



Kelmscott School

"Putting Learning First"

School Uniform Policy

September 2026



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

1.1 Rationale

At Kelmscott School, we believe that a smart school uniform promotes high standards, pride and a culture of excellence. Wearing the uniform correctly helps students adopt a positive mindset for learning, signalling that they are in "work mode" and ready to succeed.

Our uniform also fosters a strong sense of identity, belonging and community. Every student is part of the Kelmscott family, and our uniform reflects the shared values, high expectations and collective ambition that unite us.

Importantly, a school uniform promotes equality. By reducing visible differences in clothing, it helps minimise social pressures and avoids placing families under unnecessary financial strain or encouraging competition over expensive designer brands or the latest fashions. This enables students to focus on what matters most: learning, personal development and making a positive contribution to school life.

We therefore expect all students to wear the Kelmscott uniform with pride, recognising that how we present ourselves reflects both our individual standards and the reputation of our school within the wider community.

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 age, sex, disability, race, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity, and gender reassignment.

To avoid discrimination, our school will:

- Avoid listing uniform items based on sex, to give all students 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 students
- Allow all students to have long hair (though we reserve the right to ask for this to be tied back)
- Allow all students to style their hair in a way that is appropriate for school and makes them feel most comfortable
- Allow students to wear headscarves and/or other religious garments (though we reserve the right to stipulate a colour - navy)
- Engage with parents and students regarding reasonable adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality.

3. Limiting the cost of school uniform

The school has a duty to ensure that its uniform is affordable and secures the best value for money for parents and carers. The cost of uniform should not be a barrier to any student attending Kelmscott School.

The school understands that items with distinctive characteristics, including branded items, items with a school logo, or items with a unique colour, fabric, trim, design or specification, can limit parents' and carers' ability to shop around for the lowest price. The school will therefore keep the number of compulsory branded items to the statutory limit to support a clear and consistent school identity.

The school will comply with the statutory limit on **compulsory** branded items. As a secondary school, Kelmscott School will not require students to have more than four compulsory branded items of uniform and PE kit, where one of those items is a school tie.

For the purposes of this policy, a branded item includes any item that:

- displays the school name, logo or badge;
- has a distinctive colour, fabric, trim, design or style that means it can only realistically be purchased from the school's appointed supplier;
- requires a school badge, crest or logo to be added to an otherwise generic item.

The school's **compulsory** branded items are limited to:

1. School blazer with badge;
2. Branded Kelmscott Navy PE 1/4 zip top;
3. Branded Kelmscott Navy PE bottoms.

All other required uniform items will be generic wherever possible and available from a range of retailers.

Optional branded items are offered by the school or its approved supplier. However, parents and carers will not be required to purchase these, and suitable generic alternatives will be accepted where they meet the colour, style, modesty and safety requirements set out in this policy.

The school's optional branded items are:

1. Navy polo top;
2. Navy PE shorts

The school will make sure its uniform is available at a reasonable cost and provides the best value for money by:

- keeping compulsory branded items to the minimum permitted level;
- ensuring that generic alternatives are available wherever possible;
- avoiding different uniform requirements for different year groups, classes, houses or co-curricular activities, unless there is a clear and justified reason;
- avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications;
- minimising the financial impact on families where changes are necessary;
- maintaining accessible second-hand uniform arrangements;
- considering carefully any complaint or concern about the cost or accessibility of the uniform.

Where families experience difficulty meeting the cost of uniform, they are encouraged to contact the school in confidence so that appropriate support can be considered.

4. Expectations for school uniform

4.1 Our school's uniform

- School-issued ID lanyard. This will initially be provided by the school on admission and is required for safeguarding and identification purposes. Lost and damaged replacements will be at a cost.
- Navy blazer with school badge
- White formal shirt (short or long sleeve)
- School tie (different for each year group, please see details below)
- Mid-grey V neck jumper (optional)
- Mid-grey trousers or knee length A line skirt or shalwar kameez
- Navy blue hijab
- Black shoes (no trainers)
- Black socks or plain 'natural' colour or black tights
- School Bag – plain and sturdy

Hats are allowed to be worn outside, but must be navy blue or black.

Caps, hats and coat hoods must be removed when inside the school building.

Sports hoodies are not permitted anywhere on site.

Religious head coverings are acceptable, should be navy blue but should not obscure the student's face.

Outside jackets are only to be worn in winter — jackets must be either navy or black and have a full length opening at the front.

Ties 2026-2027

Each year group has a distinct colour tie. Please note that your child's tie colour remains the same throughout their educational journey at Kelmscott, so you will only need to purchase a new one if or when you feel it is necessary.

Year Group	Tie Colour
Year 7	Gold/Yellow
Year 8	Purple
Year 9	Red
Year 10	Green
Year 11	Blue

PE Kit - From 2026-2027

- branded Kelmscott PE 1/4 zip top;
- branded Kelmscott PE bottoms.

Students must also wear:

- navy polo shirt. This may be either a branded Kelmscott navy PE polo, or a plain unbranded navy sports polo. The branded navy PE polo is optional, and a suitable plain navy unbranded alternative will be accepted;
- navy PE sports shorts. This may be either branded Kelmscott navy PE shorts, or plain unbranded navy shorts suitable for sport. The branded navy PE shorts are optional, and a suitable plain navy unbranded alternative will be accepted; **Cycling or tight fitting shorts are not acceptable**
- non-marking sports trainers.
- gloves and plain hats may be worn outside in cold conditions. Baseball caps are not permitted unless specifically authorised for health, safety or weather-related reasons.

Students will not be required to purchase different PE kit for different sports. Where additional kit is needed for fixtures, competitions or specialist activities, the school will seek to loan or provide items wherever possible.

The branded navy PE polo is an optional item and does not form part of the school's compulsory branded-item requirement. Students wearing a plain navy unbranded sports polo will be treated as wearing correct PE kit, provided the item is suitable for PE and meets the requirements of this policy.

4.2 Religious Clothing

Some religions and beliefs require their members to conform to a specific dress code. The school does not discriminate against any religion or belief; however, the school weighs the needs and rights of individual students against the health and safety concerns of the entire school community.

For safeguarding reasons, students' faces must be visible at all times.

Parent/carer requests regarding religious clothing are dealt with on a case-by-case basis by the Head Teacher and Governing Board.

4.3 Hairstyles

Hairstyles should be smart and moderate in style.

Long hair should be tied up. This is to avoid health and safety risks and ensure that children's vision is not impeded.

Large, excessive hair accessories should not be worn; however, small hair clips or plain headbands are acceptable.

At the Headteacher's discretion, there may be exceptions to the above in extreme circumstances.

4.4 Make up

False nails, false eyelashes and nail extensions are not permitted.

Only clear nail varnish may be worn.

Students are not allowed to wear make-up.

Students wearing make-up are required to remove it or, if appropriate, will be sent home to remove it.

At the Headteacher's discretion, there may be exceptions to the above in extreme circumstances e.g. a student may be permitted to cover heavy scarring/skin damage.

4.5 Jewellery

Students are permitted to wear one set of small silver or gold stud earrings in school (no diamond/gemstone jewellery).

Students may also wear up to two small rings and a watch.

One nose stud is allowed, otherwise there must be no facial jewellery.

This is the only jewellery permitted. The school is entitled to confiscate any unsuitable jewellery.

4.6 Equipment

There is an expectation that all students will bring the following equipment to school every day in their school bag:

2 Blue or Black Pens	Pencil Case
1 Red Pen	Colouring Pencils
Pencil	Highlighter
30cm Ruler	Scientific Calculator
Reading Book	Rubber
Journal	Pencil Sharpener

Equipment checks are carried out in registration every morning. Ensuring all students have the correct equipment for their lessons, facilitates Disruption Free Learning (DFL) for all students across all year groups.

Lanyard must be worn and displayed at all times. This must not be damaged or defaced, and is to be used when purchasing break or lunch items on site.

4.7 Availability

The school will ensure that uniform is affordable for current and prospective students and that best value for money is secured through reputable suppliers.

Generic items of uniform are widely available and may be purchased from a range of local suppliers, supermarkets, high street stores and online retailers. Parents and carers are not required to purchase generic items from a specific supplier.

The school's compulsory branded items are:

- navy blazer with school badge;
- branded Kelmscott PE 1/4 zip top;
- branded Kelmscott PE bottoms.

These items are available from the school's approved uniform supplier or suppliers. Supplier details are listed below, and updated when required.

Where the school uses an approved supplier for branded items, arrangements will give the highest priority to cost and value for money. The school will not enter into cash-back arrangements. Any single-supplier arrangement will be supported by a written contract, regularly reviewed, and re-tendered at least every five years.

The school will expect any supplier of branded uniform to offer fair pricing, suitable stock availability, clear ordering arrangements and reasonable support for families.

The branded navy PE polo may be made available through the approved supplier as an optional item. Parents and carers **may instead** purchase a plain **unbranded** navy sports polo from any suitable retailer.

Where changes are required to the school uniform or PE kit, the school will seek to minimise the financial impact on families and will consider reasonable transition arrangements.

Branded items are only available from local uniform suppliers:

Fashion Fair

184-186 High Street

Walthamstow

E17 7JH

www.schooluniformuk.co.uk

Victoria 2 Schoolwear

246 Hoe Street

Walthamstow

E17 3AX

www.victoria2schoolwear.co.uk



4.8 Second-hand uniform and donations

The school is committed to supporting families to access second-hand uniform and PE kit wherever possible.

The school will maintain arrangements for families to access second-hand uniform items, including branded items where available. Details of how to access second-hand uniform will be published on the school website and communicated to current and prospective parents and carers.

Second-hand uniform may be available free of charge or for a small donation, depending on availability and family circumstances.

The school welcomes donations of good-quality, clean, outgrown uniform and PE kit. Donations can be made through the school office or through any published uniform collection arrangements.

The school will seek to make second-hand uniform available to prospective Year 7 families before the start of the academic year, where stock allows.

Families experiencing difficulty with uniform costs are encouraged to contact the school in confidence.

5. Expectations for our school community

5.1 Students

Students 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

Students are also expected to contact the Head of Year (in the first instance) 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 school uniform and PE kit, and that every item is:

- clean;
- fits correctly to allow a shirt top button to be fastened, and trousers to be worn around the waist
- clearly labelled with the child's name;
- in good condition;
- suitable for school and for the relevant activity.

Parents and carers are expected to contact the Head of Year in the first instance if they wish to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to:

- their child's protected characteristics;
- religious or cultural requirements;
- disability or medical need;
- the cost or availability of uniform.

Parents and carers are encouraged to contact the school at the earliest opportunity if they are experiencing difficulty meeting the cost of uniform. Such matters will be handled sensitively and in confidence.

Complaints or objections relating to the school uniform should be raised in a timely and reasonable manner. Disputes about the cost, availability or application of the school uniform policy will be resolved locally where possible and dealt with in accordance with the school's complaints policy.

5.3 Staff

Staff will monitor students to ensure that the school uniform policy is applied consistently and fairly.

Where a student is not wearing the correct uniform, staff will give the student and family a reasonable opportunity to resolve the issue. Staff will consider whether non-compliance may be linked to financial hardship, availability of uniform, medical need, disability, religion, culture or another protected characteristic.

Where incorrect uniform appears to be linked to cost or hardship, staff will take a mindful and considerate approach and refer the matter to the appropriate pastoral member of staff so that support can be considered.

Ongoing breaches of the uniform policy will be addressed in line with the school's behaviour policy.

The school will avoid any response to uniform issues that unnecessarily prevents a student from accessing learning, particularly where the issue may be linked to financial hardship or availability of uniform.

5.4 Governors

The governing board will review this policy and ensure that it:

- is appropriate for the school's context;
- is implemented fairly and consistently;
- takes into account the views of parents, carers and students;
- supports equality and avoids discrimination;
- offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical, safe and affordable;
- complies with statutory guidance on the cost of school uniform;
- keeps compulsory branded items to the minimum permitted level;
- ensures that supplier arrangements give the highest priority to cost and value for money.

The governing board will ensure that the school's compulsory branded items do not exceed the permitted limit.

The governing board will also ensure that any supplier arrangements are reviewed regularly, that cash-back arrangements are not used.

6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed at least every three years by the Senior Leadership Team and approved by the full governing body.

The policy may be reviewed sooner where:

- there are changes to legislation or statutory guidance;
- significant changes to uniform or PE kit are proposed;
- supplier arrangements are changed;
- concerns are raised about affordability, accessibility or equality;
- the governing board requests an earlier review.

The school will monitor the impact of this policy on students and families, including the affordability and availability of uniform and PE kit.

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

- Positive Behaviour for Learning policy
- Complaints policy
- Equality information
- Charging and Remissions Policy

8. Policy administration

Policy Adoption date:	01/09/2026
Signed by Chair of Governing Body: (Name & Signature)	
Electronic copies of this plan are available	School Website/ Google drive - Policies
Hard copies of this plan are available from	
Date of next review	01/06/2029