

PENSANS

COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

UNIFORM & APPEARANCE POLICY

FULL POLICY REFRESH • SEPTEMBER 2026

POLICY AT A GLANCE

Pensans keeps compulsory branded uniform deliberately low. The school requires no more than three compulsory branded items in total; the current school arrangement is designed to remain within that legal limit while keeping generic items widely available.

Approved by	Trust Board
Adoption / approval date	September 2026
Next review	September 2027
Policy owner	Headteacher
School	Pensans Community Primary School
Trust	Truro and Penwith Academy Trust (TPAT)

01 PURPOSE, PRINCIPLES & SCOPE

Pensans' uniform is intended to promote the ethos of the school, a sense of belonging and identity, and an appropriate tone for education. A shared uniform can reduce pressure to wear expensive or fashionable clothing, but it must not create an unreasonable financial or practical barrier to attendance, participation or belonging.

Our principles

- Affordable, durable and good value for families.
- Simple and practical, with generic items available from a range of retailers wherever possible.
- Minimal compulsory branded uniform, in accordance with the statutory limit applying from 1 September 2026.
- Inclusive and capable of reasonable adaptation for religion, belief, culture, disability, medical needs and individual circumstances.
- Comfortable and practical for classroom learning, outdoor play, PE and pupils who walk or cycle to school.
- Clear, consistently applied and easy for families to understand before they buy items.
- Mindful of environmental impact, durability, repair, reuse and the sustainability of uniform supply.

Scope

This policy applies to pupils from Nursery through Year 6 and covers everyday uniform, PE kit, bags, appearance, non-uniform days and the way uniform concerns are managed.

IMPORTANT

Uniform rules should never be used in a way that prevents a pupil accessing education. Where cost, disability, medical need, religion, culture, weather or another individual circumstance creates difficulty, the school will seek a reasonable and proportionate solution.

Consultation and significant change

When developing or making significant changes to uniform, the school will consider the views of parents and pupils and the likely effect on groups represented in the school. Significant changes will be introduced with reasonable transition arrangements to avoid unnecessary expense or waste.

02 EQUALITY, INCLUSION & INDIVIDUAL NEEDS

The school will apply its uniform and appearance expectations fairly and consistently, while recognising that fairness does not always mean identical treatment. The policy will be implemented in accordance with the Equality Act 2010, the Human Rights Act 1998 and relevant safeguarding and health and safety duties.

Protected characteristics and inclusion

- The school will avoid unlawful discrimination on the grounds of sex, religion or belief, race, disability, gender reassignment or pregnancy and maternity, as applicable.
- Published uniform options are available without unnecessary gender-based restrictions. Where a requirement affects one group more than another, the school will consider whether it is justified and proportionate.
- Pupils with SEND, disabilities or medical conditions may need reasonable adaptations, including alternative fabrics, fastenings, footwear, PE clothing or other suitable options.
- The school will consider individual requests sensitively and will record agreed adaptations so that relevant staff, including temporary staff where practicable, are aware of them.

Religion, belief and culture

The school will make reasonable efforts to accommodate religious or cultural dress, including head coverings, modesty requirements, religious artefacts and hair practices. Any restriction must have a lawful, legitimate and proportionate basis, such as a genuine health, safety, safeguarding or security reason.

Hair and cultural expression

Hairstyles and hair practices associated with race, culture, religion or belief will be respected. The school will not restrict them without a lawful and proportionate reason. Any appearance rule must be capable of being applied without unjustified discrimination.

Weather, travel and practical activity

- The school may make temporary, proportionate adjustments during extreme or adverse weather, including periods of heat or cold.
- Uniform should be suitable and safe for pupils who walk or cycle to school; weather-appropriate and visible outerwear may therefore be necessary.
- Pupils should be able to move comfortably and safely during outdoor learning, play and PE.
- Parents will not be expected to purchase unnecessary specialist clothing for individual activities where the school can provide a suitable alternative.

OUR APPROACH

Where a uniform requirement conflicts with a pupil's individual need, the starting point is to find a workable solution rather than simply insist on the rule.

03 AFFORDABILITY, BRANDED ITEMS & SUPPLIERS

The school will give high priority to affordability and value for money. The total cost of uniform includes everyday clothing, PE kit, items needed for school activities and any clothing required for travel to and from school or participation in school life.

The September 2026 legal limit

COMPULSORY BRANDED ITEMS — MAXIMUM 3

From 1 September 2026, a primary school cannot require a pupil to have more than three different branded school-uniform items for use during a school year. The limit includes items required for PE, sport, clubs, activities and events, and can include distinctive non-logo items that are only available from a limited range of suppliers.

Pensans has deliberately kept the compulsory branded element within this limit. The school treats the following as the maximum compulsory branded elements for compliance purposes:

- 1. School tie, where its published design is school-specific or otherwise falls within the legal definition of a branded item.

The house-colour PE T-shirt does not need a school logo and is intended to be a generic item. Optional branded items must have a suitable generic alternative and must not become an indirect compulsory purchase.

Generic items and supplier choice

- Generic uniform items should be available from a range of retailers. Families should not be required to buy generic items from one particular shop.
- Branded items will be clearly identified as branded in the school's published uniform information.
- The current school-specific information identifies Trophy Textiles as the supplier for logoed uniform and bags. The school will review supply arrangements to ensure best value, accessibility, quality, durability and compliance with current DfE procurement guidance.
- Where a specific supplier is used for branded items, the school will ensure there is an appropriate written arrangement and a clear route for complaints about supply and quality.
- The school will consider online ordering, physical access, collection/delivery and other arrangements that make uniform reasonably accessible to families.
- Garments should be machine washable and suitable for regular use.

Second-hand uniform, hardship and sustainability

- Second-hand uniform will be made available through school arrangements, with clear information for families about how to access it.
- A second hand uniform rack is available at the school office for families who require uniform, to take.
- Families may donate clean, wearable uniform in good repair by contacting the school office.
- Families experiencing financial difficulty should contact the school. Support will be offered sensitively and uniform cost will not be treated as a reason to penalise a child.
- The school will consider repair, reuse, durability, sustainability and waste when reviewing uniform and supplier arrangements.
- Changes to uniform will be phased where appropriate so that families are not required to replace usable clothing unnecessarily.

04 UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

The following list brings together the school-specific Pensans requirements. Items marked optional are not compulsory. Generic items may be purchased from suitable retailers unless specifically identified as branded.

KS2 — everyday uniform

- Sky blue gingham dress — optional summer alternative.
- Grey trousers or dress shorts.
- Grey infants' pinafore / grey box-pleat skirt.
- White button-up shirt.
- School tie
- Navy blue V-neck OR navy blue V-neck cardigan.
- White socks; grey or black socks as appropriate.
- Plain black shoes or trainers. Footwear should be predominantly plain black, without coloured logos or coloured stitching.

Age 3-5 & KS1

- Plain white polo shirt
- Grey trousers, grey pinafore or grey skirt.
- Sky blue gingham dress as an optional summer alternative.
- Navy blue V-neck jumper OR cardigan.
- Plain black shoes.

Cape Nursery Age 2-3

- Plain navy or plain black leggings, shorts or joggers (preferred but not essential)
- Navy blue jumper or cardigan (preferred but not essential)
- Plain white polo shirts (preferred but not essential)
- Sensible footwear

Optional outerwear and bags

- Waterproof jacket; a suitable generic waterproof coat may be used.
- Pensans logo book bag — optional; a plain suitable book bag is acceptable.
- Pensans logo rucksack — optional; a suitable non-branded alternative is acceptable.
- PE bag — a plain suitable bag may be used.

CLARITY FOR FAMILIES

The school will keep its website uniform information aligned with this policy and will clearly distinguish compulsory, optional, branded and generic items so that families know what they are expected to buy before committing to a purchase.

05 PE KIT, NURSERY & APPEARANCE

PE kit — Reception to Year 6 kept in school at all times

- Plain round-neck T-shirt in the pupil's house colour (red, green, blue or yellow) — no school logo required.
- Black shorts in warmer weather OR black joggers/leggings in colder weather.
- Plain black trainers/plimsoles suitable for the activity.

PE PARTICIPATION

No pupil should be prevented from taking part in PE, sport or another school activity because their family cannot afford the required kit. Families should speak to the school if support is needed.

Hair, jewellery and appearance

- Hair should be clean, safe and suitable for school activities. Hairstyles associated with race, culture or religion will be respected.
- Long hair may need to be tied back for PE, practical activities or safety reasons.
- Jewellery should be limited to safe and appropriate items. Jewellery may need to be removed or covered for PE and other activities where it presents a safety risk.
- The school will not expect families to pay for costly hairstyles, piercings or appearance choices that are incompatible with the published rules.
- Make-up, false nails and similar cosmetic items are not appropriate for primary school.

Badges, slogans and political messaging

The school may set reasonable rules about badges, slogans and other messages displayed on uniform or clothing. Any restriction will be clear, proportionate and consistent with the school's duties around safeguarding, behaviour, political impartiality and equality.

06 NON-COMPLIANCE, ATTENDANCE & NON-UNIFORM DAYS

Where uniform is incorrect

Staff will respond calmly, respectfully and consistently when a pupil arrives in incorrect uniform or appearance. Before applying any consequence, the school will consider whether the issue is outside the pupil's control, including financial hardship, disability, medical need, religious or cultural requirements, lost or damaged clothing, or other circumstances.

- Where possible, the school may provide a loan item or another practical solution.
- Where financial hardship is suspected, the school will take a considerate and supportive approach.
- Any behaviour arising from a uniform issue will be managed under the Behaviour Policy rather than treating poverty or an individual need as misconduct.
- Pupils should not be removed from learning, breaktime, PE or activities simply because their family cannot afford the required uniform.
- The school will not routinely send a pupil home as an informal response to uniform non-compliance. If a pupil ever needs to leave school as a formal sanction, the school will follow the relevant attendance and suspension requirements and the published Behaviour Policy.
- Agreed individual adaptations will be communicated to relevant staff to reduce the risk of pupils being repeatedly challenged.

Attendance

The school recognises that lack of correct or clean uniform or PE kit can contribute to anxiety, bullying and poor attendance. Where uniform is contributing to absence or risk of absence, the school will work with the family to remove the barrier and support attendance.

Non-uniform days

- The school may hold non-uniform or themed days where appropriate.
- Expectations about suitable clothing, logos, slogans, costumes and safety will be communicated clearly in advance.
- Participation will not depend on parents making a financial contribution.
- The school will consider the impact of themed or dressing-up days on families with limited financial resources and provide reasonable alternatives where needed.

Concerns and complaints

Parents and carers should first contact the school to seek clarification or resolve a concern informally. If the concern cannot be resolved, the TPAT Complaints Procedure should be followed. Complaints about the cost or implementation of uniform will be handled through the school's published complaints process. Where the full complaints process has been exhausted and a parent believes the school is not following statutory guidance or education law, they may contact the Department for Education through its published customer help route.

07 GOVERNANCE, MONITORING & PUBLICATION

Responsibilities

Trust Board	Approves the policy and ensures the Trust meets its legal and statutory responsibilities.
Headteacher	Leads implementation, monitoring, communication and day-to-day decisions about uniform and appearance.
School staff	Apply the policy consistently, sensitively and proportionately and refer individual needs to the appropriate school leader.
Families	Support pupils to follow the published requirements and contact the school promptly where cost or individual circumstances create difficulty.
Pupils	Take reasonable care of uniform and follow school expectations appropriate to their age and understanding.

Monitoring and review

- The Headteacher will monitor implementation and review the policy annually, or sooner if legislation, DfE guidance, school circumstances or uniform arrangements change.
- The school will monitor affordability, access to second-hand uniform, equality considerations, complaints, supplier arrangements and any recurring barriers to participation.
- Significant proposed changes will be considered with parents and pupils, with attention to cost, equality, practicality, sustainability and pupil wellbeing.
- Supplier arrangements will be reviewed in line with current DfE procurement expectations, including value for money, accessibility, quality and durability.
- The final policy and current school-specific uniform information will be published on the school website and kept aligned.

Key school-specific information

School	Pensans Community Primary School
Trust	Truro and Penwith Academy Trust (TPAT)
Logoed uniform supplier	Trophy Textiles — current school-specific information
Compulsory branded limit	Maximum 3; Pensans policy is deliberately kept within the legal limit
Website	www.pensansprimary.co.uk
Review cycle	Annual, or earlier if guidance or arrangements change

08 LEGAL AND GUIDANCE FRAMEWORK

This policy has been refreshed against the current England-wide requirements and guidance available in September 2026. It should be read alongside the school's Behaviour, Equality, SEND, Attendance, Safeguarding, Health and Safety and Complaints arrangements.

Primary sources used for this refresh

SOURCE	RELEVANCE TO THIS POLICY
Department for Education — Cost of school uniforms	Statutory guidance, updated 6 July 2026. Includes the statutory limit of three or fewer compulsory branded items from September 2026.
Department for Education — Developing school uniform policy	Updated 6 July 2026. Covers governance, PE kit, attendance, non-uniform days, cost, equality, pupil non-compliance and complaints.
Department for Education — Procuring school uniform supplies	Updated 6 July 2026. Covers branded-item definitions, competition, value for money, supplier arrangements, machine washable garments and contract review.
Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026	Creates the statutory limit on branded school-uniform items through amendments to the Education Act 1996.
Equality Act 2010 and Human Rights Act 1998	Provide the legal framework for equality, non-discrimination, reasonable accommodation and rights relating to religion and belief.

Review record

September 2026	Full policy refresh: school-specific requirements retained and updated; outdated wording removed; 2026 branded-item law and current DfE guidance incorporated.
Next review	September 2027, or earlier where legislation, DfE guidance, supplier arrangements or school requirements change.

FINAL NOTE

The policy is intended to be read with the school's current website uniform information. Where a school-specific detail changes, the website and this policy should be updated together so that families receive one clear and consistent set of requirements.

Useful official guidance

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

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

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

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2026/21/notes/division/7/index.htm>