THAMESMEAD SCHOOL

UNIFORM POLICY

Person Responsible	**P. Watson**
Governors Committee	**Personal Development, Behaviour & Welfare**
Review period	**Annually**
Date of review	**Summer 2026**
Date of next review	**Summer 2027**

THAMESMEAD SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY

Thamesmead School is committed to ensuring that school uniform is affordable and represents good value for money for families.

This policy has been developed with regard to the Department for Education statutory guidance on the cost of school uniforms and seeks to minimise the number of compulsory branded items.

Where possible, generic items that can be purchased from a range of retailers are permitted. The school also supports access to pre-loved uniform to help reduce costs for families and promote sustainability.

The school will consider reasonable adjustments to this policy to support students' religious beliefs, cultural practices, disabilities, medical needs or SEND requirements, in line with the Equality Act 2010.

Thamesmead School recognises the value of having a uniform for the following reasons:

- **Safety** – If all students wear a clearly recognisable uniform it is can immediately be recognised at a distance as a member of our school. In a situation where someone who isn't a member of the school is on-site, they can be easily identified as not part of the school by their lack of uniform. This can be extended to days outside of school grounds. On day trips away, children can easily be spotted among crowds.

- **Preparations for the future** – Dressing professionally in working environments is expected in adulthood. Uniform helps students get used to dressing to a prescribed professional standard. It also helps them know the difference between formal and informal dress.

- **Value for money** – Good quality uniform is an economic way of dressing students for school. You know exactly what to buy and when to buy it, and often uniform can be used for more than one school year as there are no fashion pressures. The uniform is robust and designed for longevity. They'll last much longer than your child's other clothing, helping you save money by not having to replace them as often.

- **Relieves students from fashion 'stress'** – School uniform eliminates the stress placed on students to purchase and wear expensive, fashionable and designer items. Wearing a uniform can reduce decision making, peer pressure and stress of selection for teenagers, so they and their family can focus on a calmer start in the mornings.

- **Focus on development of character over visual identity –** What children wear can define the child rather than the content of their character. Children should be prioritising the development of their personality, having the confidence to be who they are and not be defined by material things like the clothes they wear. With the Thamesmead school uniform, your child can express themselves in more meaningful ways, which helps to develop their creativity.

- **A sense of pride** – We all feel proud of our children when they are well dressed in the uniform. Uniform and team kits also help students to demonstrate pride in Thamesmead School. Wearing uniform creates equality such as across gender and socioeconomic backgrounds. At Thamesmead our children come together from different backgrounds and can immediately identify a fellow member of their team from the clothes that they wear, breeding a sense of cohesion and commonality.

- **Helps raise aspirations** – The smarter you feel the more you believe you can achieve. Wearing a uniform signals that you are ready to work and have an affinity with learning. Once children dress in uniform, their purpose is to work hard in their lessons. A sense of professionalism develops within each child, leading to more focus in the classroom. 'Dress smart, be smart' is a mindset that a uniform helps the students raise their aspirations.

UNIFORM

The Uniform Policy operates **in school** and when students are **travelling to and from school**

Blazer *	School blazer, with school badge, purchased from the approved supplier. Only school issued badges may be worn on the blazer. Blazers should be free of any other badges.
Tie *	The appropriate clip-on House tie must be worn for school, available for purchase from the approved supplier and the school office.
Skirt *	Only the Thamesmead school skirt, purchased from the approved supplier, is permitted to be worn. The skirts must not be rolled up at the waistband at any time and should be worn just above the knee. If a student wears a skirt that is well above the knee they will be instructed to change into a longer skirt (if available), trousers, or formal school shorts from the office. *Please note that at the time of purchase the waist band must sit on the waist and the hem of the skirt must be just above the knee to allow for growth.*
Trousers	Black tailored school trousers with no decorative belts/buttons/zips. Belts should be plain black with plain, non-branded buckles or belt straps. Feminine style trousers should be tailored trousers in black, made from a substantial material (cotton or polyester for example), have a waistband into which a shirt can be tucked in fully, belt loops, a zipper or button fastening, pockets and pressed creases. Wide-leg and flared styles are acceptable if they meet these criteria. For further clarification, the following are not allowed: • Jeans or trousers with 'jean-style' features e.g. drill cotton, studs, outer seams. • Skinny fit or tight-fitting trousers. • Leggings or jeggings • Shorts or tracksuits must not be worn underneath the trousers, unless there is an agreement with the SENDCO and Head of Year.
Shirts	Plain white, with a top collar button, which must be done up. The shirt must be worn tucked in at all times.
Polo Shirts	Optional school polo shirt with house colour trim on the collar, purchased from the approved supplier*, may be worn as an alternative to the plain white shirt for the Summer Term only. No other polo shirts/shirts/t-shirts may be worn
Jumpers	Optional black V-neck jumper with school badge, purchased from approved supplier*, may be worn as an additional item in cold weather. It is not an alternative to the blazer. No other jumpers/cardigans/hoodies may be worn. If a child wears an alternative jumper/ cardigan/hoodie to school this will be confiscated.
Shorts	Optional school shorts, purchased from the approved supplier*, may be worn as an alternative to school trousers for the summer term only (after the Easter holiday until the end of the summer term). No other shorts may be worn
Socks	Plain white, grey or black socks. Knee high or ankle length. Red PE socks should only be worn for PE.
Tights	Black or flesh coloured tights only, no leggings.
Footwear	Plain, black, low-heeled shoes only – these may be slip on, buckled, lace ups or Velcro fasten. Boots of any description, canvas shoes and trainers/trainer style shoes (including skate shoes and similar styles that resemble trainers) are not to be worn. If a child does not wear school approved footwear to school, they will be asked to change into a pair of school shoes from the office.

Hair	Natural hair colours only. Long hair should be tied back/styled off the face in lessons. Any hair accessories worn, e.g. headbands, should be discrete and these should be plain black, grey or red. Headscarves, if worn, must be plain black, grey or red. Shapes, lines or symbols shaved into the head, extreme haircuts, or a haircut less than a grade 2 are not acceptable. (See definition for 'Extreme hair length' below). Hair braided with beads or cotton is not permitted. However, we acknowledge that there may be occasions when cultural celebrations or events may encourage this. Please ensure that you consult your child's Head of Year with plenty of advance notice to discuss the options for this.
Outdoor Clothing	Coats must be plain in colour. Leather jackets, denim jackets or hoodies are not permitted. Lightweight jackets must not be worn in place of a blazer. Scarves, hats and gloves are not to be worn in class or inside the school building. Coats are permitted in corridors but must be removed in classrooms
Make-Up	Light foundation of natural skin tone is allowed. If additional make-up is worn, it should be natural looking and discreet. When it is not, students will be instructed to remove this. Semi-permanent make up of any kind is not permitted, this includes but is not limited to: nail polish and false/acrylic/gel nails or tips, false eyelashes and eyelash extensions, tinted eyebrows. Nails should be kept cut short. Where student have cut gaps into their eyebrows, they will be expected to colour in the gap with a makeup pen provided by the school to hide this gap. This expectation will be in place until the hair grows back, and the gap is no longer visible.
Jewellery**	A watch and one plain stud (<5 mm in diameter) per ear lobe are allowed. No other body piercing is permitted, including ear stretchers. For safety reasons no other jewellery is permitted, including rings, necklaces, charity bands and bracelets. Failure to conform will mean confiscation of jewellery until the end of the half term. The school recognises that some students may wear jewellery or symbols for religious or cultural reasons. Reasonable adjustments will be considered in line with the Equality Act 2010 and health and safety requirements. Parents/carers should contact their child's Head of Year school where this applies.
Valuables**	Mobile phones must be turned off throughout the whole day and kept out of sight at all times. Wearable communication devices/Smart Watches, headphones, earphones, earbuds or similar must not be worn. If a student is found using or wearing any of these items in school, they will be confiscated and retained for collection from the main office in accordance with the Behaviour Policy
PE Equipment for core PE lessons	• A red and black T-shirt with school badge can be purchased from the approved supplier and is preferred, but a plain red t-shirt is acceptable. • Red and black Thamesmead sports quarter zip PE top* purchased from the approved supplier. If a child wears an alternative sweatshirt or hoodie to school this will be confiscated, and they will be given a school sweatshirt to wear. • Plain black shorts, skorts (mid-thigh or longer) and /or plain black tracksuit bottoms. Cycle / compression style shorts are not permitted. • Plain black leggings may be worn. See-through leggings, leggings with sheer panels or holes are not permitted. • Clothing for PE with large logos, emblems, stripes, patterns, sequins, diamante or similar is not permitted. • Trainers that correctly support the foot – NOT fashionable plimsolls/canvas footwear • Red socks for all sports • Football boots are essential when on the field in the autumn and spring terms • Shin pads are essential for football and hockey • A mouth guard is essential for hockey and rugby

*Approved supplier is currently A Sporting Choice, 23 Molesey Road, Hersham, Walton-on-Thames KT12 4RN

**The school does not accept responsibility for items of this kind. Confiscated items are stored securely.

- Please ensure there is no overt branding on any item of clothing.
- Whilst we cannot cover every eventuality in this brief description, we would trust that both parents and students will uphold the spirit of our uniform policy.
- The Governing Body consults with parents and students regarding changes to this uniform policy and it may be that alterations to the uniform are brought about following consultation.
- Extreme hair length refers to any haircut that is significantly outside typical expectations for school, including:
    - Hair that is excessively long so that it presents a health and safety risk in practical subjects or obstructs the face and eyes.
    - Hair that is shaved shorter than a grade 2.
    - Significant length differences within the same haircut (e.g. extreme undercuts or designs that create stark contrasts).
    - Hair that is styled to stand out in height or volume in a way that is likely to cause distraction.
    - Where student have cut gaps or lines into their hair so that skin in showing, they will be expected to colour in the gap with a makeup pen provided by the school to hide this gap. This expectation will be in place until the hair grows back, and the gap is no longer visible. It might be that if this is extreme or offensive or linked to organisations or groups outside of school, then the student will be taken out of circulation.

Pre-Loved Uniform

Thamesmead School is committed to ensuring that school uniform remains affordable for all families.

The Friends of Thamesmead (FoT) organise a termly sale of pre-loved uniform items. Families may also enquire about the availability of specific items by contacting the school via: info@thamesmead.surrey.sch.uk The school encourages the use of pre-loved uniform as a cost-effective and environmentally sustainable option for families.

Expectations for dress when students are out of uniform

In some situations, students may be allowed to wear clothing that is not uniform to school or during school activities. Such situations include non-uniform (mufti) days and school visits.

Please note that the normal hair, make-up, jewellery and mobile phone rules apply on mufti days and on school visits.

On these occasions specific instructions will be given as to what is appropriate clothing. Clothing will need to be suitable for the specific activity.

Chosen clothing should;

- remain decent and not be revealing
    - crop tops or hot pants are not permitted
- not have the potential to offend to others
- not present a health and safety risk to the student or other students
    - sliders, flip flops, open toe shoes are not permitted

If a student's clothing on these occasions is not considered appropriate for the occasion/ activity or it has not conformed with specific guidance issued then school will ask students to change into clothing provided by the school or contact parents to bring appropriate clothing in. This may include school uniform or PE kit. The student will not be permitted to participate in the activity if they do not cooperate. In cases of non-cooperation the student will be placed in internal exclusion until this can be corrected.