



Milldown CE Academy Uniform Policy

**Adopted by the Governors of Milldown
Academy: November 2025**

Introduction

At Milldown we pride ourselves in being smart, well presented and ready for learning. It is our school policy that all children wear school uniform when attending school, or when participating in school-organised events outside normal school hours. We ask children to wear their shirts tucked into their skirts, shorts or trousers and to take a pride in their personal appearance.

Some items of uniform (badged) can be bought from Rag Tags (www.ragtags.co.uk) or Tesco (www.clothingattesco.com/icat/embschoolwear). Whilst non-badged items are easily available, at very competitive prices, at local shops including supermarkets. A complete list of the items needed for school uniform including those for Physical Education, can be found in appendix 1.

Aims and objectives

At Milldown, we believe the school uniform achieves three important goals:

- 1) It encourages a sense of community identity and pride. By wearing the same badge and the same clothing, children are encouraged to think of the needs of the community as well as their own individual needs.
- 2) It encourages our children to develop habits for life. By looking after their uniform and taking pride in it, children learn the habits of discipline and personal responsibility that will stay with them for life.
- 3) It prevents unkindness or bullying while keeping costs down. By requiring all our children to wear the same low-cost uniform, we reduce the incentive for children to ask parents for the latest (and most expensive) items of fashion. As a result, costs are kept as low as possible and no child can be seen to be poorer or wealthier than any other.

However, for our uniform policy to be successful, it must be implemented universally and without exception. Our parents understand this and so support us at home to uphold the School's high standards.

We understand that, for some families, finances are tight. We believe that, by doing all we can to keep items of fashion out of school, we help families to keep costs down. Nevertheless, if you do have an individual problem, or you are unsure about an item of clothing, please do not hesitate to contact the school office or your child's teacher who will deal with your enquiry in the strictest confidence.

Our policy on school uniform is based on the belief that we are pleased to wear a uniform that:

- Promotes a sense of pride in our school
- Helps to create a sense of community and belonging towards the school
- Identifies pupils with the school
- Supports the school's commitment to inclusion
- Prevents pupils from wearing 'fashion clothes' that could be distracting in class
- Is practical, smart, and designed with health and safety in mind
- Is considered to be good value for money

Jewellery, Hair Ornaments, Make-up and Nail Varnish

For many reasons, including safety, we do not allow children to wear jewellery. The exceptions to this rule are ear-ring studs in pierced ears. Children are required to remove or when piercings are new, cover up any studs during P.E. lessons to prevent them from causing injury.

Please note: Teachers are not permitted to remove earrings.

Hair bands, ribbons/bows or 'scrunchies' should not be excessive in size and should match the colour of our school uniform. Hair bands should be simple and should not have large flowers or other decoration attached.

Make up and nail varnish should not be worn to school.

Extreme hairstyles are not appropriate for school. The use of styling products should be kept to a minimum and children should not have decorative patterns cut into their hair or have hair coloured or dyed.

Hair that is shoulder-length or longer must be tied back at all times during the school day. This is for health and safety reasons, particularly during PE, practical lessons, and playtime.

Footwear

For health and safety reasons we do not allow children to wear shoes with platform soles or high heels. All children are required to wear plain black shoes without logos as stated in the uniform list. If boots are worn these should also be plain black. Boots should not be so large that they prevent children from sitting comfortably on the floor. In this instance they may be asked to change into their PE shoes whilst inside the school building.

Because we aim to spend as much PE time outside, it is also important for all children to have a named pair of football boots. We do provide these so that children can participate in lessons and also have a swap shop system in place to help reduce the cost of such equipment for parents.

The Role of Parents

We believe that one of the responsibilities of parents is to ensure that their child has the correct uniform and PE kit, and that it is clean, in good repair and that the child's name is visibly labelled on all items. If a parent has difficulties for any reason with fulfilling this request they are asked to speak confidentially to a senior member of staff to discuss the issues. Parents should be assured that we will do all we can to help.

Children who arrive at school wearing non-school uniform clothing will be loaned an appropriate item from our lost property to wear for that day if possible. The same system will apply for children who do not have a PE kit. If the issue becomes persistent, parents will be contacted to discuss the matter.

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 Uniform Policy will consider such requests sympathetically. If any parent would like to request an exception to the uniform policy they should, in the first instance, contact the headteacher and then the Governors.

The Role of Governors

The governing body supports the headteacher in implementing the school uniform policy. It considers all representations from parents regarding the uniform policy and liaises with the headteacher to ensure that the policy is implemented fairly and with sensitivity. It is the governors' responsibility to ensure that the school uniform meets all regulations concerning equal Monitoring and Review opportunities. Governors ensure that the school uniform policy enables children to dress sensibly, in clothing that is hardwearing, safe and practical.

Monitoring and Review

The governing body monitors and reviews the school uniform policy through its committee work by:

- seeking the views of parents, to ensure that they agree with and support the policy;
- considering, with the headteacher, any requests from parents for individual children to have special dispensation with regard to school uniform.

School Uniform List

There is a school uniform at Milldown that's consists of:

- Navy jumpers and cardigans with or without embroidered school logo*
- Plain white shirt (Long or short Sleeved) or polo shirt with or without embroidered school logo*
- Black or grey shorts, skirts or trousers
- Blue and white checked dress

- Plain navy, black, grey or white socks or plain navy or dark grey tights

*Jumpers and polo shirts with embroidered logo on can be purchased from RagTags (<https://www.ragtags.co.uk/>) or Oldfield Embroidery and Print (<https://en-gb.facebook.com/oldfieldsewembroidery>). We also offer a uniform recycling service, where parents can exchange uniform or collect second hand uniform free of charge.

Please note skirts should be an appropriate length and of a style which allows sitting comfortably on the floor. When shorts are worn, they should also be of an appropriate length.

P.E. Kit

Children need a change of clothes, socks and footwear for P.E (for health and hygiene reasons) and a draw-string bag in which to keep the kit at school. All school uniform and P.E. kit MUST be named. Children can become upset as a result of lost clothing; please help us by naming everything.

P.E. Uniform is:

- a purple t-shirt (with or without the Milldown logo)
- black shorts or cycling shorts of a suitable length and fit
- plain navy or black jogging bottoms
- plain navy or black sweatshirt for outdoor lessons in cold weather (if they do not have one - their school jumper will be the only acceptable alternative).
- a pair of plimsolls/trainers (velcro fastenings are essential for younger children for indoor P.E. in the hall and when we use the hard standing areas for PE lessons outside)
- studded boots will be required for those children in KS2 (this will be communicated by the class teacher if needed this half term). The school offer a recycling system where parents can exchange boots that are too small for larger sizes for £1.