



Thornton Primary School

Our values: Love • Respect • Ambition

School Uniform Policy 2026–2027

1. Our approach to school uniform

At Thornton Primary School, our uniform contributes to our strong sense of **belonging, pride and community**. It reflects our values of **Love, Respect and Ambition** and supports our expectations that children are **Responsible, Ready and Kind**.

We believe that a school uniform can help children feel that they belong to something special. However, we also recognise that **belonging comes before uniform perfection**.

Our uniform policy has therefore been designed to be:

- affordable;
- practical;
- inclusive;
- accessible;
- sustainable;
- appropriate for learning and play;
- supportive of attendance;
- sensitive to the needs of pupils with SEND;
- sensitive to religious, cultural and medical needs.

Thornton Primary School has a high proportion of pupils with SEND and pupils experiencing disadvantage. We recognise that families have different circumstances and that some pupils may have individual needs which affect the clothing they can comfortably or safely wear.

Uniform should never become a barrier to a child's attendance, learning, participation or sense of belonging.

2. Statutory and DfE requirements

Thornton Primary School has regard to the Department for Education's **Cost of School Uniforms statutory guidance**.

The updated DfE guidance applies from September 2026 and requires schools to:



- limit compulsory branded uniform and PE kit items to **three or fewer**;
- ensure uniform is affordable;
- prioritise cost and value for money;
- make second-hand uniform freely accessible;
- publish clear information about second-hand uniform on the school website;
- provide parents with clear information about compulsory and optional items;
- consider the impact of uniform requirements on attendance;
- avoid unnecessarily expensive uniform requirements;
- consider the needs of pupils and families experiencing financial disadvantage. ([GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk))

Thornton Primary School currently has **two compulsory branded items**, meaning that our uniform is within the new statutory limit.

The DfE also makes clear that schools should consider whether uniform costs could prevent pupils from attending school or participating fully in school activities. ([GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk))

3. Thornton Primary School uniform

The current uniform requirements are also published on our school website:

[Thornton Primary School – School Uniform](#)

Required everyday uniform

Item	Requirement	Branded?
Polo shirt	Plain yellow polo shirt	No
Sweatshirt/cardigan	Blue with Thornton Primary School badge	Yes – compulsory
Trousers/shorts	Grey	No
Skirt/pinafore	Grey	No
Socks	Grey, navy or black with trousers/shorts	No
Socks/tights	White/grey socks or navy/black tights with skirts	No
Shoes	Plain black school shoes	No

Optional summer uniform

During the summer term, pupils may wear:

- yellow gingham dress;
- white or grey socks.



The summer dress is **optional**.

Parents do not have to purchase a summer dress. Children may continue wearing the standard school uniform.

4. PE uniform

Pupils require:

- yellow PE T-shirt with Thornton Primary School badge;
- navy blue shorts;
- navy blue or black jogging bottoms/tracksuit bottoms or leggings;
- black pumps or trainers.

The **navy blue Thornton Primary School hoodie** is **optional**.

It is not required for pupils to participate in PE.

Compulsory branded items

Thornton Primary School has two compulsory branded items:

1. **Blue school sweatshirt/cardigan with school badge**
2. **Yellow PE T-shirt with school badge**

All other compulsory uniform and PE items are generic.

The optional school hoodie does not become a compulsory uniform requirement.

The DfE's 2026 guidance requires schools to limit compulsory branded uniform and PE kit items to three or fewer. Thornton Primary School therefore remains within the statutory requirement. ([GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk))

5. Generic uniform and choice

Where an item does not need to be branded, parents are free to purchase it from a retailer of their choice.

This includes:

- plain yellow polo shirts;
- grey trousers;
- grey shorts;



- grey skirts;
- grey pinafores;
- yellow gingham dresses;
- socks;
- tights;
- navy/black jogging bottoms;
- navy PE shorts;
- suitable black trainers/pumps.

Generic items do **not** need to be purchased from the school's uniform suppliers.

This gives families greater choice and allows parents to compare prices.

6. Where to buy uniform

Branded uniform can be purchased from:

Bispham Clothing
7 All Hallows Road
Blackpool
FY2 0AS

and through **MyClothing** using the school's postcode.

Generic items can be purchased from supermarkets and other suitable retailers.

The school will regularly review its supplier arrangements to ensure that they provide appropriate value for money.

7. Pre-loved uniform

We recognise that uniform costs can place additional pressure on families.

Thornton Primary School provides access to **pre-loved uniform**.

Parents/Carers can:

- request pre-loved uniform;
- donate good-quality uniform;
- ask for assistance with essential uniform items.

Parents/carers should contact the School Office or Mrs Brown, Family Learning Mentor, if they would like support.



All requests will be treated **sensitively and confidentially**.

Pre-loved uniform is available to all families who would find it useful; there is no requirement to demonstrate financial hardship.

8. Financial support

We recognise that some parents/carers may experience financial difficulties.

No child should feel embarrassed because their family is experiencing financial hardship.

If a family is unable to obtain uniform, parents/carers should contact the School Office or Head teacher.

The school may be able to provide:

- pre-loved uniform;
- essential uniform items;
- temporary uniform arrangements;
- other appropriate support;
- information about wider sources of assistance.

The school will respond sensitively and will work with families to identify solutions.

9. Uniform and attendance

Thornton Primary School places a very high priority on attendance because **every day matters**.

We recognise that pupils may sometimes attend school:

- without the complete uniform;
- wearing an incorrect item;
- wearing damaged clothing;
- because a uniform item has been lost;
- because a family is experiencing financial hardship;
- because of an individual SEND, medical, sensory or other need.

In these circumstances, the school's response will be **supportive rather than punitive**.

A pupil will not be prevented from accessing education because they do not have the correct uniform.

Where a problem persists, we will work with parents/carers to understand and address the underlying barrier.



10. SEND and individual needs

Thornton Primary School is committed to ensuring that uniform requirements are inclusive.

We recognise that some pupils may experience:

- sensory sensitivities;
- physical disabilities;
- mobility difficulties;
- medical conditions;
- SEMH needs;
- anxiety;
- difficulties with particular fabrics;
- difficulties with buttons, zips or other fastenings;
- communication difficulties;
- other individual needs.

Where necessary, the school will consider **reasonable adjustments**.

These may include:

- alternative fabrics;
- alternative fastenings;
- adapted footwear;
- alternative appropriate garments;
- flexibility around particular uniform items;
- additional time to change;
- additional adult support;
- adjustments to PE clothing;
- other reasonable adjustments identified with the pupil and family.

Where pupils have an EHCP or other identified SEND need, relevant professional advice will be considered where appropriate.

Our aim is to maintain high expectations while ensuring that uniform does not create an unnecessary barrier to inclusion.

11. The Orchard SEMH SEND Unit

Pupils attending **The Orchard**, our Key Stage 2 SEMH SEND Unit, will follow the school's uniform expectations while recognising individual sensory, emotional, physical and developmental needs.



Where a pupil experiences difficulties with particular uniform items, staff will work with the pupil and family to identify appropriate solutions.

Uniform expectations will be applied consistently but **not rigidly where doing so would create an unnecessary barrier to a pupil's inclusion or wellbeing.**

12. Equality, religion and culture

Thornton Primary School is an inclusive school and welcomes children and families from different backgrounds.

The uniform policy will be applied fairly and consistently and will take account of the school's responsibilities under the **Equality Act 2010**.

The school will consider reasonable requests for variations to uniform relating to:

- religion;
- belief;
- culture;
- disability;
- medical needs;
- SEND.

The school will seek to balance individual needs with health, safety and the overall purpose of the uniform.

13. Hair

Hair should be clean, safe and appropriate for school.

Long hair should be tied back where necessary for:

- PE;
- Forest School;
- practical activities;
- health and safety.

The school does not normally permit shaved lines, patterns or designs or artificially coloured hair.

However, individual circumstances will be considered, including **religious, cultural, racial, medical and SEND-related considerations.**

The school will not apply hair requirements in a way that unlawfully discriminates against pupils.



14. Jewellery and piercings

For health and safety reasons, pupils should not wear jewellery in school.

The exception is:

- one small stud earring in each ear.

Earrings must be removed for:

- PE;
- swimming;
- Forest School;
- activities where jewellery creates a safety risk.

Pupils should be able to remove their own earrings. Parents/carers should make arrangements where this is not possible.

Medical identification jewellery may be worn where required.

15. Footwear

Pupils should wear plain black school shoes.

Footwear should be:

- safe;
- practical;
- suitable for everyday school activities;
- appropriate for the weather;
- comfortable.

High heels, platforms and footwear which presents a safety risk are not permitted.

Where a pupil has a medical, disability or SEND-related need which makes standard footwear unsuitable, reasonable adjustments will be considered.

16. Non uniform days

Thornton Primary School may hold occasional non-uniform days.

When planning these days, the school will consider:



- affordability;
- SEND;
- equality;
- cultural and religious needs;
- safeguarding;
- attendance;
- appropriate clothing.

Participation will **never depend on a financial contribution**.

Where dressing-up or a particular theme is involved, expectations will be communicated clearly in advance.

17. Extra-curricular activities

Thornton Primary School provides a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities.

The school will avoid requiring parents to purchase additional branded clothing solely for participation in extra-curricular activities.

Where specialist clothing or equipment is necessary for safety or participation, the school will consider whether it can be provided or loaned.

18. Our expectations for pupils

We expect pupils to:

- wear the school uniform wherever possible;
- take responsibility for their belongings;
- look after their uniform;
- respect other pupils;
- never make negative comments about another child's clothing or uniform;
- understand that families may have different circumstances.

Comments or bullying relating to a child's uniform, appearance or financial circumstances will be addressed through the school's Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policies.

19. Our expectations for parents and carers

Parents and carers are asked to:

- support the school's uniform expectations wherever possible;



- label clothing clearly;
- encourage children to take responsibility for their belongings;
- contact school if there are difficulties obtaining uniform;
- inform school of relevant SEND, medical, cultural or religious needs.

Parents should never feel embarrassed about contacting school for help.

Our approach is to work with parents/carers and provide as much support as we can.

20. The role of the Headteacher

The Headteacher is responsible for:

- implementing this policy;
- ensuring that expectations are applied fairly;
- considering reasonable adjustments;
- supporting families experiencing financial difficulty;
- ensuring uniform does not become an unnecessary barrier to attendance;
- monitoring the impact of the policy;
- ensuring compliance with DfE requirements.

The Headteacher may exercise reasonable discretion in individual circumstances.

21. The role of governors

The Governing Body is responsible for approving the school's uniform policy.

Governors will ensure that:

- the policy has regard to DfE statutory guidance;
- the number of compulsory branded items remains within the legal limit;
- uniform is affordable;
- generic alternatives are available wherever possible;
- second-hand uniform is accessible;
- supplier arrangements provide value for money;
- equality considerations are addressed;
- the impact on attendance is considered;
- parents and pupils are appropriately consulted when significant changes are proposed.

The DfE confirms that governing boards must ensure uniform policies comply with the branded-item limit from 1 September 2026.



22. Parent and pupil voice

Thornton Primary School recognises the importance of listening to parents and pupils.

When significant changes to the uniform policy are proposed, the school will consider appropriate consultation with:

- parents/carers;
- pupils;
- staff;
- governors.

Particular consideration will be given to the experiences of:

- disadvantaged families;
- pupils with SEND;
- pupils with medical needs.

The DfE statutory guidance expects governing boards to engage with parents and pupils when developing or reviewing uniform policy, particularly in relation to cost.

23. Monitoring affordability

When reviewing the policy, the school will consider both:

- the cost of individual compulsory items; and
- the total cost of the uniform.

The school will consider whether costs could disproportionately affect families on low incomes.

Particular attention will be given to higher-cost items, including sweatshirts and cardigans.

The school will consider:

- quality;
- durability;
- sustainability;
- opportunities to buy second-hand;
- availability of generic alternatives;
- supplier prices.

24. Complaints



Parents/carers who have concerns about the uniform policy should initially contact the Headteacher or School Office.

The school will consider complaints in accordance with its Complaints Policy.

Information about how to raise concerns will be available on the school website.

25. Website information

The school's uniform webpage will clearly identify:

- compulsory items;
- optional items;
- branded items;
- generic items;
- where branded items can be purchased;
- where generic items can be purchased;
- how families can access pre-loved uniform;
- how families can seek support with uniform costs;
- arrangements for pupils with individual needs.

The school's uniform information is available here:

[Thornton Primary School – School Uniform](#)

26. Key message to families

At Thornton Primary School, we have **high expectations** for our pupils, but we also recognise that children and families have different circumstances.

Our approach to uniform is therefore:

High expectations without unnecessary barriers.

Our uniform is one part of creating that sense of belonging – it is **never more important than the child wearing it.**



THORNTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Love • Respect • Ambition



Uniform will not be used as a barrier to attendance. Where a pupil does not have the correct uniform, the school will take a supportive approach, ensure the pupil can access learning and work with the family to identify and address any underlying barriers.

Signed: Mr David Ashcroft, Headteacher

Date: September 2026

Review Date: September 2027

To be agreed by the Standards and Effectiveness Committee on 6th October 2026o