

Parents/carers are expected to lodge any complaints or objections relating to the school uniform in a timely and reasonable manner.

Disputes about the cost of the school uniform will be:

* Resolved locally
* Dealt with in accordance with our school’s complaints policy

The school will work closely with parents/carers to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

5.3 Staff

Staff will closely monitor pupils to make sure they are in correct uniform. They will give any pupils and families breaching the uniform policy the opportunity to comply, but will follow up with the headteacher if the situation doesn’t improve.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with by Emma Bonnin.

In cases where it is suspected that financial hardship has resulted in a pupil not complying with this uniform policy, 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 parents/carers and pupils
* Offers a uniform 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 yearly by Emma Bonnin and the office staff. At every review, it will be approved by the Chair of Governors.

# 7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

* Behaviour policy
* Equality information and objectives statement
* Anti-bullying policy
* Complaints policy