

RIDGEWAY FARM CE ACADEMY

ACTIVE UNIFORM POLICY

2026-27

Believe • Learn • Grow

Policy owner	Headteacher
Approved by	Local Governing Body
Approval date	
Effective from	September 2026
Review date	September 2027, or earlier if guidance or school arrangements change
Applies to	All pupils, EYFS to Year 6

Ridgeway Farm is an active school. Our uniform is designed so children can learn, move, play and participate throughout the day without changing into a separate PE kit.

1. Purpose and ethos

At Ridgeway Farm CE Academy, our uniform supports our Christian vision, Believe • Learn • Grow, and our commitment to helping every child flourish in body, mind and spirit. It promotes belonging and equality while remaining practical, comfortable and affordable.

Ridgeway Farm is an active school. Children are encouraged to move throughout the day through PE, OPAL play, outdoor learning, active breaks and the wider curriculum. For this reason, pupils wear one Active Uniform throughout the school day. There is no separate day uniform and no separate PE kit.

The policy is intended to support inclusion and participation, reduce time spent changing for physical activity, reduce the amount of clothing families need to buy and make it straightforward for children to be ready for learning and movement.

2. Legal and guidance framework

This policy has been developed with regard to current legislation and Department for Education guidance, including:

- Education Act 1996, including section 551ZA as inserted by the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026.
- Department for Education statutory guidance, Cost of school uniforms, updated 6 July 2026.
- Department for Education guidance, Developing school uniform policy, updated 6 July 2026.
- Department for Education statutory guidance, Mobile phones in schools (statutory from 29 June 2026; schools to follow from 1 September 2026).
- Equality Act 2010 and Human Rights Act 1998.

- Children and Families Act 2014 and the SEND Code of Practice: 0 to 25 years.

From 1 September 2026, primary schools may not require pupils to have more than three different branded uniform items during a school year. Ridgeway Farm does not require any branded item: branded Ridgeway Farm items are optional because a plain navy generic equivalent is accepted for each item.

3. Ridgeway Farm Active Uniform

The Active Uniform applies to all pupils from EYFS to Year 6.

Item	Requirement	Branded option
Sports T-shirt	Plain navy short-sleeved sports T-shirt	Ridgeway Farm sports T-shirt may be worn
Shorts	Plain navy sports shorts	Ridgeway Farm sports shorts may be worn
Hoodie	Plain navy pullover (over-the-head) sports hoodie	Ridgeway Farm pullover sports hoodie may be worn
Jogging bottoms	Plain navy sports jogging bottoms	No school-branded version required
Sports leggings	Plain navy, opaque sports leggings	No school-branded version required
Footwear	Suitable trainers for school and physical activity (white or black with limited colour. No astro boots).	No school-branded footwear required

Families may choose shorts, jogging bottoms or sports leggings according to weather, comfort, activity, modesty, sensory needs and personal preference. Jogging bottoms and leggings are not part of the branded school range and should be plain navy.

Branded Ridgeway Farm sportswear is optional. Families do not have to purchase any item carrying the school logo. Plain navy generic equivalents are equally acceptable and may be purchased from any retailer.

Generic items must be plain navy and appropriate for sport and school. The required hoodie style is a standard pullover (over-the-head) sports hoodie. Zip-through hoodies, cardigans, tracksuit jackets, quarter-zip tops, fleeces and other styles of top are not part of the Ridgeway Farm Active Uniform. Generic items should not display prominent fashion, designer or sports-brand logos. Small, discreet manufacturer marks ordinarily present on an otherwise plain item will be approached reasonably.

Children should have suitable outdoor clothing for the weather, including a coat when needed. The school does not require a branded coat, bag or other accessory.

4. Active uniform and physical education

The Active Uniform is intended to be suitable for normal curriculum PE, active play and outdoor learning. Pupils do not need to bring a separate PE kit for ordinary school PE.

For particular activities, sporting events or safety reasons, the school may provide or request appropriate specialist or protective equipment. Any requirement will be proportionate to the activity, communicated in advance and considered in line with affordability and equality duties.

Staff may ask pupils to remove or secure jewellery, tie back hair or make other reasonable safety adjustments before physical activity.

5. Affordability and branded items

Ridgeway Farm gives high priority to affordability and value for money. Uniform cost should never be a barrier to applying to the school, attending school or participating fully in school life.

The school-branded T-shirt, shorts and hoodie are available for families who choose them, but they are not compulsory. Because generic alternatives are permitted, a pupil is fully compliant with this policy without owning any Ridgeway Farm branded clothing.

When reviewing uniform arrangements, the school will consider the total cost to families, durability, quality, sustainability, availability from a range of retailers and the continuing need for any school-specific items.

The school will not require families to purchase generic items from a named supplier.

6. Second-hand uniform and help with costs

Good-quality second-hand uniform is available to all current and prospective families, subject to availability. Access is not dependent on making a payment or donation.

Families may contact the school office to ask about available sizes. Requests will be handled sensitively and discreetly. Voluntary donations may be welcomed, but they are not a condition of receiving second-hand uniform.

We also welcome donations of clean, good-quality uniform that children have outgrown.

We do not want the cost of uniform to prevent any child attending school or participating fully. Families experiencing difficulty meeting uniform costs should contact the school office or Headteacher in confidence so that appropriate support can be discussed.

7. Equality, inclusion, SEND, medical and religious needs

The uniform policy will be applied fairly and consistently and in accordance with the Equality Act 2010. The school recognises that a uniform requirement may affect pupils differently because of disability, race, religion or belief, sex or other protected characteristics.

Reasonable adjustments will be made for pupils with SEND, disabilities, medical conditions or sensory needs. This may include adjustments to fabric, fit, footwear or particular items where appropriate.

Religious and cultural dress requirements will be accommodated wherever reasonably possible. Families are encouraged to speak with the Headteacher or SENCO where an individual adjustment is required.

Pupils will not be disadvantaged, bullied or excluded from participation because they need an agreed adjustment to the uniform policy.

8. Hair, appearance and jewellery

Hair must be kept in a way that is safe and practical for school activities. Hair that is long enough to create a safety risk must be tied back for PE, practical activities and whenever directed by staff. Hair accessories should be simple and suitable for school.

The school does not use broad labels such as 'extreme' to define prohibited hairstyles. Natural hair, Afro-textured hair, braids, locks, twists, cornrows, plaits, skin fades, protective hairstyles and hairstyles or head coverings associated with racial, cultural or religious identity are permitted. Appearance expectations will be applied consistently and will not discriminate because of race, religion or belief, sex, disability or another protected characteristic.

For safety, jewellery is not permitted other than small stud earrings and a watch. Facial and body piercings, including nose, lip, eyebrow and tongue piercings, must not be worn in school. Clear or transparent retainers are also not permitted as a routine alternative. Where a piercing cannot be removed temporarily for a genuine medical reason, or an individual exception is required because of a protected characteristic, the Headteacher will consider the circumstances and any necessary adjustment. Pupils must be able to remove

permitted stud earrings independently when required for PE or other activities, unless an agreed individual arrangement is in place.

Hair may not be artificially dyed or coloured in bright or unnatural colours. The school may ask for an artificial colour to be returned to a natural hair colour. This rule concerns artificial colouring only and does not restrict natural hair colour, texture, protective hairstyles, cultural or religious hairstyles, or reasonable adjustments required for disability or medical reasons.

Pupils may wear a simple analogue or basic digital watch. Smartwatches and other personal wearable smart devices are not permitted in school. This includes devices capable of connecting to a mobile phone; sending or receiving calls, messages or notifications; accessing the internet; taking photographs; or making audio or video recordings. This supports Ridgeway Farm's mobile-phone-free school environment and applies throughout the school day. Where a device is required because of a disability, medical condition or another individual need, the Headteacher will consider any necessary reasonable adjustment or exceptional arrangement.

9. Attendance and non-compliance

Uniform concerns will be handled proportionately, sensitively and in a way that supports attendance. A child should not miss education simply because the correct uniform is temporarily unavailable.

Where a pupil is not wearing the expected uniform or is not meeting the school's published appearance expectations, staff will seek to understand the reason before taking action. The school will consider financial difficulty, SEND, sensory or medical needs, religious or cultural requirements, protected characteristics, family circumstances and whether support or a temporary adjustment is appropriate.

Where non-compliance is deliberate and persistent after appropriate support and discussion, the school may respond in accordance with its Behaviour Policy. Any response will be reasonable and proportionate.

10. Extreme and adverse weather

The school will take a sensible and flexible approach during extreme or adverse weather. Pupils may wear the Active Uniform option most appropriate to the conditions, and the school may temporarily relax expectations where this supports health, safety and wellbeing.

Parents will be informed of any additional temporary arrangements during periods of exceptional heat, cold or other adverse conditions.

11. Non-uniform and themed days

Where the school holds a non-uniform or themed day, expectations will be communicated in advance. Participation will not depend on a family making a financial contribution or purchasing a particular costume or outfit.

Clothing must remain suitable and safe for school. The school will be mindful of affordability, inclusion and the potential for peer pressure when planning these events.

12. Roles and responsibilities

The Trust and Local Governing Body

- Ensure the policy reflects statutory requirements and current guidance.
- Have regard to the statutory guidance on the cost of school uniforms.
- Keep affordability, equality, inclusion and value for money under review.
- Ensure the policy is published and easy for current and prospective parents to understand.

The Headteacher

- Implements the policy consistently and proportionately.
- Ensures support is available where uniform cost or individual circumstances create a barrier.
- Considers requests for reasonable adjustments and religious or cultural accommodations.
- Reviews uniform arrangements and supplier arrangements with the Trust and governors as appropriate.

Parents and carers

- Support pupils to attend in the Active Uniform wherever reasonably possible.
- Choose either optional Ridgeway Farm branded items or plain navy generic equivalents.
- Contact the school if cost, SEND, medical, sensory, religious, cultural or other circumstances make any aspect of the policy difficult to meet.

Pupils

- Wear the Active Uniform with pride and in a way that is ready for learning and physical activity.
- Treat other pupils respectfully and never comment negatively on whether another child wears branded, generic or second-hand uniform.

13. Publication, complaints and review

The current Active Uniform requirements, information about optional branded items, generic alternatives, second-hand uniform and support with costs will be published clearly on the school website.

Concerns should normally be raised with the school in the first instance. Complaints about the operation of this policy will be considered under the school or Trust Complaints Policy as appropriate.

This policy will be reviewed at least annually and earlier where legislation, Department for Education guidance, supplier arrangements or the school's Active Uniform model changes. Parents and pupils will be engaged appropriately when significant changes to uniform arrangements are proposed.

14. Policy change record

Date	Change
September 2026	Complete rewrite following the school's move from separate day uniform and PE kit to one Active Uniform for EYFS-Year 6.
September 2026	Branded Ridgeway Farm sports T-shirt, shorts and hoodie confirmed as optional; plain navy generic equivalents accepted.
September 2026	Plain navy jogging bottoms and opaque sports leggings included as generic uniform options.
September 2026	Policy updated for the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026 and July 2026 DfE uniform guidance, including affordability, second-hand uniform, equality and attendance considerations.

Useful guidance

Department for Education: Cost of school uniforms (updated 6 July 2026)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cost-of-school-uniforms/cost-of-school-uniforms>

Department for Education: Developing school uniform policy (updated 6 July 2026)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-uniform/school-uniforms>

Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026, section 35.