



# School Uniform Policy

**"I am the vine; you are the branches.**

**If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit"**

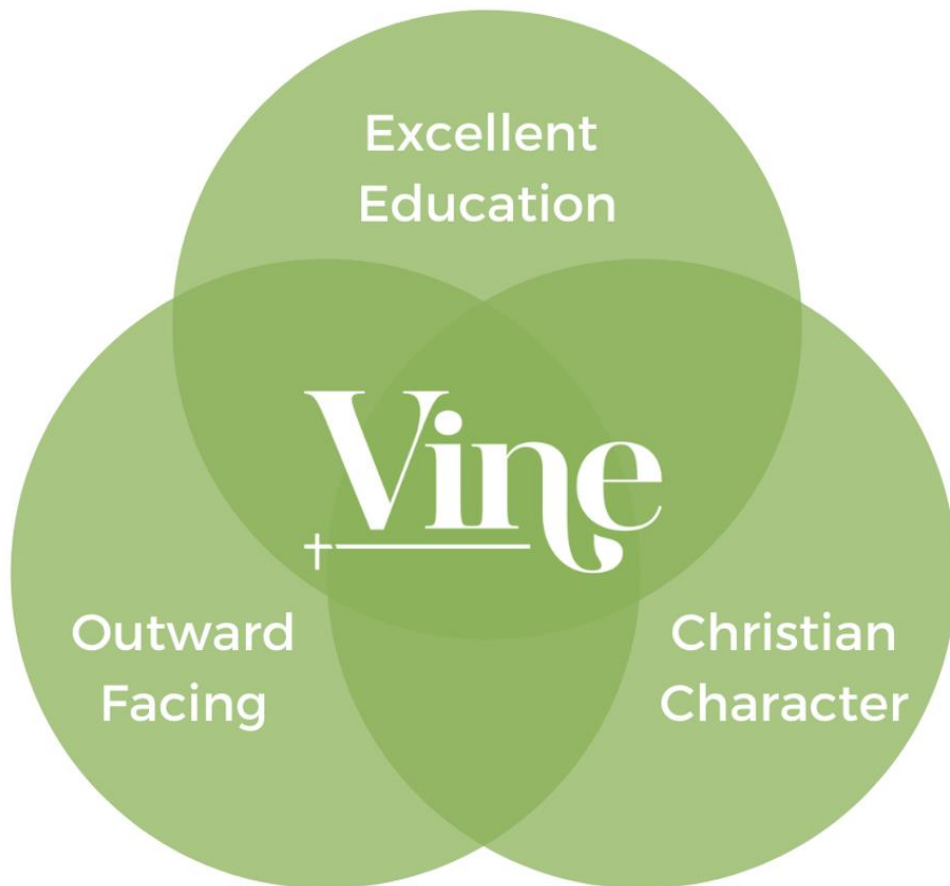
**(John 15:5)**

This is a model policy for all Vine schools that has been reviewed and adapted for schools.

Policy Reference:	
Approved by Vine Schools Trust on:	Summer 22
Adopted by this school on:	Summer 22
Next review:	Summer 2025

## Vision & Values

**V** Valuing every person  
**I** Inspiring great teaching  
**N** Nurturing academic excellence and Christian Character  
**E** Excelling, unlocking great potential



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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 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 the Head Teacher, 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 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 or long-lasting items, such as ties
- 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 to acquire second-hand uniform items
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents of any changes
- Consulting with parents 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**

This is set out in Annexe 1

### **4.2 Where to purchase it**

This is set out in Annexe 2

## **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 the Head Teacher 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 the Head Teacher 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 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 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 the Head Teacher.

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 Local Schools Board

The Local Schools 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 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 by the Vine Schools Trust Board every two years.

## **7. Links to other policies**

This policy is linked to our:

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

## Annexe 1

### School Uniform

We believe that wearing school uniform promotes a positive attitude, high standards and a sense of belonging to the school. Uniform worn smartly helps pupils to feel good about themselves, which has a knock-on effect with regard to how they function within the school. We encourage the full wearing of school uniform appropriate to the weather at all times. This is in preparation for secondary school where uniform is more enforced.

As a school we understand the financial difficulties that uniform can sometimes cause and have therefore ensured that our uniform can be purchased from a range of sources to suit all budgets. If, however, you are still facing difficulties with this, please contact the office and ask for a confidential meeting with either Mrs Kearney, Mrs Jones or Mrs Harvey. We have also preloved uniform sales regularly in school. Details will be sent out via email and advertised on posters around the school.

### School Uniform

Trousers, Skirts & Pinafore Dresses	Charcoal Grey/Black
Polo shirts, cotton shirts & blouses	White or Light Blue
School Sweatshirt/Cardigan	Royal Blue
Summer Dresses	Blue/White
Summer Shorts	Charcoal Grey/Black
Socks	Black/White/Grey
Tights	Black/Grey





Logo school uniform can be purchased from Top Form in The Stow, Harlow.

<https://www.top-form.co.uk/>

Plain uniform items can be bought from supermarkets or retailers such as Sainsbury's, Tesco, Matalan or ASDA.

### Shoes

'Sensible' shoes should be worn to school at all times. For example-plain black shoes or boots only.

This means:

- No heels
- No boots in summer
- No sandals in winter
- No 'strappy' unsafe shoes
- No fashion shoes with lots of difficult laces

(Clearly this guidance is for Health and Safety reasons)

### PE Kit

Children are required to wear their PE kit to school on their PE days- high standards of uniform must still be maintained.

School Logo T-Shirt or Plain T-shirt	White or Royal Blue
Shorts (with or without logo)	Black or Royal Blue
School Logo Tracksuit ( <i>Optional</i> )	Black bottoms, Blue top (available from Create Identitee)
Plain Tracksuit ( <i>Optional</i> )	Plain black - <b>no other logos or designs</b>

Our logo tracksuit bottoms and tracksuit top are available from Create Identitee Ltd. Their address is: 17-18 St James Centre, East Road, Harlow CM20 2SX.

You can also order online [www.createidentitee.co.uk](http://www.createidentitee.co.uk)

Plain items can be bought from supermarkets such as Sainsbury's, Tesco or ASDA. Some other shops such as Sports Direct, Matalan, Amazon and H&M also sell plain PE items.



### **General Pupil Presentation**

Hairstyles (boys and girls) should be simple and of the child's natural colour. Fashion /extreme styles/shaven heads are not acceptable. No 'tram lines' or shaved designs please.

Long hair should be tied up.

Pupils should not wear nail varnish or make up.

Pupils who have pierced ears may wear a pair of small, plain studs. Earrings and jewellery can be extremely dangerous, especially at playtime and during physical activities. The School and County Policy require that earrings be removed for PE lessons, even where studs are worn. We strongly recommend that **ears are pierced at the beginning of the summer holidays** in order for them to have time to heal and prevent children from missing out on vital parts of the curriculum at school.

If you have any questions, please contact us at [admin.williammartin@dcvst.org](mailto:admin.williammartin@dcvst.org) or 01279 424122.