

Rasharkin Primary School



Uniform Policy

Introduction

It is Rasharkin Primary School's policy that all children wear school uniform when attending school, or when participating in an event organised by school outside normal school hours.

We provide a complete list of the items needed for school uniform in our Parent's Information guide and on the school website.

Aims and Objectives

As well as being practical and smart, we believe that a sensible uniform policy will reinforce a positive learning environment as well as promote a unified school spirit and inspire a sense of pride in our school.

We believe that school uniform:

- sets an appropriate tone;
- instills pride;
- supports positive behaviour and discipline;
- encourages identity with, and support for, the school ethos;
- ensures pupils of all races and backgrounds feel welcome;
- protects children from social pressures to dress in a particular way;
- and, nurtures cohesion and promotes good relations between different groups of pupils.
- Many schools also believe that school uniform supports effective teaching and learning.

(Ref: DE Circular 2011/04)

School Uniform

Our school uniform can be purchased directly from the online supplier, School Trends, or from the school office and incorporates the Rasharkin Primary School logo. We regularly review our school uniform supplier to ensure value for money. The only item with the school logo is the school sweatshirt or cardigan, and whilst other items can be purchased from the school supplier, they are also widely available, 'off the peg', in other shops, e.g. yellow polo shirts, grey trousers, etc. This helps to ensure that the uniform cost is not excessive.

A small supply of second hand uniform items is also available in school, at no cost. If parents wish to have a look at what is available, they are welcome to contact the school office.

Our uniform is as follows:

For Boys

- Grey trousers or shorts
- Yellow polo t-shirt
- Royal blue school sweatshirt, with school crest
- Optional school coat / fleece
- Black shoes

For Girls

- Grey skirt, pinafore dress or trousers
- Yellow polo t-shirt
- Royal Blue school sweatshirt or cardigan, with school crest
- Blue and White gingham dress – summer
- Optional school fleece / coat
- Black shoes (flat soled)

For special occasions, white shirt and tie (available from school office)

PE Kit

P1/2 are not required to change for P.E., instead they should come to school on 'P.E. days' in navy tracksuit bottoms, or other item suitable for P.E., with their usual school polo shirt and jumper.

Children in P3-7 are required to change for P.E. They should bring a T-shirt and tracksuit bottoms and trainers to school on P.E. days. No football clothes should be worn. Long hair should be tied back.

We do not encourage children to wear jewellery in school on health and safety grounds. The exceptions to this rule are stud earrings in pierced ears. We ask the children to either remove these objects during PE and games, or cover them with a plaster, to prevent them from causing injury to either themselves or others.

We do not encourage children to wear trainers to school because we think that this footwear is appropriate for sport or leisure but is not in keeping with the smart appearance of our school uniform

Modifications to the School Uniform

If any parent would like the to modify the school uniform, they should make representation, in the first instance, to the principal.

Rasharkin Primary School welcomes children from all backgrounds and faith communities. If there are serious reasons, for example on religious grounds, why parents or guardians want their child to wear clothes that differ from the school uniform, the school will consider such requests.

If parents or carers are unable to comply with the School Uniform Policy for any reason, then a note should be sent to the class teacher explaining why this is the case and when it is anticipated that the child will be back in full school uniform.

Roles and Responsibilities

Parents or Guardians

We ask all parents or guardians who send their children to Rasharkin Primary School to support the School Uniform Policy.

We believe that parents or guardians have a duty to send their children to school correctly dressed and ready for their daily school attendance, in a uniform that is clean and in good repair.

Financial assistance is available through the Education Authority's Clothing Allowance Scheme for certain categories of pupils at grant-aided primary schools, towards the cost of school uniforms. The eligibility criteria are the same as those used for free school meals. We will NOT discriminate against a child or family having financial difficulties in providing school uniform.

Governors

The Board of Governors for Rasharkin Primary School will:

- support the principal in implementing the School Uniform Policy
- consider, with the principal, all representations from parents or guardians for individual children to have special dispensation with regard to wearing of the school uniform
- liaise with the principal to ensure that the School Uniform Policy is implemented fairly and with sensitivity
- ensure that the School Uniform Policy meets all regulations with regard to equal opportunities
- ensure that the School Uniform Policy helps children to dress sensibly, in clothing that is hardwearing, safe and practical
- ensure that the views of parents or guardians are sought in order to ensure that they agree with and support the School Uniform Policy
- require the principal to report to the Governing Body on the implementation of the School Uniform Policy

Non-Compliance with the School Uniform Policy

Where a pupil is not adhering to the school uniform policy, Rasharkin Primary School will make discreet enquiries as to why this is the case as there may be a number of valid reasons for it. For instance, the uniform may have been lost, or damaged.

Where financial circumstances are preventing pupils from wearing the correct uniform Rasharkin Primary School will be sensitive to the situation and allow parents sufficient time to purchase the required items. If eligible, we are happy to assist them with an application for grant under the Clothing Allowance Scheme. Pupils should not feel uncomfortable or discriminated against because their parents are unable to provide them with the required items of uniform.

Persistent and defiant non-compliance with the policy will result in an appropriate sanction in line with the school's Positive Behaviour policy and may include suspension or exclusion.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

At Rasharkin Primary School, we aim to ensure that no member of the school community experiences harassment, less favourable treatment or discrimination within the learning environment because of their age; any disability they may have; their ethnicity, colour or national origin; their gender; their religion or beliefs.

We value the diversity of individuals within our school and do not discriminate against anyone because of 'differences'. We believe that all our children matter and we value their families too. We give our children every opportunity to achieve their best by taking account of our children's range of life experiences when devising and implementing school policies and procedures.

Consultation and Policy Review

This policy was drawn up after consultation with pupils (class councils), parents (see Appendix 1) and will be regularly reviewed by the Governing Body and updated in line with Rasharkin Primary School's policy schedule.

Appendix 1

Results from survey of parents re uniform (Nov 2017)

School uniforms enhance the school's image and perception by the community

Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
80%	20%		

2. Do you think requiring children to wear a school uniform is a good idea?

Yes	No
100%	

3. Do you think the uniform children are currently required to wear at Rasharkin Primary School is an affordable expense?

Yes it's a reasonable expense	No, too expensive
93%	7%

4. Do you feel the "formal uniform" (shirt and tie for special occasions) is a realistic expectation?

Yes	No	A shirt & tie are affordable extras	It looks very smart	It is a waste of money as it is not used very often
42%	3%	19%	33%	3%

5. Are you aware that the school offers second hand items of uniform?

Yes	No
80%	20%

6. Is there anything you would like to change about our school uniform?

Yes	No
	100%