



SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY

Catcliffe Primary School

September 2026

Policy owner	Headteacher
Approved by	LEARNERS' Trust / Local Governing arrangements
Date approved	September 2026
Review cycle	Annual, or sooner if guidance changes
Next review	September 2027

Policy position at a glance

Catcliffe Primary School keeps branded uniform optional. Families may buy plain, generic items from any retailer. This means there are no compulsory branded items and the policy is within the legal primary-school limit of three compulsory branded items from 1 September 2026.

1. Statement of intent

Catcliffe Primary School believes that a simple, practical and inclusive uniform supports belonging, equality and a positive climate for learning. Our uniform should be comfortable for learners, straightforward for families to buy, and affordable over time.

This policy is designed to support our school values of Aspiration, Responsibility and Diversity. It aims to set clear expectations without creating unnecessary cost, barriers to attendance or disadvantage for any learner.

In this policy, “learners” means pupils attending Catcliffe Primary School and Nursery.

2. Legal framework and guidance

This policy has been reviewed with regard to current legislation and national guidance, including:

- Education Act 1996, including the limit on compulsory branded uniform items introduced by the Children’s Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026
- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Education (Guidance about Costs of School Uniforms) Act 2021
- Equality Act 2010, including the Public Sector Equality Duty
- Human Rights Act 1998
- DfE statutory guidance: Cost of school uniforms (updated July 2026)
- DfE guidance: Developing school uniform policy (updated July 2026)
- DfE guidance: Procuring school uniform supplies (updated July 2026)
- DfE guidance: Behaviour in schools and Working together to improve school attendance
- Equality and Human Rights Commission guidance: Preventing hair discrimination in schools.

This policy should be read alongside the school’s Behaviour and Relationships Policy, Equality information and objectives, SEND/Accessibility arrangements, Complaints Policy, Attendance Policy and relevant safeguarding and health and safety procedures.

3. Principles

- Affordable: the overall cost of required uniform will be kept as low as reasonably possible.
- Accessible: generic items can be purchased from a wide range of retailers and second-hand uniform is available.
- Inclusive: reasonable adjustments and individual variations will be made where needed for disability, SEND, sensory needs, religion, belief, race, culture, medical needs or other protected rights.
- Practical: clothing and footwear should allow learners to move, play and learn safely and comfortably.
- Consistent: expectations will be clear, proportionate and applied fairly.
- Attendance-supportive: uniform difficulties will be addressed through support and dialogue; lack of uniform will not become an avoidable barrier to attendance or participation.

4. Roles and responsibilities

The Trust/governing arrangements are responsible for ensuring that the policy is lawful, affordable, inclusive and reviewed appropriately, and that any supplier arrangements demonstrate value for money.

The headteacher is responsible for the day-to-day implementation of this policy, ensuring staff apply expectations consistently and sensitively, approving reasonable adjustments, and ensuring families can access support where needed.

Staff are responsible for modelling and reinforcing expectations in a calm and respectful way, checking whether there is a reason outside a learner's control before taking action, and referring affordability or inclusion concerns to an appropriate senior leader.

Parents and carers are asked to support the policy, label uniform clearly, contact school if they need help or an adjustment, and ensure learners have suitable clothing for PE and the weather.

Learners are expected to wear the agreed uniform, look after their belongings and follow reasonable safety instructions for PE, practical learning and outdoor activities.

5. Catcliffe school uniform

The school uniform is intentionally simple. Branded versions are available for families who choose them, but school-logo items are not compulsory. Generic alternatives are accepted.

Item	Status	School branding	Where to buy	Notes
Royal blue sweatshirt or cardigan	Required	Optional	Any retailer / school supplier / second-hand	Plain royal blue is acceptable.
White, royal blue or yellow polo shirt	Required	Optional	Any retailer / school supplier / second-hand	Plain polo shirts are acceptable.
Grey or black trousers, skirt or tailored shorts	Required	None	Any retailer / second-hand	Comfortable, practical and suitable for school.
Plain black shoes or plain black trainers	Required	None	Any retailer	Secure footwear suitable for daily school activity.
Blue school fleece	Optional	Optional	School supplier / second-hand	A plain suitable alternative layer may be worn outdoors.
School book bag or rucksack	Optional	Optional	Any retailer / school supplier / second-hand	Must be practical for school items; no school logo is required.

6. PE kit

PE kit should be practical, comfortable and affordable. Learners may wear:

- a plain white T-shirt (a school-logo version is optional)
- plain black shorts, skirt, leggings, jogging bottoms or tracksuit bottoms
- trainers suitable for PE
- appropriate specialist footwear, such as football boots, only where an activity requires it.

Large visible designer or professional sports-team logos should be avoided so that PE remains affordable and peer pressure is reduced. Learners who need or wish to wear a sports bra for comfort and support during physical activity may do so.

Branded-item legal limit

From 1 September 2026, primary schools may require no more than three different compulsory branded items across uniform and PE kit. Catcliffe's logo items are optional, so the school has no compulsory branded items under this policy.

7. Jewellery, accessories and personal presentation

Any rules on appearance are applied for safety, practicality and a calm learning environment, and will not be applied in a way that unlawfully discriminates.

- One pair of small stud earrings and a sensible wristwatch may be worn. Smartwatches with communication/camera functions should follow the school's rules on personal devices.
- Jewellery with religious, cultural or medical significance will be considered sensitively and individual arrangements agreed where needed.
- Jewellery must be removed, secured or made safe for PE and practical activities in line with the activity risk assessment and staff instructions.
- False nails and long nail extensions are not permitted because they can create safety and hygiene risks. Make-up is not normally appropriate for primary school. Reasonable exceptions will be made for medical, dermatological, cultural or other individual needs.

8. Hair and head coverings

Hair and head coverings must not create a genuine safety risk or prevent a learner from taking part in learning. Long hair may need to be tied back for PE, science, food preparation or other practical activities.

The school does not ban hairstyles associated with race, culture, religion or family tradition. This includes, for example, Afro-textured hair, braids, locks, twists, cornrows, plaits, natural Afro styles and culturally or religiously significant head coverings. Any concern will be considered individually and in line with the Equality Act 2010 and EHRC guidance on hair discrimination.

Where headwear is required for religion, belief, race, disability or medical reasons, the school will make reasonable and proportionate arrangements. Safety adaptations may be discussed for specific activities.

9. Equality, inclusion and reasonable adjustments

The school will consider the impact of uniform rules on learners with protected characteristics and on learners with SEND, sensory needs or medical needs. Individual adjustments will be made where necessary and reasonable.

- Learners may choose from the available uniform options without rules being based on gender stereotypes.
- Religious and cultural dress requirements will be accommodated wherever possible, subject only to proportionate health, safety or safeguarding considerations.
- Learners with sensory or physical needs may wear adapted fabrics, fastenings, footwear or alternative items where the standard uniform causes difficulty.
- Temporary adaptations will be supported after injury, illness or when another short-term need arises.
- Families are encouraged to speak to the headteacher or SENDCo if an adjustment is needed; requests will be handled respectfully and without unnecessary formality.

10. Affordability and value for money

Affordability is a core requirement of this policy. The school will consider both the cost of individual items and the total cost of a complete uniform, including the need for families to buy multiples of frequently washed items.

- Branded items are optional and generic alternatives are permitted.
- The school will avoid frequent uniform changes and unnecessary year-group variations.
- Supplier arrangements will prioritise cost, quality, durability and sustainability.
- The school will avoid restrictive single-supplier arrangements unless there is a clear, lawful and value-for-money reason.
- Any formal supplier arrangement for branded items will be reviewed regularly and procured in line with Trust requirements and current DfE guidance.
- Where practical, the school will encourage suppliers to provide flexible payment options.
- The uniform policy and information about second-hand uniform will be published clearly on the school website.

11. Suppliers and branded uniform

Families who wish to buy logo uniform may use the school's current uniform supplier(s). Current prices and available items should be checked directly with the supplier because prices can change.

Pinders Schoolwear currently provides Catcliffe logo items. Families are not required to buy logo items from Pinders or any other named supplier in order to meet the school's uniform requirements.

Important

A supplier listing a branded item does not make that item compulsory. Plain alternatives in the colours and styles set out in this policy are accepted.

12. Second-hand uniform and financial support

Good-quality second-hand uniform is available through school. Families may ask the school office for available items. Requests will be handled discreetly and support will not depend on a family providing detailed financial evidence.

Families are encouraged to donate clean, good-quality uniform that is no longer needed. Information on how to access second-hand uniform will be made clear to current and prospective families on the school website.

If cost is making it difficult for a learner to attend school, participate in PE or meet the uniform expectations, families should contact the headteacher or school office. The school will seek a practical solution, which may include second-hand items, short-term flexibility or other available support.

13. Attendance, non-compliance and support

Uniform expectations form part of the school's wider behaviour routines. They must, however, be applied proportionately and with regard to attendance, equality, SEND, family circumstances and any reasons outside the learner's control.

Before any consequence is considered, staff should establish whether the issue may be linked to affordability, access to clean clothing, sensory needs, disability, religion, culture, medical needs, family circumstances or another reasonable explanation.

Where support is needed, the school will work with the learner and family to resolve the issue. Learners should not miss learning or school activities simply because the correct uniform is temporarily unavailable.

Where a learner is persistently and deliberately not following the uniform expectations and reasonable support has been offered, the school may respond in line with the Behaviour and Relationships Policy. Any sanction will be fair, proportionate and lawful.

14. Weather and seasonal flexibility

The headteacher may relax or adapt uniform expectations in response to hot, cold or severe weather, including where weather-health alerts are issued. Learners should be able to dress safely and comfortably for the conditions.

- In hot weather, lighter layers, appropriate shorts and sun-safe clothing may be permitted.
- In cold or wet weather, coats, hats, gloves, scarves and suitable outdoor footwear may be worn for the journey and outdoor times.
- Learners who walk or cycle should be able to wear outer clothing that supports visibility and safety.
- Where outdoor footwear is unsuitable for indoor learning, learners may be asked to change into normal school footwear once inside.

15. Non-uniform days and special events

On non-uniform days, clothing should be safe, suitable for a primary school and appropriate for the planned activities. Participation in non-uniform or themed days will not depend on making a financial contribution or buying a costume.

Clothing, badges or slogans that are offensive, discriminatory, intimidating or inconsistent with the school's duty of political impartiality are not appropriate. The school may ask for an item to be removed, covered or changed where this is necessary and proportionate.

16. Labelling and lost property

All clothing, footwear, PE kit and bags should be clearly labelled with the learner's name. Named items can usually be returned much more quickly.

Lost property will be stored in the school's designated lost-property area. The school will periodically remind families to check for missing items before unclaimed items are reused, donated or recycled in accordance with school arrangements.

17. Complaints and requests for flexibility

Families are encouraged to raise concerns about uniform informally with the school in the first instance so that a practical resolution can be found. Requests linked to equality, religion, disability, SEND, sensory needs, medical needs or financial hardship will be considered individually.

If a concern cannot be resolved informally, families may use the school/Trust Complaints Policy. Complaints will be handled fairly and without disadvantage to the learner.

18. Monitoring and review

The headteacher will monitor the implementation of this policy, including affordability, attendance impact, equality and the availability of second-hand uniform. The policy will be reviewed annually, or sooner if legislation, DfE guidance, Trust policy or local circumstances change.

Any significant proposed change to the uniform will include appropriate engagement with learners and parents/carers, particularly where cost or protected characteristics may be affected.

19. Publication

The current version of this policy will be published on the school website and made available to current and prospective families. The website should also clearly explain which items are required, which are optional, where generic items can be purchased, how to access second-hand uniform and who to contact for support.

Headteacher

Jessica Singh | September 2026

Appendix A: Family quick guide

Required everyday uniform

- Royal blue sweatshirt or cardigan – plain or logo
- White, royal blue or yellow polo shirt – plain or logo
- Grey or black trousers, skirt or tailored shorts
- Plain black shoes or plain black trainers

PE kit

- Plain white T-shirt
- Plain black shorts, skirt, leggings, jogging bottoms or tracksuit bottoms
- Suitable trainers
- Specialist footwear only when required for an activity

Optional items

- Logo versions of uniform items
- Blue school fleece
- School book bag or rucksack with logo

You do not have to buy school-logo uniform.

Plain generic items that meet the colour and style requirements are acceptable. Please contact the school office if you need second-hand uniform or help with uniform costs.