



Safety ★ **Commitment** ★ **Aspirations**

Uniform Policy

Approved by: Dave Hobday
Chair of Governors

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At Mapledene, we are more than a school — we are a family. Rooted in our core values of

'Safety, Commitment, Aspirations'

We create a positive, inclusive, and ambitious learning environment where every child, staff member, and family feel safe, valued, and supported.

We believe children thrive when they feel secure, respected, and inspired. Through strong relationships and a nurturing culture, we build emotional security and mutual respect, enabling children to grow with confidence.

Our Uniform Policy reflects our commitment to safety, equality, and high aspirations, fostering a sense of belonging and pride so that every pupil feels ready to learn and succeed.

Working closely with parents, carers, and external partners, we ensure every child—regardless of background or need—has the right support to flourish. We celebrate diversity and promote kindness, teaching children to embrace differences and recognise their unique strengths. Every pupil is encouraged to contribute, helping us build a caring, inclusive community.

Our broad, creative curriculum is designed to spark curiosity, foster independence, and prepare children for life as responsible global citizens. With personalised support, enrichment opportunities, and access to the full National Curriculum, every child is empowered to achieve their academic, social, and emotional potential.

We promote a *Growth Mindset*, celebrating effort, resilience, and achievement, while encouraging children to take ownership of their learning journey. High expectations and aspiration give children the confidence, character, and skills they need to thrive—both now and in the future.

Our ethos is reflected in our motto:
BELONG, BELIEVE, BE YOU; ACHIEVE.

1. Aims

This policy aims to:

- clarify our expectations for school uniform
- create a happy, secure, safe and caring environment in which all our children flourish and feel that they belong
- ensure Mapledene continues to be an inclusive school which sets high standards for all children, including disadvantaged and supports children and their families to achieve those standards
- ensure Mapledene continues to be a school in which every child is able to be themselves and value their own unique qualities and those of others
- promote the ethos of Mapledene
- set an appropriate tone for education
- promote a sense of pride at Mapledene
- identify the children as being part of Mapledene, particularly when taking part in off-site activities
- ensure that children are not made to feel different due to their socio-economic background
- ensure that children are dressed in healthy and safe clothing suitable for their lessons
- ensure that school uniform is cost effective for parents
- explain how we will avoid discrimination in line with our legal duties under the Equality Act 2010

2. Mapledene's legal duties under the Equality Act 2010

The [Equality Act 2010](#) prohibits discrimination against an individual based on the protected characteristics, which include age, sex, disability, race, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity, and gender reassignment.

To avoid discrimination, Mapledene will:

- avoid listing uniform items based on sex, to give all children 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 children
- allow all children to have long hair (though we reserve the right to ask for this to be tied back)
- allow all children to style their hair in a way that is appropriate for school and makes them feel most comfortable
- allow children to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons or if they are experiencing discomfort related to their gender
- allow children to wear headscarves and/or other religious garments
- allow children with sensory or physical needs to make reasonable adaptations to their uniform depending on their specific needs
- allow for reasonable adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking children or their parents/carers to get in touch with a member of the Senior Leadership Team, who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis

3. Limiting the cost of school uniform

Mapledene has a duty to make sure that the uniform we require is affordable, in line with statutory [guidance](#) from the Department for Education (DfE) on the cost of school uniform.

We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that need 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/carers' ability to 'shop around' for a low price.

We will make sure our uniform:

- is available at a reasonable cost direct from school to minimise cost
- provides the best value for money for parents/carers

We will do this by:

- allowing non-school-branded items to be worn
- 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 and/or long-lasting items
- avoiding specific requirements for items children could wear on non-school days, such as coats, bags and shoes
- avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups
- avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- 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 children on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy

4. Expectations for school uniform

4.1 Mapledene's uniform

School uniform list:

- Grey/black shorts, trousers, skirts* or pinafore dress
- Blue Gingham dress (summer)
- Royal blue jumper, sweatshirt or cardigan
- White or blue polo shirt
- Black school shoes or black only trainers (no other colours are acceptable)

**For safeguarding reasons, skirts must be of an appropriate length.*

PE uniform list:

- A white or blue t-shirt
- Navy blue or black shorts or jogging bottoms
- Black pumps or trainers*

**Please only send your child with laces if they can do them up themselves.*

Allowed additions:

- Stud earrings (must be removed/taped over during PE)
- Watches (not smart watches)
- Religious head coverings

Items requiring Senior Leadership Team agreement:

- Religious jewellery

4.2 Items that are not permitted

- Jewellery (necklaces, chains, bracelets, rings and earring that are not studs)
- Nail varnish, gel nails, fake nails or make-up
- Hairstyles which represent membership of a 'gang' or banned organisations are not acceptable. Children must maintain hair in a natural colour. Hair colouring in unnatural shades such as blue, green, pink, purple, or other bright or non-natural tones is not permitted.
- Smart watches

4.3 Where to purchase uniform

- Items with the school logo can be purchased directly from the school office.
- Non-branded items can be purchased from most supermarkets or uniform outlets. In order to reduce costs for parents, there is no obligation for children to wear branded uniform.
- A limited amount of second-hand uniform can be obtained from the school office

5. Expectations for our school community

5.1 Children

Children 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)

Children are also expected to contact a member of the Senior Leadership Team 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/carers are also expected to contact a member of the Senior Leadership Team 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

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

5.3 Staff

Staff will closely monitor children to make sure they are in correct uniform. They will give any children 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 use of our Behaviour Policy and by a member of the Senior Leadership Team where appropriate.

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 children
- offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all children

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 every 3 years. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

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