



**Uniform Policy**



# Avonwood Primary School

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## 1.0 Uniform Rationale

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Avonwood Primary School aim to give all children the foundations for a successful life by helping them to develop the skills and attitudes that will provide them with real life-chances. We believe our school's uniform achieves four important goals:

- High expectations and first impressions.
- It encourages a sense of community identity and pride. By wearing the same badge and the same clothing, children are encouraged to think of the needs of the community as well as their own individual needs and makes all children ambassadors for our school in the local community.
- It encourages our children to develop habits for life. By learning to look after and tie their shoes, fold clothes or hang up their clothes ready for the next day, children learn the habits and personal responsibility as a smart appearance is an increasingly important aspect of modern life.
- It prevents unkindness or bullying while keeping costs down and making it cost effective for parents in the long run. By requiring all our children to wear the same low-cost uniform, we reduce the incentive for children to ask parents for the latest (and most expensive) items of fashion. Whilst in the school, this allows children to focus on their academic performance rather than on what they are wearing.

Our school aims to prepare children for a successful life and so an emphasis on taking pride in one's own appearance is an essential part of the educational process. However, for our uniform policy to be successful, it must be implemented universally and without exception. We understand that, for some families, finances are tight. We believe that, by doing all we can to keep items of fashion out of school, we help families to keep costs down. Nevertheless, if you do have an individual problem, or you are unsure about an item of clothing, please do not hesitate to contact Chris Jackson, Headteacher who will deal with your enquiry in the strictest confidence. Furthermore, the PTA also run a uniform shop where second-hand uniform pieces can be purchased for a fraction of the price.

School Uniform is compulsory for all children as it makes children identifiable as attending Avonwood Primary School. Wearing a school uniform in the school colours and with our badge also provides a sense of belonging and pride in our school. We have been careful to make our uniform cost effective, with minimal compulsory items.



## 2.0 Uniform Expectations

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On the table below, those items listed as to be purchased from 'Stevensons' must be purchased from this specific retailer. Stevensons also offers shirts as well as other items, but it is not compulsory for parents to purchase these items through them. In an effort to make our school uniform accessible to all, the non-Stevensons items can be purchased from a wide variety of retailers.

[Avonwood Primary School, Bournemouth - Stevensons](#)

**Email:** [bournemouthbranch@stevensons.co.uk](mailto:bournemouthbranch@stevensons.co.uk)

**Telephone:** 01202 425192

Item	Where to purchase
Navy tunic, skirt, school trousers or shorts	Anywhere
School jumper or cardigan with logo	<b>Stevensons</b>
Sensible black school shoes (low heels) Velcro unless child can tie laces independently	Anywhere
Navy Blue Gingham Dress, Playsuit, Shorts or Skirt (Summer Term)	Anywhere
White polo shirt	Anywhere
Black, white, grey, navy socks/ tights	Anywhere
Branded Navy cap or Plain Navy Cap	<b>Anywhere or Stevensons</b>
<b>Bookbag (EYFS to Year 2)</b>	<b>Stevensons</b>
<b>Junior School Rucksack (Year 3 to Year 6)</b>	<b>Stevensons</b>
Smart <b><i>waterproof</i></b> coat	Anywhere
Wellington boots or waterproof footwear (EYFS Only)	Anywhere

PE Item	Where to purchase
Avonwood Logo T-shirt	<b>Stevensons</b>
Avonwood Logo Navy hoodie (for winter)	<b>Stevensons</b>
Junior School PE Shirt	<b>Stevensons</b>
Navy shorts / skirt	Anywhere
Navy jogging bottoms (for winter).	Anywhere
White or black plimsolls	Anywhere
Outdoor sports trainers – Navy, Black or White.	Anywhere

### 3.0 General Uniform Guidance

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All children are expected to appropriately wear school uniform from the moment they leave their home in the morning until they arrive home in the afternoon. Children are representing our school at all times and should be proud to be part of our community. Any child bringing our school into disrepute by not adhering to the uniform policy will receive sanctions such as losing the privilege to independently walk to or from school. It is the responsibility of the parent/carer and the child to ensure that such situations are avoided.

#### 3.1 PE Kits

Children are expected to wear their full branded PE kit to school 2 days a week and standard uniform the other 3 days. It is important to follow the uniform policy as stated ensuring the children still look smart when coming to school on PE days. Shorts must not be tight fitting in appearance (e.g. cycling or lycra style). Whilst the hoodie has a hood, it is not expected the hood is worn up when walking to and from school. As specified above, trainers should be plain in colour (navy, black or white) and inexpensive.

#### 3.2 Jewellery

On health and safety grounds we do not allow children to wear jewellery in our school. The exceptions to this rule are one pair of plain stud earrings (one in each lobe) and a small watch. **These items need removing for PE.** If the watch is smart, it must not have cellular connectivity in school and must not contain the technology to record sound, pictures or videos. Please only get piercings during school holidays when there is enough time for them to heal so they can always be removed for PE. If they do not heal in time, the piercings will need to heal and be completed again at the start of a longer school holiday.

	Suitable	Not Suitable
<b>Jewellery</b>	Maximum of two small plain gold or silver stud-like earrings (one in each earlobe)  One small wristwatch	-No rings -No diamond/pearl/ coloured gem studs -No accessories are to be worn around the neck or attached to clothing -Smart watches or any other device capable of capturing sound, photographs or videos.

### 3.3 Haircuts and General Appearance

The school does not permit children to have haircuts that could serve as a distraction to other children. Hair should be of a natural colour. Long hair must be tied back or up and ribbons, bobbles, hair bands and slides should be minimal in size, simple in style and in a neutral colour. Short hair should be no shorter than “grade 2” and should not have markings shaved into it (e.g. tram-lines). Any hair that is shoulder length or longer than a bob needs to be tied back. All hair needs to be off of the face and not covering eyes. Parents should also be aware that temporary tattoos, nail varnish or any form of make-up are not permitted.

### 3.4 Footwear

On normal uniform days, children should wear smart black leather style school shoes. These shoes should be sensible, appropriate, professional and formal leather style shoe in black. We believe that it is dangerous for children to wear shoes with platform soles, open toed sandals, or high heels in school and we do not allow this. Black boots are only acceptable in winter months, where they are both practical and necessary. Our school promotes the use of practical shoes that are well maintained, reflecting our commitment to smart appearance and pride in school identity.

	Suitable	Not Suitable
<b>Footwear</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Traditional black leather flat or low heeled school shoes</li> <li>-Laces, soles and stitching must be black</li> <li>Black shoes should be worn on the way to and from the school</li> <li>-Please see images below to clarify acceptable and unacceptable shoes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Sandals/slingbacks/backless shoes</li> <li>-Boots (unless weather permits)</li> <li>-Coloured/Fluorescent laces.</li> <li>-Canvas/fabric shoes or pumps</li> <li>-Trimmings i.e. buckles, labels, tags or decorations</li> <li>- High heels</li> </ul>

Acceptable examples:





### Unacceptable examples:



### **3.5 Extreme Weather**

Children should dress appropriately for extreme weather conditions. **In the summer**, it is vital that children wear our school branded navy protective sun hat or cap. A plain navy cap is also acceptable. Sun cream should be applied to children before they arrive at school on hot summer days. Throughout the spring and summer months, children must bring their cap and waterproof coat daily. Boots and sufficiently warm waterproof coats should be provided in extremely wet or snowy weather. Coats **must** always be waterproof and smart in appearance, no denim or faux-fur.

### **3.6 Outdoor Play (EYFS)**

As outdoor play is a vital part of the Early Years curriculum, the children in Early Years Foundation Stage should have appropriate clothes for all conditions. Although we have shelters, it is important to provide an appropriate rain coat for wet and cold days. Waterproof trousers, hats, gloves and wellington boots are items that we recommend could be provided for the children. We also expect the children to have a sensible navy unbranded track suit to wear during PE lessons or after school sport clubs in the winter.



### **3.7 Smart Phones**

Children are not permitted to bring smart phones on to the school site at any time. The only device children are permitted to bring into school is an old-fashioned mobile with the capacity for phone calls / text messages only; it must not be a smart phone. Smart watches may be worn to school but must have cellular capability de-activated when on site, they must also have no camera or sound recording features.

All phones will continue to be handed in to the class teacher at the start of the day, switched off, and returned at the end of the day. Should a smart phone come into school, we will retain the device until the parent is able to collect this from our front office.

If there are exceptional circumstances where you feel it is essential your child brings a smart phone to school, you can apply for approval from the Headteacher via a form that can be collected from our front office. Children should not bring smart phones on site without prior approval from the Headteacher, via the exceptional circumstances form found on our website.

### **4.0 An Inclusive approach to Uniform**

At Avonwood, we aim to include children from all backgrounds therefore the school will take into consideration religious and cultural customs. As part of the school uniform, bracelets are not to be worn, with the exception of religious and culturally symbolic arm wear such as rakhri bracelets and Kara bangles etc.

Some of our children may choose to wear headscarves, turbans or hijabs for religious reasons. Headscarves must be black, grey or navy blue. Pins or clips must be small, dark in colour and understated. There can be no decorations such as sequins or patterns. Material must not be too long at the front or the back so as to obscure the uniform or look untidy. At the front, headscarves material must not go below the V-neck of a jumper or equivalent. We welcome children expressing their religious views in this way.

At Avonwood, we also celebrate the use of henna and mehndi or other forms of ceremonial art form applied during weddings and other religious and cultural celebrations or rituals like Eid.

Furthermore, in our school PE Kit children who may wish to cover their legs for religious reasons may wear leggings or joggers.

We ask for parents to keep an open communication with the school to keep us abreast of any upcoming changes to appearances in school due to religious reasons.

### **4.1 Reasonable Adaptions**

Avonwood takes pride in being an inclusive community. We recognise that some children with formal SEND diagnosis may find it difficult to fully comply with the uniform policy. In these

instances, parents should contact the Headteacher to discuss reasonable adaptations to make attending school possible.

#### **4.2 Medical Exemptions**

If a student has a medical reason for the need to wear modified footwear, a medical note supplied by a doctor or medical practitioner must be provided specifying the exact type of footwear required.

#### **4.3 Financial Support**

Whilst the Avonwood school uniform has been designed with finance in mind, we still appreciate purchasing school uniform is an expense. Should any families struggle, please contact the Headteacher and he will look to help. Families in receipt of Pupil Premium Funding may be provided with vouchers to help with the purchase of some items from Stevensons. We are also proud of our second hand uniform store, found in our reception foyer.

#### **5.0 Breaches of Uniform Expectations**

Maintaining a smart and professional appearance is an important aspect of life at Avonwood. Due to the young age of children at Avonwood Primary School, in the event of any uniform breaches our first step is to discretely speak to the parent. For straightforward matters like inappropriate studs, we may confiscate the items and return them to parents at the end of the day. For more complex matters, like inappropriate footwear or hairstyles, we will speak to parents directly to agree a simple fix.

***In case of any dispute, the Headteacher's decision is final.***