Uniform Statement for Shortenills Specialist Provision

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Policy reviewed by:	Executive Team, Aspire Trustees To be ratified by Trustees: Autumn 2026
Updates	Minimal updates in line with current guidance and name and date changes
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1. Purpose and context

This uniform statement has been written to provide clarity on our expectations for uniform at our Shortenills sites, and on how we ensure that these expectations do not create difficult situations for our families.

Shortenills Specialist Provision is committed to equality and ensuring that uniform does not discriminate in anyway.

The Equality Act 2010 prohibits discrimination against an individual based on the protected characteristics, which include age, sex, sexual orientation, disability, race, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity, and gender reassignment.

To avoid discrimination, our school will:

- Avoid uniform items based on sex, to give all pupils the opportunity to wear the uniform they feel most comfortable in or that most reflects their self-identified gender.
- Limit the cost of uniform through Pupil Premium
- Allow all pupils to style their hair in the way that makes them the most comfortable.
- Allow pupils to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons, or if they are experiencing discomfort
- Allow pupils to wear headscarves and other religious or cultural garments or symbols
- Allow students to make reasonable adjustments to their uniform, depending on their specific needs
- Allow for adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents to get in touch with the Headteacher of Shortenills who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests.

2. Uniform expectations

At Shortenills Specialist Provision, our uniform is a t-shirt and/or fleece jacket with the Shortenills logo. This is the only branded item that we require students to have, and they can choose to only have one of these items if they wish. These items are available through the school.

Students can wear other layers underneath the uniform if they want. This is so that students with sensory issues are not impeded from wearing the uniform, and to ensure that they can stay warm when working outside.

Students need to wear trousers and shoes that are suitable for outdoor learning. Students are able to bring slippers or other shoes for indoor wear, particularly when the weather is wet and they are working outside in muddy conditions.

If pupils are not in receipt of pupil premium their parents or carers are expected to purchase uniform. This is done through the office at any Shortenills site During induction meetings, site admin will complete a uniform order with parents or carers. Should more uniform be needed as the pupil goes through the school, parents and carers should order this through the site admin.

3. If students arrive at school not wearing uniform

If students are not wearing the uniform, they will be given items to change into for the duration of the day. Home will be contacted to discuss how we can support the family to ensure that they have the right clothing for school.

4. Support to access uniform

Shortenills Specialist Provision does not want our uniform expectations to be a barrier for any child attending a Shortenills site or to cause financial hardship for our families. See our charging and remissions policy for details of how we achieve this.

For any pupils who are in receipt of pupil premium, we fund their uniform. Other families are expected to purchase the uniform required.

Our provision has a duty to make sure that the uniform we require is affordable, in line with statutory guidance from the Department for Education on the cost of school uniform.

We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that have to have a school logo or a unique fabric/colour/design) cannot be purchased from a wide range of retailers and that requiring many such items limits parents' ability to 'shop around' for a low price.

We will make sure our uniform:

- Is available at a reasonable cost
- Provides the best value for money for parents/carers

We will do this by:

- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary
- Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics where possible (only asking that pupils wear a t-shirt, fleece or coat with the Shortenills logo on).
- Considering cheaper alternatives to school-branded items, such as logos that can be ironed on, as long as this doesn't compromise quality and durability
- Avoiding specific requirements for items such as shoes, trousers or coats
- Keeping the number of optional branded items to a minimum, so that the school's uniform can act as a social leveler
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for PE
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents to acquire second-hand uniform items
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents of any changes
- Consulting with parents and pupils on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy