



School Uniform Policy

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Review Cycle	Every Three years
Next Review	October 2029
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Vision and Values

Our school vision is to provide an *outstanding, nurturing, learning environment*, where all our pupils can achieve their full potential and progress to lead happy and fulfilling lives.

Our mission is to provide each and every pupil with the best possible education, delivered in an environment that is supportive, caring and safe.

“Getting it right for every pupil”

At Stone Bay we focus on *Evolving Excellence* in all that we do, working towards making our school the best it can be for pupils, staff and families. We are creating lasting *Trust* with all our stakeholders, *Empowering* each other to learn and grow. By adhering to policies and clear processes we ensure *Fairness* and transparency in our decision making and actions, whilst ensuring we are *Collaborating* with others and always looking for ways to help each other to deliver excellence for our pupils.

Rights Respecting Schools

The Unicef UK Rights Respecting School Award (RRSA) is based on principles of equality, dignity, respect, non-discrimination and participation. The RRSA seeks to put the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child at the heart of a school's ethos and culture to improve well-being and develop every child's talents and abilities to their full potential. A Rights Respecting School is a community where children's rights are learned, taught, practised, respected, protected and promoted.

Stone Bay has been awarded the Silver Award by UNICEF. This is awarded to UK schools that show good progress towards embedding children's rights in the school's policy, practice and ethos, as outlined in the RRSA Strands and Outcomes

Staff wellbeing

The Leadership Team and the Governing Board of Stone Bay School are committed to promoting positive mental, physical and emotional wellbeing and to providing suitable support for all staff. Taking action to prevent ill health and promote good health makes good educational and business sense, as sickness absence carries high costs both in monetary terms and in terms of the impact upon performance, teaching and learning, morale and productivity, which may disrupt or compromise pupil progress.

All members of staff are entitled to be treated fairly and professionally at all times. The Governing Board of Stone Bay School takes very seriously its duty of care as an employer to all members of staff and a number of policies and procedures have been made in relation to this duty.

1. Purpose and principles

Stone Bay School is a maintained special school. Because of the special educational needs and disabilities of our pupils, including sensory differences, uniform is optional. Pupils may attend in comfortable, safe and appropriate clothing. This approach is intended to remove barriers to learning while allowing families who find uniform helpful for routine, identity or an object of reference to choose it.

2. Legal and guidance framework

The governing body has regard to the Department for Education statutory guidance, Cost of school uniforms (updated 6 July 2026), and the DfE guidance Developing school uniform policy (updated 6 July 2026). The policy also takes account of the Education Act 1996, including the limit on compulsory branded items in force from 1 September 2026, the Equality Act 2010 and Human Rights Act 1998.

3. Stone Bay's approach

There are no compulsory branded uniform items at Stone Bay School. No pupil will be disadvantaged, sanctioned, excluded from an activity or prevented from attending because they are not wearing school uniform. Where clothing creates an immediate health, safety or safeguarding concern, staff will work with the pupil and family to find a reasonable and proportionate solution.

4. Optional uniform: Reception to Year 9

Families who wish their child to wear colours associated with Stone Bay may choose the following. These are optional and generic items may be purchased from any retailer:

- Black or grey tracksuit bottoms, trousers, shorts, skirt or pinafore.

- Yellow or white polo shirt.

- Royal blue jumper, sweatshirt or fleece; a non-hooded style is preferred where this is safe and comfortable for the pupil.

- Yellow or blue summer dress.

- Weather-appropriate waterproof jacket and trousers.

- Sun hat or warm hat according to season.

- Comfortable trainers or shoes. Velcro footwear may support independence.

- Where appropriate to an individual pupil's sensory needs and risk assessment, suitable indoor footwear may be agreed.

5. Years 10 to 14

Students in Years 10 to 14 do not need to wear school uniform. Their personalised curriculum includes developing independence in selecting clothing that is suitable for the weather, activity, community setting and workplace context, and that is safe, respectful and comfortable for learning.

6. Sensory needs, SEND and reasonable adjustments

Stone Bay recognises that clothing can have a significant sensory impact. Fabrics, seams, labels, fit, footwear and other features may cause distress or sensory overload. Staff will take a pupil-centred approach and make reasonable adjustments where required. Individual needs identified through an EHCP, health care plan, sensory assessment, risk assessment or other agreed plan will take precedence over general clothing preferences.

Pupils will not be required to tolerate clothing that causes significant sensory distress merely for conformity.

Families are encouraged to tell the school about clothing, footwear or dressing needs that affect access to learning.

Any adjustment will be considered alongside dignity, safeguarding, health and safety, communication needs and the pupil's developing independence.

7. Equality, religion, culture and identity

The school will apply this policy fairly and in accordance with the Equality Act 2010 and Human Rights Act 1998. Religious or cultural clothing and reasonable variations connected with protected characteristics will be accommodated unless a restriction is objectively justified, proportionate and necessary for a legitimate reason such as health, safety or safeguarding. The school will avoid requirements that directly or indirectly discriminate, including in relation to sex, disability, race, religion or belief, gender reassignment or other protected characteristics.

8. Affordability and branded items

Affordability must never be a barrier to attending Stone Bay or participating fully in school life. From 1 September 2026, legislation limits the number of compulsory branded uniform and PE items that schools may require. Stone Bay requires none. Optional branded garments may be offered, but families may always choose suitable generic alternatives.

Optional branded items will be kept to a minimum.

The school will consider total cost, quality, durability, sustainability and value for money.

The school will avoid unnecessarily distinctive colours, fabrics, cuts or designs that restrict where parents can shop.

Coats, bags, footwear, PE clothing and clothing for extra-curricular activities will not be required to carry a school logo.

The school will avoid frequent changes and will consider the financial effect on families before making significant changes.

9. Supply of optional branded uniform

Where the school makes optional branded uniform available through a supplier, the governing body will have regard to DfE procurement guidance and will prioritise cost and value for money. The current supplier information will be published on the school website. The school will keep supply arrangements under review and will

avoid an exclusive single-supplier arrangement unless there is a clear justification consistent with DfE guidance.

10. Second-hand uniform

The school will make arrangements for families to access second-hand uniform and will publish clear information about those arrangements on the school website. Access will be open to current and prospective families. Donations of clean, serviceable optional uniform are welcomed where the school's arrangements allow.

11. PE, outdoor learning and specialist activities

There is no compulsory branded PE kit. Pupils should have clothing and footwear that are comfortable and safe for the activity. For swimming, outdoor learning, horticulture, community learning or other specialist activities, staff may request practical items needed for safety or participation. Any request will be proportionate, low-cost wherever possible and adapted to individual SEND, sensory, medical and mobility needs. A pupil will not be excluded from an activity because a family cannot afford an item; families should contact the school so support or an alternative can be arranged.

12. Health, safety and safeguarding

Clothing must support safe participation in the pupil's programme. Individual risk assessments may identify specific requirements, for example secure footwear, protective clothing or removal/adjustment of loose items for a particular activity. Decisions will be individualised and will not be used to impose a general uniform requirement. Staff will preserve pupils' dignity and privacy when supporting dressing, changing or personal care.

13. Labelling and personal belongings

Parents and carers are strongly encouraged to label clothing, coats and footwear. Some pupils may not recognise or independently manage their belongings, and clear labelling helps staff return items to the correct pupil.

14. Attendance and response to non-uniform

Uniform is optional, so a pupil will not be disciplined for choosing not to wear it. The school will not send a pupil home or refuse attendance because they do not have uniform or because uniform is unclean. If clothing is unsuitable for a particular activity or presents a safety concern, staff will seek a practical alternative and work constructively with the family. Any wider behaviour issue will be considered under the school's Behaviour Policy rather than treated as a uniform breach.

15. Consultation and changes

The school will actively engage with parents/carers and pupils, in accessible ways appropriate to pupils' communication needs, when developing this policy or proposing significant changes. The governing body will consider affordability,

equality, SEND, safeguarding, health and safety, and the views of the school community before approving significant changes. Adequate notice will be given before changes take effect.

16. Complaints

Questions or concerns should normally be raised with the school in the first instance. Complaints about the application of this policy will be considered under Stone Bay School's Complaints Policy. Information about how to complain will be available on the school website. Concerns about disability or other equality issues will be considered carefully and reasonable adjustments made where required.

17. Monitoring and review

The governing body is responsible for the school's uniform policy. The Headteacher will monitor its day-to-day implementation. The policy will be reviewed at least every three years and earlier where there is a change in legislation or DfE guidance, a significant change to supply arrangements, or evidence that the policy is creating an unintended barrier for pupils or families.

Appendix 1: Summary for families

School uniform is optional at Stone Bay School.

There are no compulsory branded items and no compulsory branded PE kit.

Generic clothing in the suggested school colours may be bought from any retailer.

Comfort, sensory needs, safety and access to learning come first.

Years 10 to 14 are encouraged to choose appropriate clothing as part of developing independence.

Second-hand uniform arrangements and any optional branded supplier details are published on the school website.

Please label clothing and footwear wherever possible.

Please contact the school if cost, sensory needs, disability, religion/culture, health or another individual need affects clothing.

References

Department for Education, Cost of school uniforms: statutory guidance (updated 6 July 2026).

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

Department for Education, Procuring school uniform supplies (updated 6 July 2026).

Education Act 1996, sections 551ZA and 551A (as amended).

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

Equality Act 2010; Human Rights Act 1998.