



Ripplevale School and College Rochester

UNIFORM POLICY

Date of issue: September 2024

Review Cycle: Three yearly

Next Review Date: September 2027

Ripplevale School is owned and operated by Cavendish Education.

This policy is one of a series of school policies that, taken together, are designed to form a comprehensive statement of the school's aspiration to provide an outstanding education for each of its students and of the mechanisms and procedures in place to achieve this. Accordingly, this policy should be read alongside these policies. In particular it should be read in conjunction with the policies covering equality and diversity, Health and Safety, safeguarding and child protection.

All of these policies have been written, not simply to meet statutory and other requirements, but to enable and evidence the work that the whole school is undertaking to ensure the implementation of its core values:

While this current policy document may be referred to elsewhere in Ripplevale School documentation, including particulars of employment, it is non-contractual.

In the school's policies, unless the specific context requires otherwise, the word "parent" is used in terms of Section 576 of the [Education Act 1996](#), which states that a 'parent', in relation to a child or young person, includes any person who is not a biological parent but who has parental responsibility, or who has care of the child. Department for Education guidance [Understanding and dealing with issues relating to parental responsibility updated August 2023](#) considers a 'parent' to include:

- all biological parents, whether they are married or not
- any person who, although not a biological parent, has parental responsibility for a child or young person - this could be an adoptive parent, a step-parent, guardian or other relative

- any person who, although not a biological parent and does not have parental responsibility, has care of a child or young person

A person typically has care of a child or young person if they are the person with whom the child lives, either full or part time and who looks after the child, irrespective of what their biological or legal relationship is with the child.

The school employs the services of the following consulting companies to ensure regulatory compliance and the implementation of best practice:

- Peninsula BrightHR
- Peninsula BusinessSafe (Health and Safety)
- Atlantic Data (DBS)
- Educare (online CPD)
- SchoolPro (data protection)
- Marsh Commercial (insurance)

Ripplevale School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff, volunteers, pupils and visitors to share this commitment.

All outcomes generated by this document must take account of and seek to contribute to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people at Ripplevale School.

The policy documents of Ripplevale School are revised and published periodically in good faith. They are inevitably subject to revision. On occasions a significant revision, although promulgated in school separately, may have to take effect between the re-publication of a set of policy documents. Care should therefore be taken to ensure, by consultation with the Senior Leadership Team, that the details of any policy document are still effectively current at a particular moment.

1. Introduction

1.1 It is our school policy that all children wear school uniform when attending school, or when participating in a school-organised event within normal school hours. We provide a complete list of the items needed for school uniform in section 9 of this policy.

2. Aims and objectives

2.1 Our policy on school uniform is based on the notion that school uniform:

- promotes a sense of pride in the school;
- engenders a sense of community and belonging towards the school;
- is practical and smart;
- identifies the children with the school;
- prevents children from coming to school in fashion clothes that could be distracting in class;
- makes children feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance;
- is regarded as suitable wear for school and good value for money by most parents;

- is designed with health, safety, welfare and safeguarding in mind.

3. Jewellery

3.1 On health and safety grounds we do not allow children to wear jewellery in our school.

The exceptions to this rule are:

- ear-ring studs in pierced ears (one per ear). No other studs are permitted in school.
- small objects of religious significance, such as a crucifix on a chain or Sikh Kara

We ask the children to remove these objects during PE, games and swimming for health and safety reasons.

The school advises parents who wish their children to have piercings to do so at the beginning of the school holidays so that they are healed for the start of the school year and allow the removal of studs for the school day.

3.2 Medical identification bracelets may be worn by children who have significant medical problems e.g. Diabetes or epilepsy.

4. Extreme haircuts, Makeup and Nails

4.1 The school does not permit children to have 'extreme' haircuts that could serve as a distraction to other children.

4.2 Hairstyles and haircuts which are deemed too extreme such as tramlines, stars, shaved heads (No shorter than a number 2), extreme patterns 'V' styles, Mohican cuts, or dyed, tipped or dipped hair are also not allowed.

Students with long hair should also tie it back for safety reasons.

4.3 Students are not permitted to wear makeup until Year 10 and then this has to be limited to foundation, mascara and clear lip gloss. No eyeliner, false eyelashes or heavy makeup is permitted within the school. The reason that there is some allowance for makeup from Year 10 is to recognise the maturing aspect of the student's presentation and to support welfare and wellbeing needs.

4.4 Nails should be natural and of a suitable length to prevent injury.

4.5 Nail polish should not be worn until Year 10 and then must be a natural colour or clear.

5. Footwear

5.1 The school wants all children to grow into healthy adults. We believe that it is dangerous for children to wear shoes that have platform soles or high heels (over 3cm), so we do not allow children to wear such shoes in our school.

We require all children to wear black shoes (we also permit black trainers if requested) as stated in the uniform list. In winter time, winter black shoes or black boots may be worn.

6. The role of parents

6.1 We ask all parents who send their children to our school to support the school uniform policy. We believe that parents have a duty to send their children to school correctly dressed and ready for their daily schoolwork. One of the responsibilities of parents is to ensure that their child has the correct uniform, and that it is clean and in good repair. We recognise that uniform is a financial commitment on our parents and on occasions this commitment is not one that families can easily make. Should you need support in purchasing the uniform, please contact the Head of school in confidence, who will be happy to help.

6.2 If any parent would like the school to modify the uniform policy, they should make representation, in the first instance, to the Head of School. The school welcomes children from all backgrounds and faith communities. If there are serious reasons, for example on religious grounds, why parents want their child to wear clothes that differ from the school uniform, the school will look sympathetically at such requests.

6.3 If any parent would like the school to modify the uniform policy due to the sensory or health needs of the student, they should make representation, in the first instance, to the Head of School.

7. The role of Cavendish Education Group

7.1 The Headteacher supports the Head of School/College in implementing the school uniform policy. It considers all representations from parents regarding the uniform policy and liaises with the Head of School/College to ensure that the policy is implemented fairly and with sensitivity.

7.2 It is the Headteacher's responsibility to ensure that the school uniform meets all regulations concerning equal opportunities.

7.3 The Headteacher will ensure that the school uniform policy helps children to dress sensibly, in clothing that supports the student to achieve their potential.

8. Monitoring and review

8.1 The Headteacher reviews the school uniform policy with the Head of School/College every three years and will

- seek the views of parents, to ensure that they agree with and support any changes to the policy;
- considering, with the headteacher, any requests from parents for individual children to have special dispensation with regard to school uniform;
- requiring the headteacher to report to the Executive Headteacher on the way the school uniform policy is implemented.

9. Uniform

The School Uniform is:

All Pupils in School:

Grey Polyester Blazer with Cavendish (Blazer pocket badge *) (Optional)

Grey Fleece (full zip) *

Grey V neck jumper or cardigan

Black or Grey skirt or Grey trousers

Pink/White striped summer dress – Optional Easter to October for Primary Phase and Key Stage 3 only

Grey shorts – Optional Easter to October

White Ripplevale polo shirt *

Ripplevale tie*

White shirt or blouse

Black low heel shoes or no logo black trainers

Games Kit:

Black tracksuit trousers or leggings (without logos or sheer panels)

White sports shirt (no logos etc.)
Black PE shorts (no logos etc.)
White and/or black plimsolls/trainers (non-marking)
Grey School Fleece

Sundries:

Art canvas apron (not essential)
Food Technology Apron (not essential)

College and Gateway

Smart Casual Wear

The school uniform items marked with * are available to order from Ripplevale School and College and all other items are available from any school uniform supplier e.g. M&S, Asda, Tesco etc.

Ripplevale has used the updated DfE non-statutory guidance on school uniform and agrees with the guidance given in the DfE booklet which states:

'The school uniform plays a valuable role in contributing to the ethos of a school and setting an appropriate tone. The Department strongly encourages schools to have a uniform as it can instil pride; support positive behaviour and discipline; encourage identity with, and support for, school's ethos; ensure pupils of all races and backgrounds feel welcome; protect children from social pressures to dress in a particular way; and nurture cohesion and promote good relations between different groups of pupils. The Department also encourages schools to have a very clear position about appearance such as hair colour, style and length and the wearing of jewellery and make-up.'

Parents should not have to think about the cost of a school uniform when choosing which school(s) to apply for. Therefore, Ripplevale ensures that their uniform is affordable.

In considering cost, Ripplevale School thinks about the total cost of school uniforms, taking into account all items of uniform or clothing parents/carers will need to provide while their child is at the school.

Ripplevale School's uniform policy is published on the school's website, and is available for all parents, including parents of prospective pupils, and is easily understood.

Ripplevale School ensures that our uniform supplier arrangements give the highest priority to cost and value for money (including the quality and durability of the garment).

Ripplevale school does not use single supplier contracts.

Ripplevale School ensures that second-hand uniforms are available for parents/carers to acquire. Information on second-hand uniforms should be clear for parents of current and prospective pupils and is available on request.

Ripplevale School engages parents/carers and pupils when they are developing their school uniform policy.