



Walter Halls School Uniform Policy

Reviewed: May 2024 Next Review: May 2026

1 Introduction

Walter Halls recognises both the pros and cons of children wearing school uniform. We know that a strict uniform policy has limited impact on achievements and academic outcomes of children in primary school and that uniform can be a barrier to some children with specific needs feeling comfortable at school. We also know that uniform can help children feel part of one community, feel more able to 'fit in' and helps establish good routines and habits for later on in life.

We aim to take a balanced approach to school uniform and the expectations we place on both children and their families for this.

2 Aims and objectives

We have three aims and objectives connected with school uniform:

- 1) Gender neutral and supportive of children's choice in their gender expression
- 2) OPAL – we are an OPAL school who believes in the power of play for accelerated learning. Our uniform needs to allow for effective learning through active play, throughout the school day
- 3) Affordability and accessibility – to help our families, our uniform should be affordable, easy to find and easy and cheap to replace

At Walter Halls Primary School, we are all CPO26 ambassadors (the 2021 United Nations Climate change conference) as we work together to look after our planet. **Parents and children are encouraged to use pre-loved uniforms through the local charity the 'School Uniform Project'. Additionally, we support the charity 'Share Wear' and can help families with a referral to both of these charities. We also have our own weekly 'Take Home Tuesday' event in school where families can pick up second-hand clothes and donate any items to help other families.**

3 Main uniform

Please look carefully at Appendix A for how our main uniform meets the needs of being an OPAL school and how it aims to help all children to feel comfortable during the school day.

Many children have sensory needs, particularly associated with Autism-Spectrum-Disorder (ASD), that may mean they find wearing certain fabrics really unbearable. We have therefore designed an inclusive uniform policy to help all of our children in the same way, by offering comfortable choices that everyone can wear no matter what needs they may have.

4 Ensuring value for money

We have branded uniform options for jumpers, cardigans and book-bags if you would like to buy these. These are not essential and are entirely optional.

The school currently works with 'Kit-Out' to provide branded school uniform, available to purchase from the school office. 'Kit Out' are also working with us to provide our new OPAL-style uniform at affordable prices. This is to allow parents to access our uniform without having to travel (currently, the closest branded uniform supplier is now based in Arnold following the closure of Schoolwear Solutions). All products are sold at cost and are reviewed with the supplier regularly to ensure that they remain competitive and in line with product pricing for other branded primary school wear. 'Kit-Out' also offer a delivery service.

Unbranded school wear is promoted by our school because it is readily available from local supermarkets in the school uniform colours e.g. Tesco, Asda and Sainsburys.

5 Jewellery, make-up & nail varnish

All jewellery should be kept to a minimum for two reasons: safety and to avoid damage/loss of a special item. We are an OPAL school and so outdoor play is a daily feature of our curriculum. Acceptable items would be small stud earrings and a simple necklace or chain that is being worn for religious reasons. We do not accept liability for any injury or damage caused when families choose to allow children to wear items different to this on any day of the week.

Makeup, nail varnish and false nails are not appropriate for primary-aged children to be wearing during school hours and we discourage this with all year groups.

6 Footwear

Footwear needs to be comfortable and suitable for outdoor play and learning. We encourage children to wear comfortable and dark-colored trainer-style shoes or simple black school shoes. Don't spend a lot of money on expensive brands – shoes worn at school **will** get wet and muddy and children shouldn't feel worried about whether they have the latest branded logo on their feet!

Wellies are a part of our school uniform for every single year group, because we are an OPAL school. All children should bring in a pair of wellies that they can store at school all-year-round.

7 The role of families

We ask all families who send their children to our school to support the school uniform policy. We believe that adults have the main responsibility of ensuring that their children come to school ready for their learning and feeling comfortable to do so.

We understand that finances can be difficult for some of our families and we invest a lot, at Walter Halls, in helping everyone who may struggle to meet the expectations of all of the uniform needed. We know that young children change and grow quickly and that this can be expensive to keep on top of. If you need help, we are here for you and our family support team will do all they can to help provide any missing items of uniform. Please ask us if you need to chat to someone about this.

8 The role of governors

The governing body supports the senior leadership team in implementing the school uniform policy. It considers all representations from families regarding the uniform policy and liaises with the headteacher to ensure that the policy is implemented fairly and with sensitivity.

It is the governors' responsibility to ensure that the school uniform meets all regulations concerning equal opportunities.

9 Monitoring and review

The governing body monitors and reviews the school uniform policy through its committee work by:

- i. seeking the views of families, to ensure that they agree with and support the policy;
- ii. considering, with the Headteacher, any requests from families for individual children to have special requirements with regard to school uniform;
- iii. the school will ensure that parents and pupils are consulted over any changes to school uniform, and that views and advice is sought specifically from pupils, and parents of pupils, who:
 - are transgender, including non-binary pupils
 - have a SEND and / or sensory needs
 - are of a religious or cultural background that had dress requirements.

Day-to-day review of compliance with the school uniform policy falls to school leaders, delegated by the headteacher. The responsibility for compliance rests with our families and not our children. School leaders will always seek to understand the barriers affecting compliance and seek to help families with adhering to expectations set out in this policy. This comes with a clear recognition of the limitations that school uniform has on a child's learning and progress at school.



Signed:

Review Date: May 2026

PLEASE LABEL ALL UNIFORM AND FOOTWEAR WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME



Walter Halls is an OPAL school. You can find out more about OPAL here: <https://outdoorplayandlearning.org.uk/parents/>

ESSENTIAL UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS:

WHAT A GREAT OPAL SCHOOL UNIFORM WOULD LOOK LIKE:

- Plain tracksuit bottoms or plain full-length leggings – blue / grey / black
- Plain tracksuit-style shorts or plain cycling shorts – blue/ grey / black (for warmer weather)
- Blue or white polo shirt
- Plain blue jumper / hoodie / cardigan (or branded Walter Halls – see below)
- Socks (with some spares in their bag!)
- Plain trainers or trainer-style shoe
- Wellies (kept in school)
- Water-proofs: jacket with hood or puddle-suit (kept in school if possible)



Other options:

- Grey trousers or skirt (with tights or socks)
- Grey pinafore dress or blue gingham summer dress (with tights or socks)
- Branded Walter Halls jumper or cardigan
- Black school shoes / slip-ons (no high-heels/wedged heels or flip-flops)
- School bag with logo



PE kit – to be worn to school on allocated PE days. We do not get children changed for PE during the school day

- Sportswear suitable for outdoor sports activity – avoid large logos / expensive brands**
- Trainers & socks

****As long as PE kit looks suitable for doing sporting activities, we are not specific about exactly what it should be. Children must be in trainers for PE. Affordable suggestions would be: plain t-shirts, plain tracksuit bottoms or sports leggings, zip-up hoodie for warmth in colder months. *If children are wearing a really great OPAL uniform, this would also work for PE, so long as proper trainers are worn that day.***