



Oswald Road Primary School

Dress Code Policy

Policy ratified by Governing Body: April 2026

Headteacher: Deborah Howard

Chair of Governors: Peter Martin

To be reviewed in 1 year: April 2027

Background:

It is understood that having no mandatory school uniform is unusual in Manchester primary schools.

2011-12 - thorough consultation with parents, children and staff followed by a voting process. The outcome of this was a near 50/50 split, with the majority voting for no school uniform.

2012-13 - Due to the divisive nature of this, in academic year 2012-13, the Headteacher and Governors worked together on a well thought through move forward.

September 2013 - an optional standard set of clothes was introduced, alongside a mandatory Health and Safety dress code.

More recently additions have been made to the mandatory dress code (full list below).

September 2025 – a parent survey collated response on the school's current dress code policy. Approximate percentages on feedback were:

- 60% positive or very positive
- 10% neutral
- 30% felt a change was needed.

The Governing Board considered this and as more families supported retaining the current position than requesting change, nothing in the feedback prompted a change.

April 2026 – the Governing Board agreed to review the parental view every three years. The next survey to review position will be September 2028.

Mandatory Health and Safety Dress Code

- No flip flops
- No Crocs
- No strappy tops or short crop tops
- No necklaces
- No bracelets
- Earrings to be studs or sleepers which do not allow a finger to fit through
- Red or white top to be worn for school trips
- No fancy dress, including party dresses and heeled shoes (unless on a particular charity day)
- No open-toed sandals
- No pyjamas
- No fancy-dress style headbands (ie. only headbands to be worn for the purpose of keeping hair back)
- No hats (inside the building)
- No sunglasses (inside the building)
- No hoods up (inside the building)

This dress code applies to all terms in the school year.

If a child is wearing jewellery (except religious jewellery), a member of staff will take it off them and keep it safe before passing it to them at the end of the day to take home. If a child is in inappropriate shoes, a member of staff will ask the office to phone home. If a child is in a strappy top, a member of staff will speak to their family about it at the end of the school day.

For school trips, a school jumper / polo shirt is to be worn. If a child arrives on a school trip without their school jumper, appropriate clothing to assist in immediate identification of any pupil attending a trip will be provided. No pupil will be denied access to a school trip on these grounds.

Standard Set of Clothes (Optional)

- Red jumper/cardigan (branded options available)
- White / red polo shirt or white shirt/blouse
- Grey or dark trousers/skirt/dress
- In Summer families may like to dress their children in red checked school dresses or grey/dark shorts

Any of the above could be worn during any terms.

For any family who would like their child to wear the school's standard set of clothes, the office can advise on providers of branded versions of this. Branded versions are not expected.

All of these items can be purchased in local supermarkets for example and school also often holds a second hand sale of the standard set of clothes at the summer school fair. These items would also be able to be purchased second hand (for example, charity shops, Ebay etc).