

Meridian Trust Statement of Principles on Academy Uniform

Version Number:	1
Applicable To:	All Academies
Recommended by:	Executive Board
Approved by	Curriculum & Standards
Date Approved:	23 rd February 2026
Review Cycle:	Annually
Date of Next Review:	February 2027

The purpose of the uniform requirement is to promote inclusion, enable engagement and ensure a sense of belonging and identity so pupils and students attending Meridian trust schools are recognised and associated with the ethos and values of the trust and individual school. This is within our overall mission to deliver, promote and inspire high quality educational provision in schools so that young people become successful learners and confident, empowered individuals.

The Trust, in the formulation of this policy, pays regard to the **statutory guidance** *Cost of school uniforms* issued by the Department for Education under the Education (Guidance about Costs of School Uniforms) Act 2021, **as well as relevant non-statutory DfE guidance**, as updated from time to time.

The trust is working to ensure that uniform is affordable for all and any uniform suppliers offer a fair and competitive price to parents. With this in mind, each academy is required to:

- consider the total cost of the school uniform, taking into account all items of clothing that parents will need to provide whilst their child or children are at the school (including the ability to pass on uniform from sibling to sibling).
- engage with parents and pupils when developing and reviewing academy uniform requirements, including any age-appropriate variations, and a uniform policy.
- consider the impact of any uniform requirement on different groups of pupils, in particular any who share protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010 and ensure compliance with the Human Rights Act 1998.

- In line with Department for Education guidance and anticipated future statutory requirements, academies will review branded item requirements regularly and reduce these wherever possible.
- Supplier arrangements will be reviewed regularly to ensure continued value for money
- for non-branded items, use colours which are easily available locally from a range of retailers.
- ensure recycled uniforms are available for parents to acquire. Information on secondhand uniform should be clear for parents of current and prospective pupils and published on the school's website.
- ensure that parents know that an academy may be able to support them in case of financial hardship and have a clear contact within the academy to request such support.
- ensure uniform requirements and any school-based policy are easily understood and publish these documents and a link to Meridian Trust Statement of Principles on Academy Uniform on the school website.

These principles are approved by the trust board and supported by each academy. Each academy determines the local uniform and a local uniform policy, if any, which are approved by the Academy Council.

The Statement of Principles on Academy Uniform and academy uniform policies are reviewed annually.