



"Inspiring minds to ignite lifelong learning"



Onchan Primary School
School Road, Onchan, Isle of Man IM3 4PD
email: OnchanEnquiries@Sch.im
tel: 01624 673465

School Uniform and Appearance Policy

The Department of Education Sport and Culture's Policy on School Uniform

Individual schools will have their own uniform policy, which outlines what is acceptable and what sanctions will be imposed if the school policy is not adhered to. These are usually available on the school website or prospectus.

It is the responsibility of a school leadership team and its Governing Body to decide whether there should be a school uniform policy and if so, what that should be.

This flows from the duties placed upon all Governing Bodies by section 23 of each schools' Articles of Government to ensure that school policies promote good behaviour and discipline throughout the school. It is also for the school and their Governing Body to decide how the uniform should be sourced.

The Department acknowledges that a school uniform can play a valuable role in contributing to the character and culture of a school.

A uniform can:

- *instil pride in the school, encourage pupils to identify with it and to support its ethos*
- *promote positive behaviour and discipline*
- *help to protect pupils from peer group pressure to dress in a certain fashion*
- *help to promote cohesion between groups from different backgrounds*

At Onchan School we have a school uniform which has been established for many years. Our primary colours are royal blue and white. **There is no necessity to purchase branded clothing** but Parents/ Carers can, if they wish, purchase items with the school logo on from Promenade t shirts (Isle of Man). We have kept our uniform as simple as possible to enable Parents a range of affordable options.

Girls

White polo shirt

****Black/ Grey shorts, trousers, skirt or pinafore dress**

Royal blue cardigan, sweatshirt or fleece

***Black footwear**

Blue and white check dress

Boys

White polo shirt

****Black/ Grey shorts or trousers**

Royal blue cardigan, sweatshirt or fleece

***Black footwear**

PE Kits

White t shirt

Blue/ black shorts

Trainers or pumps

Outdoor clothing eg leggings or joggers plus a sweatshirt of any colour.



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*As an all-weather and outdoor learning school we believe that footwear should be suitable for running and active wear. We complete Physical activity regularly outside of specific PE lessons including Forest School- type learning weekly. Footwear should be considered carefully to ensure the children can move safely. If Parents/ Carers choose to purchase trainer style footwear these should be, wherever possible, black and without prominent logos.

**In the interests of Inclusion and non-discrimination the items worn are a Parental choice.

Swimming kits

All children in Key Stage Two go swimming at the National Sports Centre. The children in Key Stage 2 (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6) currently take part in school swimming between September and February. They will need to have the following kit along with towel and goggles (if required).

Girls – one piece swimming costume

Boys – tight fitting shorts or trunks

If your child has long hair, they will also be required to wear a swimming hat and earrings must be removed, or a swimming ear band purchased to cover them. *Please see DESC Primary School Swimming Guidance on the school website.

The importance of cost consideration

No school uniform should be so expensive as to leave pupils or their families feeling unable to attend school due to the cost of the uniform.

We therefore give high priority to cost considerations. It is important that uniform is affordable to all and particular attention has been given to the necessity for 'school branded' items which commonly attract a higher cost than unbranded articles of clothing. Branded items are a Parental choice.

In cases of financial hardship, parents should speak to either the Headteacher or Deputy. "As new", pre-loved clothing is available in school- please speak to a member of staff to direct you to the correct sizing box.

The school run a successful Uniform Swap Shop for preloved clothing which is available all year and Parents are encouraged to use this to donate items which are in good condition or to source replacement items. We also encourage Parents to donate coats, PE bags and Book Bags to save costs and become more sustainable.

Human Rights, Equality and Discrimination considerations

Some religions and beliefs require their adherents to conform to a particular dress code, or to otherwise outwardly manifest their belief. This could include wearing or carrying specific religious artefacts, not cutting their hair, dressing modestly, or covering their head.

Pupils have the right to manifest a religion or belief, but not necessarily at all times, places or in a particular manner. This may be partly or wholly due to a consideration of Health and Safety e.g. during PE activities. Jewellery, other than that of Faith significance, should not be worn in school other than stud type earrings for reasons linked to safety during PE lessons, active learning and outdoor play. This also reduces the risk of loss and upset to the children.



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Personal appearance

Whilst we accept the rights of all children to be individuals, we also accept that children between the ages of 4 and 11 largely have decisions about hair colour and style made by their Parents/ Carers. Learning is our primary aim and ensuring that children are focussed upon learning. For this reason, we respectfully ask that brightly coloured hair and hairstyles that may divert from learning are limited to the school holidays.

Ear rings must be removed or covered for PE activities for Health and Safety reasons.

When the children attend swimming lessons, we follow the Health and Safety requirements of the NSC. Temporary coloured hair is not permitted due to water becoming contaminated.

Complaints and challenges to school uniform policy

Disputes about school uniforms should be addressed directly to the Headteacher.

DESC has a complaints procedure in place to deal with issues which arise in schools such as a complaint about school uniform. This can be found on the Gov.im website and schools' website. Paper copies can be obtained from by contacting the Department.

Individual schools **Articles of Government** can be found on the Isle of Man Government website

<https://www.gov.im/about-the-government/departments/education-sport-and-culture/>

Review Date

This document was issued in June 2021 and is updated annually to consider carefully reasonable requests to vary this policy, in particular to meet the needs of any individual pupil to accommodate their religion or belief, ethnicity, disability or other special considerations.

Updated September 2025