



Merridale Primary School

School Clothing Policy

2026-2028

At Merridale, the Governing Body have always felt that the choice of clothing for school should be a decision for parents and carers alone. In view of this, there is no prescribed uniform or prescribed colour for school clothing. Some parents wish to send their children to school in uniform-style clothing, whilst others prefer to send their children in more casual clothing. Both are equally acceptable.

It is important for children to wear appropriate clothing for school. The expectations for this focus on safety, comfort, inclusion, practicality and avoiding distractions from learning. Overriding aim – clothing and footwear for school must be appropriate for primary-aged children and safe for active play and movement.

The only items allowed to be worn in school, for safety reasons, are small, stud earrings and watches. Children are not allowed to wear smart watches/devices for school. Clothing must cover the shoulders and midriff.

Footwear must be flat and safe, covering the whole foot. Shoes must be safe and secure for running and outdoor play. Trainers are ideal for this. Children are not allowed to wear heels, flip flops, sliders, sandals or Crocs for school at any time. Children are not allowed to wear shoes with wheels for school. Please ensure that you child is able to put on, fasten and remove their own clothing and footwear independently. Please do not send your child to school in shoes with laces unless they know how to tie and untie these.

Long scarves, very long belts or items that could pose a safety risk must not be worn.

Clothing should be appropriate for the weather – including coats, hats and waterproofs where possible. It is recommended that children have sun hats to wear on sunny days and they are allowed to bring in sun cream for school (in a named bottled) but they must be able to apply this themselves.

Clothing should be age-appropriate and suitable for a primary school environment. Clothing which displays offensive language, inappropriate slogans, violent imagery, discriminatory messages or references to drugs/alcohol must not be worn.

Children are allowed to wear clothing that reflects their culture, religion or identity, provided it remains safe and practical for school activities. Merridale encourages simple, comfortable clothing that allows all children to feel safe and included.

Make-up, face paints and false nails are not permitted at school.

Where clothing is considered unsafe or inappropriate for school, staff may speak to families to resolve this sensitively.

Independence and self-care

Younger children should wear clothing that they can manage independently when using the toilet or needing to get changed. Parents/carers are expected to send spare clothing, including underwear for EYFS and younger pupils.

Clothing and Safety for PE lessons

On their PE days, children must come to school wearing suitable clothing and footwear to take part in PE (trainers, leggings, jogging bottoms, t-shirts, sweatshirts etc. NO JEANS or denim items please). ALL jewellery MUST be **removed** for PE lessons – children must be able to do this themselves and staff are not allowed to keep items safe during PE lessons.

Shoes and boots cannot be worn for PE lessons as these are not safe. Trainers are the only footwear considered safe for outdoor PE lessons.

Long hair must **always** be tied up for PE lessons.

Earrings and Jewellery

Children are not allowed to take part in PE lessons if they are wearing earrings or jewellery of any kind. We have previously allowed children to participate in PE lessons if they covered their earrings with a plaster/tape (sent from home). There is clear guidance and advice that makes it clear that this is not appropriate. This is for health and safety reasons so that our children can be as safe as possible during physical education lessons.

Guidance from AFPE (Association for Physical Education) makes it clear that all personal items must be removed for PE lessons for safety reasons. If items cannot be removed, staff must take action. In most cases, this means removing the child from the PE lesson. If your child has recently had their ears pierced (within the last 6 weeks) we are aware that their earrings cannot be removed for this period. **In this instance only**, we will allow children to cover their earrings with a plaster or tape (sent from home) to make them safe. This should not be an on-going practice beyond 6 weeks and children must be able to apply the plaster themselves before the PE lesson. If you are considering getting your child's ears pierced, we would urge you to do this in July at the start of the 6 week summer holiday. School staff cannot be required to add or remove tape/plasters to children's ears. Staff cannot also not be required to remove children's earrings/jewellery or keep them safe.

Information on PE days is available on the school website [The Curriculum by Class | Merridale Primary](#)

Outdoor Learning

We are committed to learning outside as much as possible and we love to make good use of our extensive outdoor areas. We ask for all children to have a **named pair of wellies** in school so that they can take part in as much outdoor learning as possible throughout the year.

Lost Property

Naming all items of clothing reduces the risk! Please ensure that all items are clearly marked with your child's name - this is particularly important for coats, jumpers and jackets. We do keep items of lost property for a reasonable time but it is often difficult to identify items that are not labelled. If your child has lost something, please ask them to check in their classroom and cloakroom first. Displays of lost property are made at the end of every school term and if items are not claimed, they will be given to a local charity.