



UNIFORM POLICY

Date	Author(s)	Notes on Revision/s	Approved by
2010		Policy Reviewed in line with government guidelines	
November 2013	GB	Policy reviewed in line with school changes	
October 2015	GB	Added change for inappropriate dress	
November 2016	GB	Updated using policy offered from MK Youth Cabinet	
June 2017	GB	Update after review by School Council	
September 2018	GB	Update to acceptable hairstyles & include MB uniform	
September 2020	IM	No updates	
September 2021	IMF	Footwear updated to remove reference to black trainers.	Hayley White (Executive Headteacher)
July 2022	Hayley White	Addition of grey trousers/skirt/shorts for both schools. Yellow PE t-shirt only for MB	Hayley White 27.7.2022
June 2023	IMF	Change of review term	
July 2023	Hayley White	Section 5 reviewed to include information about smart watches	Hayley White 6.7.2023
September 2026	Regina Roche	Updated in line with DfE Cost of School Uniforms statutory guidance Addition of Section 7 (Pupil Premium)	
Policy Review: Every 3 years			
Level required for ratification: Executive Headteacher			

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1 INTRODUCTION

In accordance with section 16 of the Education (No 2) Act 1986 and DES Circular 7 / 87, the governors have decided that school uniform/dress should be worn by all pupils attending both schools: Merebrook Infant School and Emerson Valley School.

Emerson Valley School and Merebrook Infant School aims for its schools to be caring and inclusive with high expectations of pupil attendance and behaviour. This is underpinned by defining and promoting an ethos which enables all staff, pupils and visitors to feel safe and support effective learning for our pupils. School uniform helps to build a sense of identity and community amongst the pupils in our school.

This document is a statement of the aims, principles and practice at both schools.

2 VALUES

We recognise the value of having a uniform for the following reasons:

- **Safety** – If all students in our school wear a clearly recognisable uniform, it is easy to identify them when out on visits and in the community. On their way to and from the school, it also affords a degree of safety at the pupils are part of a large body of young people who will look out for each other;
- **Preparation for the Future** – Many jobs require staff to wear a uniform and even if there is not a uniform, there is often a dress code. Uniforms help young people get used to dressing to a prescribed standard and helps them to know the difference between formal and informal dress;
- **Value for Money** – The uniform is good quality and a relatively inexpensive way to dress young people for school. Affordability for families is hugely important to us;
- **Relieves Pupils from Fashion “Stress”** – A school uniform eliminates the stress placed on pupils to purchase and wear expensive, fashionable items;
- **Ready for Work** – Putting on a uniform is a signal that you are going to work;
- **A Sense of Pride** – We all feel proud of our pupils when they are well dressed in the uniform. Uniform and team kits also help pupils to demonstrate pride in their school;
- **Helps Raise Aspirations** – The smarter you feel, the more you believe you can achieve.

3 GENERAL

The guidance below shows the expectations for dress and appearance at the Emerson Valley and Mererbrook Infant schools. Should a child be in school with inappropriate dress, hair style or jewellery, parents/carers will be advised of this and requested to ensure their child adheres this policy in future.

Legally, there are two key principles that our schools adhere to:

- The schools wishes to be reasonable in the way it applies the uniform rule and will respect families’ religious obligation to wear clothing as part of their religious practices; however,
- Ultimately, the Governors’ decision is final.

4 DRESS CODE

Make-up, tattoos, including fake ones, nail varnish and bright hair colour are not appropriate for school.

4.1 School Dress

Parents/carers are asked to ensure that all items are clearly labelled with their child's name. There is no expectation at our schools for children to have branded school uniform with our school logo. Buying items with our school logo is optional for families. We host termly preloved (second-hand) uniform sales where all items are priced at £1 or less.

4.1.1 Merebrook Infant School

Item	Format
Trousers/skirts/pinafores	Black or grey (trousers in 'school style' may be worn by girls) Skirts should be no shorter than above the knee line and should be worn with tights or socks
Polo shirts	Yellow, school logo optional
Sweatshirts or	Red, school logo optional
Sweatshirt cardigan	Red, school logo optional
Tights	Red or black
Socks	White or black
No tie	

4.1.2 Emerson Valley School

Item	Format
Trousers/skirts/pinafores	Black or grey (trousers in 'school style' may be worn by girls) Skirts should be no shorter than above the knee line and should be worn with tights or socks
'School style' shirts or blouses or Polo shirts	White, school logo optional
Sweatshirts or Cardigan	Burgundy, school logo optional (See section 4.6 for Year 6 information)
Tights	Black
Socks	White or black
No tie	

4.2 Summer Wear (Optional)

4.2.1 Merebrook Infant School

Item	Format
Summer dress	Red/white or yellow/white check school summer dresses
Shorts	Black, tailored (not sports shorts)

4.2.2 Emerson Valley School

Item	Format
Summer dress	Red gingham check
Shorts	Black, tailored (not sports shorts)

4.3 PE Kit

For health and safety reasons it is important that children are properly dressed for any physical activity.

4.3.1 Merebrook Infant School

PE kit should be worn to school on the days that pupils have PE lessons.

Item	Format
Shorts	Black, sports shorts
T-shirt	Yellow (school logo optional)
Footwear	Slip on plimsolls (unless the student can tie their own laces)
Tracksuit bottom	Tracksuit bottoms for outdoor PE (if advised by teacher). Sports tracksuit bottoms must be opaque.

4.3.2 Emerson Valley School

Item	Format
Shorts	Black, sports shorts
T-shirt	Jade (school logo optional)
Trainers	For outdoor work. No plimsolls
Tracksuit bottom	Black or navy without logos. Sports tracksuit bottoms must be opaque.
Sweatshirt	Black or navy without logos

4.4 Footwear

All children are expected to wear black, school-style shoes. In winter months only, normally December-March, black ankle boots are acceptable; however, these should have a heel no higher than 1" and should have no coloured or metal straps, badges or other adornment.

Trainers should not be worn except as part of outdoor PE kit for Emerson Valley School.

Studded shoes are not appropriate for either standard wear or for PE as they can cause injury. Astroturf shoes are permitted when using the AstroTurf pitch.

Whilst the school does not seek to prescribe any footwear, it is preferred that it should be unbranded as, otherwise, it can lead to teasing of those who do not have branded footwear or have alternatives to the popular versions.

4.5 Hair

Shoulder length hair must be tied back or in a bun.

No extreme fashionable hairstyles are allowed; this includes, but is not restricted to:

- Shaved heads or designs shaved into hair e.g.
 - ▶ Sporting logos or designs;
 - ▶ Words;
- Mullets;
- Mohicans;
- Undercuts and
- Extreme hair colours – colouring must be of a shade that occurs naturally.

Any exceptions, e.g. participation in a local/national event, must be agreed with the Headteacher in advance.

When a child attends school with an inappropriate hair style, their parent/carer will be called to come in to address the issue. If this cannot be resolved immediately, the child must be removed from school to have the issue resolved.

Emerson Valley School and Merebrook Infant School does not wish to prevent any child from accessing their learning; however, until an inappropriate hair style is resolved, the child will be able to attend their class-based learning but will be unable to participate in school activities outside of class-based learning e.g. breaks, lunchtime or school-wide activities.

4.6 Other

Year 6 students have black sweatshirts with an optional school logo. These are not acceptable in other year groups.

If children do not have a school sweatshirt, we have frequent pre-loved uniform sales throughout the year and have excess black jumpers which we are more than happy to lend to families.

5 JEWELLERY

Only one small stud earring per ear and watches are permitted. Rings, necklaces, pin, hooped or dangling earrings are dangerous, and we ask that they are not worn to school. No jewellery should be worn in P.E. or games lessons. Watches should be taken off and earrings should be removed or covered in micropore tape.

Smart watches with the ability to take photographs are not permitted in school. Fitness trackers without the ability to take photographs are acceptable.

Visible tattoos, including henna tattoos, are not permitted.

The school cannot accept any responsibility for the loss of, or accidents involving, jewellery and watches.

6 MAKE UP

Make up is inappropriate for school and nail varnish is not permitted.

7 PUPIL PREMIUM

When children entitled to Pupil Premium funding join in Early Years, Year 3 or throughout the year, they can request a £30 Kedaph Schoolwear voucher, once, to be used to buy uniform. After this, there will be a preloved uniform sale once per term where all items will be priced at £1. This sale is open to all parents.

8 GENERAL

This policy is available to parents upon request. If a parent/carer has any issue with the school uniform, they should first contact the school.