

Howe Dell Primary School



School Uniform and Equipment Policy

Agreed: Summer 2026

Next review: Summer 2028

Introduction

It is our school policy that all children wear school uniform when attending school or when participating in a school organised event outside normal school hours (as required).

Statement of Intent

Howe Dell Primary School is committed to promoting equity, inclusivity and protective characteristics to ensure that no child is discriminated against due to their religion or belief, economic circumstances or social and cultural background.

This policy contains provisions to meet these objectives and has been written with the Equality Act 2010, Health and Safety, value for money and practicality at its heart.

Our policy on school uniform is based on the notion that school uniform:

- Promotes a sense of pride in Howe Dell School
- Establishes a sense of community and belonging towards Howe Dell School
- Is practical, smart and activity-appropriate
- Promotes equality and confidence in terms of appearance
- Is designed with health & safety in mind

Equality

Howe Dell School is required to ensure that this policy does not discriminate unlawfully. Every step has been taken to ensure that the cost of similar uniform items, for example, trousers and skirts, are not disproportionate. The school endeavours to ensure that our uniform is as gender neutral and inclusive as possible. Children may wear any item of school uniform from Appendix A.

Jewellery, make up and nails

On grounds of Health & Safety we do not allow children to wear jewellery in our school. The exceptions to this rule are a wrist watch (not a smart watch), and a small object of religious significance or a medical identification chain or band.

Plain gold / silver stud earrings only.

We advise parents to remove earrings at home when there are timetabled PE activities (including extra-curricular) or swimming lessons. Staff members are **not permitted** on grounds of Health & Safety to remove or replace earrings.

Make up, nail varnish, nail wraps and nail extensions are **not** permitted.

Hair

The school does not permit children to have 'extreme' hair colours (those that would not be considered 'natural') or styles as these could serve as a distraction to themselves or other children.

Long hair (shoulder length and below) must be tied back at all times.

Hair accessories should be small hair clips, small bands, scrunches or plain headbands that are practical for school and are neutral or in school colours (navy, white and yellow only).

Footwear

At Howe Dell we believe that children's feet are very important and incorrect footwear at an early age can cause long term damage. Shoes must be flat, fully enclose the toe and heel and made of a black or navy polishable material. They may have a buckle, T-Bar, laces or velcro. Children are expected to wear either socks or tights with their shoes as not wearing such items may cause damage to their feet in the long term. No boots.

We also ask parents to provide their children with a pair of soft-soled shoes (plimsolls) to change into when they are in the school building.

For PE, children will require sports trainers (not fashion trainers) that can be fastened appropriately to avoid injury during the physical activity.

Wellington boots are advisable when the weather is inclement.

Water bottles

All children should bring a reusable, named water bottle into school every day. Children need to be able to open the bottle independently so screw lids are not recommended for children in Early Years.

Stationery Equipment

All pupils from Year 1 to Year 6 (not Early Years) need to have a small, named pencil case containing the following which needs to be replenished half termly:

- Pencils x 4 (HB are recommended)
- A set of colouring pencils
- A rubber
- A 30cm ruler
- Whiteboard dry wipe pens x2
- From Year 2, black gel or ballpoint pen (not biro)
- A glue stick

Book Bags

Children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 require a 'book bag'. This protects the books that come home from school, reduces storage space and enables staff to efficiently undertake the book changing process.

Appendix A – Howe Dell School Uniform

Howe Dell Primary School endeavours to ensure that our uniform is as cost effective and gender neutral as possible. The uniform consisting of the following items:

- Navy school sweatshirt or cardigan with logo
- White polo shirt (can be with logo) or plain white shirt
- Grey trousers, skirt, pinafore or tailored shorts of an appropriate length. *Leggings are not part of our school uniform*
- Plain black, grey, white or navy socks. Tights may be grey or navy blue. *Over the knee socks are not part of our school uniform*
- Yellow and white gingham dress / playsuit (*this is an optional item and should only be worn during the Summer term and first part of the Autumn term*)
- Warm coat (during cold weather)

PE Uniform:

- School PE Top (with logo) – available from the School Office
- Plain black / navy shorts (not cycling shorts)
- Plain navy tracksuit or jogging bottoms
- Plain navy tracksuit top or hoodie
- Trainers (Velcro or laces)

Additional PE kit, including items such as football boots, base layers etc may be required for PE / extra-curricular activities.

New uniform can be purchased from Smarty's. PE Tops are only available from the School Office. Howe Dell Parent Staff Association (PSA) have set up a system where pre-loved uniform, can be purchased online at:

www.pta-events.co.uk/howedellpsa

Other items also available via Smarty's:

- Book bags (required for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and 2)
- PE bags
- Reversible fleeces (outdoor coats)

Should children choose to wear a Hijab, they need to be plain and in school colours (navy, yellow or white)

Please ensure all items of uniform are clearly named