

Oldswinford Church of England Primary School



Uniform Policy

Approved by the Governing Body: October 2025

Review: October 2028

SECTION ONE

Context

Oldswinford Church of England Primary School (OCEPS) is a voluntary controlled primary school within the diocese of Worcester. We are a much larger than average primary school averaging 420 pupils on roll. Children from Reception to Year 6 are taught in two classes in each year group. OCEPS is a popular school which is consistently over-subscribed.

Vision, Values & Ethos

We fully embrace our distinctive church school ethos and wholeheartedly promote the whole child and the fullness of life, as set out in our ethos, vision and values:

‘Believe, achieve and shine brighter together’

God is Love and at Oldswinford Church of England Primary School we believe that this love inspires us all to believe, achieve and shine brighter together.

We believe that there is a light which shines within each of us – a light of love that has been given to us by God, which we should use to help us achieve great things. We believe it is our job to help that light to shine in all that we do and all that we try to do.

The theology that underpins our vision is interlinked as we know we cannot achieve one without the other. With this guidance and belief in ourselves and God, we can and will achieve. At Oldswinford, we know we are not alone and by enabling our own lights to shine we empower others to do the same.

Believe

‘Everything is possible for one who believes’ Mark 9:23

As a Church of England school we offer all children an invitation into the Christian faith, a chance for them to develop spiritually as well as intellectually, socially and morally. We want everyone at Oldswinford to believe in their own abilities, the abilities of others and to persevere when things are tough. We encourage them to aim high and follow their dreams. We want them to have the confidence to stand up to injustices, be respectful and to make wise choices.

Achieve

‘Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart’ Colossians 3:23

We have high aspirations for all our learners and believe that every child should have the chance to reach their potential. We recognise that achievements come in many guises and we are passionate about celebrating each child’s individual talents. We want to ensure our children are resilient and prepared for the next steps in their learning journey and that they become well-rounded and respectful citizens who have all the skills and values they need to flourish and be happy.

Shine brighter together

‘Let your light shine for others, so they may see your good works’ Matthew 5:16

We believe that we all belong to one inclusive family and each of us has an important part to play. We understand the need for our children to be courageous advocates especially when caring about our world and the communities around us. As individuals we are diverse, unique and special but together, with God, we can be exceptional.

Our vision and 7 key Christian values of love, respect, trust, courage, forgiveness, generosity and joy enable us to ‘believe, achieve and shine brighter together’.

Introduction and Rationale

We firmly believe that encouraging an active lifestyle and promoting play is vitally important. By putting in place our new uniform policy from September 2025, we aim to unify our community, ensure children are comfortable, and support spontaneous physical activity for all.

Aims:

Promote Active Lifestyles

Ensure children are dressed in clothing that allows them to move freely, play spontaneously, and participate in physical activity at any time of day.

Prioritise Comfort and Inclusivity

Offer flexible, sensory-friendly options that meet the needs of all children, including those with additional needs or preferences.

Foster a Sense of Belonging

Help children feel part of the OCEPS community by providing a uniform that is smart, simple, and accessible.

Support Equality and Affordability

Keep our uniform low-cost and logo-optional, with support and pre-loved items available for families who need them.

Encourage Independence and Responsibility

Promote self-care skills such as dressing independently and taking care of personal belongings.

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion:

We believe:

- that the broad principles in this policy should be applied equally to all pupils, regardless of ability, gender, race or culture, including those with special educational needs;
- In allowing clothing options that suit all body types and cultural needs, with flexibility where needed.
- In respecting religious dress requirements or modesty considerations (e.g. long sleeves, head coverings).
- In making reasonable adjustments for medical, physical, sensory or neurodiverse needs.
- In avoiding gendered uniform expectations — all items are available to all pupils.
- In promoting inclusion by removing barriers that may cause children to feel different or excluded

Roles and Responsibilities:

School Staff

- Set a consistent example by upholding the uniform policy fairly and kindly.
- Work with children and families to support adherence with sensitivity and flexibility.
- Monitor uniform as part of daily routines and discreetly address any issues.

- Make reasonable adjustments where needed, e.g. for sensory or religious needs.
- Signpost families to support (e.g. pre-loved uniform, financial help).

Parents and Carers

- Ensure children come to school in uniform that complies with this policy.
- Label all items clearly to support easy return of lost belongings.
- Let school know if there are challenges in meeting the policy (e.g. financial, sensory, cultural).
- Support their child to dress independently (e.g. shoes, fastenings).
- Replace non-compliant items when requested, following guidance from staff.

Pupils

- Wear the correct uniform each day and take pride in their appearance.
- Look after their uniform and belongings.
- Be respectful of others' clothing choices and differences.
- Try their best to dress independently and follow health/safety rules (e.g. no jewellery for PE)

Uniform Requirements (from September 2025)

Plain black bottoms

- Options: trousers, joggers, leggings, cycling shorts ($\frac{3}{4}$ thigh minimum), skirts, skorts, shorts.
- No visible branding or side stripes. Non-compliant items will trigger a parent contact.
- Football kit shorts are **not** permitted. A black pinafore may be worn.

Red top

- Polo shirt, paired with a sweatshirt, jersey cardigan, or fleece as needed (no knitted jumpers).
- School branding is optional.
- **PE t-shirts are no longer part of the daily uniform.**

Plain black footwear

- Black trainers or shoes only—completely black with no visible colours.
- Black sandals may be worn in summer with socks.
- Children should only wear lace-up shoes if they can tie them independently.

Red & white checked summer dress or playsuit

- Allowed during warmer weather—*skirts or separate shorts not permitted in this category.*

Black socks or tights

Appearance & Health Standards

- Long hair must be tied back; small red or black hair accessories permitted. (We would usually determine long hair as past shoulder length).
- **No jewellery**, except for small religious items or single studs. Earrings must be removable

independently for PE.

– **Label everything** (clothing, bags, lunchboxes, bottles, shoes, coats, hats, gloves) to help recover lost items.

Policy Notes

- OCEPS reserves the right to decide appropriate styles and will work collaboratively with parents over concerns. If in doubt, please consult us before purchasing.
- Uniform is **compulsory**, but branded items are optional. Financial support may be available—please reach out if needed.
- **Pre-loved uniform** is available in the main reception with an honesty donation box for the School Fund.
- Where parents have been contacted and uniform persistently does still not meet school policy, children will be given clean alternatives to wear for that day. If it persists a meeting will be arranged with parents/carers to discuss expectations further.
- This policy will be reviewed at least every 3 years.

Why "Always Active" Uniform Matters

1. **Boosts daily physical activity**
Research shows that traditional, restrictive uniforms (e.g. skirts, stiff trousers) reduce children's incidental play—especially among girls—limiting their chances to meet the WHO's 60 min/day activity target
2. . Active-friendly uniforms are linked to more movement across the school day
3. **Increases comfort and inclusion**
Flexible and durable uniform remove barriers to activity and support children with sensory needs.
4. **Encourages equality and reduces cost**
A minimal, consistent uniform reduces peer pressure over clothing and optional logo-free items keep costs down. Our pre-loved provision supports affordability
5. **Improves focus and engagement**
Active playwear improves mood, concentration, and reduces sedentary time—helping children to learn better and feel more involved