School Uniform and Appearance Policy

Burnside Primary School

Motto: Be Safe, Be Smart, Be Kind

Date of Policy: January 2026

Approved by: Headteacher & Governing Board

Review Cycle: Annual (Next Review: January 2028

Headteacher: Miss Jane Ramsay

Introduction and Core Philosophy

At Burnside Primary School, our children are proud to be members of our community and wear their uniform as a reflection of that shared identity. Our uniform has been intentionally designed to be practical, comfortable, and durable for a busy primary school day, while reflecting the high standards expected across our state-maintained setting.

We believe that learning to dress smartly and appropriately helps children develop self-discipline and character. It prepares them for the transitions ahead, helping them grow up at Burnside understanding that secondary schools and the wider professional world require smart, purposeful attire. Our uniform requirements are anchored securely to our daily school motto: Be Safe, Be Smart, Be Kind.

Statutory Framework and Cost Compliance

In strict accordance with the Department for Education (DfE) statutory guidance on the cost of school uniforms and the Education (Guidance about Costs of School Uniforms) Act 2021, Burnside Primary School treats affordability as a priority. We ensure that our policy never places an unnecessary financial burden on parents and carers.

No Mandatory Branding: While uniform items featuring the embroidered school logo are available from our supplier, items with the logo are not required.

Supermarket Alternatives: All standard uniform items can be purchased completely unbranded from any retailer, high-street store, or supermarket.

Pre-Loved Uniform Provision: To support sustainability and assist family budgets, high-quality, second-hand (pre-loved) uniform items are continuously available directly from the school. Please contact our main school office or our pastoral team to access these provisions.

Standard Daily Uniform Requirements

Our daily uniform is designed to be gender-neutral, flexible, and suitable for active learning throughout the academic year.

Top Layer: Red sweatshirt, cardigan, or jumper.

Base Layer: White polo shirt or white school shirt.

Bottoms: Plain grey or black trousers, skirt, pinafore, or school-style tailored shorts.

Socks/Tights: Plain black, white, or red socks or tights.

Footwear: Plain, supportive black shoes (Croc shoes, open-toed sandals, or high heels are strictly prohibited for safety reasons).

Approved Seasonal and Cultural Options

Summer Wear: Red and white gingham-style summer dresses may be worn.

Faith Requirements: Hijabs worn for religious reasons must be plain and restricted to school colours: white, grey, or red.

Physical Education (PE) Uniform Requirements

On designated PE days, children should come to school dressed in their PE kit. This ensures safety, supports our physical curriculum metrics, and maximises instructional time for physical movement and competitive sport.

Bottoms: Plain black leggings, shorts, or jogging bottoms.

Tops: Plain red, white, or black t-shirt.

Warm Layer: Plain black hoodie or sweatshirt.

Footwear: Trainers or plimsolls suitable for indoor and outdoor sports.

Outdoor Play and Wet Weather Attire

As part of our commitment to active learning and treating our extensive grounds as an extension of our classrooms, our pupils access outdoor play all year round. To ensure children remain comfortable in wet or cold weather, all pupils must have suitable outdoor attire in school daily:

Warm, windproof, and waterproof jacket, coat, or outdoor suit.

Hair, Makeup, and Jewellery Guidelines

Our appearance boundaries ensure that children are safe during physical activity and focused on their education without unnecessary classroom distractions.

Jewellery Boundaries

Earrings: For critical health and safety reasons, earrings are strictly prohibited at Burnside Primary School. They must not be worn at any time, including on PE days.

Permitted Items: Children may wear a standard wristwatch. Religious items required explicitly by a child's faith are permitted following a formal discussion with the Headteacher. No other items of jewellery are allowed.

Hair and Makeup Standards

Hair Layout: Hair must be neat, tidy, and kept out of the eyes. If a child's hair is long, it must be tied back (covered, plaited, or in a ponytail) to ensure safety during active learning, PE sessions, and practical tasks.

Extreme Styles: Extreme hair colours, avant-garde styles, or oversized hair accessories that undermine the ethos, discipline, or uniformity of the school are not permitted.

Cosmetics: No makeup, cosmetic products, or nail polish may be worn by pupils.

Management of Uniform Expectations

At Burnside, we value curriculum time and our pupils' learning experiences so highly that we do not disrupt a child's school day or suspend a pupil over uniform discrepancies.

Instead, we look to our parents and carers to work in total partnership with us to ensure children arrive at school maintaining a clean, smart standard of dress within our defined school colours. If a child arrives in incorrect clothing, staff will address this sensitively with the family to look for a collaborative solution, which may include providing clean, unbranded items from our pre-loved store.

The final judgements regarding the acceptability of uniform, grooming, and general school appearance rest solely with school staff and ultimately the Headteacher, Miss Ramsay.

Property Ownership, Loss, and Damage

The Provision of Labels: Every single piece of school clothing, including coats, footwear, and PE kits, must be clearly named with permanent marker or labels. Children are actively taught at home and school to take personal responsibility for their belongings.

Liability Disclaimer: While our staff work hard to help children manage their property, Burnside Primary School does not accept legal or financial responsibility for any loss or damage to an individual's personal property or clothing.

Approved Uniform Supplier Details

For families wishing to purchase garments featuring the official embroidered school logo, our approved retail supplier is:

Aark

Unit 23B Moorland Way

Nelson Park, Cramlington

Northumberland, NE23 1WE

Telephone: 01670 737798