

LONGWILL SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

School Uniform Policy

Uniform, PE Kit and Forest School Clothing

Policy owner	Headteacher
Approval	Governing Body
Effective date	November 2025
Next review	November 2028
Publication	School website; accessible formats available on request

Policy Statement

Longwill School for the Deaf expects pupils to wear the agreed school uniform. Wearing a uniform supports a sense of belonging, promotes equality and helps pupils to be safe, comfortable and ready to learn.

The school's uniform expectations are intended to be clear, practical, affordable and inclusive. They will be applied sensitively so that clothing does not become an unnecessary barrier to attendance, learning, physical education, Forest School or participation in school life.

The policy will be communicated to pupils and families using accessible English, British Sign Language, visual information and modelling where appropriate.

1. Purpose and Scope

This policy applies to all pupils during the school day and when taking part in school-organised activities for which uniform, PE kit or Forest School clothing is required.

The aims of this policy are to:

- promote pride in and belonging to the Longwill community;
- provide clear and consistent expectations;
- ensure clothing is safe, comfortable and suitable for school activities;
- keep uniform requirements practical and affordable;
- support pupils' independence in caring for their belongings; and
- ensure that medical, disability, sensory, religious, cultural and other individual needs are considered fairly.

Specific trips, performances or activities may have additional clothing or safety requirements. Families will be informed of these in advance.

2. Everyday School Uniform

Pupils should wear the following items on ordinary school days:

Required uniform

- Yellow Longwill school polo shirt.
- Navy Longwill school jumper.
- Smart, plain black trousers or a smart, plain black skirt.
- Plain black school shoes.

School shoes should be safe, secure, practical and suitable for the pupil's individual needs. Trainers should not be worn as everyday school footwear unless an agreed reasonable adjustment has been made.

Summer uniform

During warm summer weather, pupils may wear:

- smart, plain black shorts;
- a smart, plain black skirt; or
- a yellow and blue summer school dress.

Pupils may choose from the permitted trousers, skirt, shorts or summer-dress options as appropriate. Clothing choices will not be restricted according to gender.

General expectations

Uniform should be:

- reasonably clean and in a usable condition;
- appropriately sized and comfortable;
- suitable for a full school day; and
- clearly named wherever possible.

Uniform does not need to be new. Good-quality second-hand uniform is welcomed.

3. Seasonal and Outdoor Clothing

Pupils should bring clothing that is appropriate for the weather.

Winter

During cold weather, pupils should have:

- a suitable coat;
- a warm hat;

- a scarf; and
- gloves.

Scarves and other loose items must be worn safely and securely, particularly during outdoor play and physical activities.

Summer

During hot or sunny weather, pupils should have:

- a suitable sun hat; and
- sun cream.

Parents and carers should apply sun cream before school. Where reapplication may be needed, families should provide a clearly named sun cream product in line with the school's sun-safety arrangements.

The school may adapt outdoor activities during severe cold, extreme heat, heavy rain or a weather-health alert.

4. Physical Education Kit

For PE, pupils should wear:

- a yellow Longwill PE T-shirt bearing the school logo;
- plain black shorts or plain black sports trousers; and
- suitable trainers.

PE clothing should be comfortable, practical and safe for the planned activity. Trainers should fit securely and have an appropriate sole.

All PE kit should be clearly named and brought to school on the days requested.

A pupil will not ordinarily be prevented from participating in PE solely because an item of kit is missing or incorrect. Staff will respond discreetly, use available spare kit where possible and work with the pupil and family to resolve any difficulty.

5. Forest School Clothing

Forest School clothing is practical activity clothing and does not need to be branded.

Pupils should wear:

- old, comfortable clothes that families do not mind becoming dirty, muddy, wet or damaged;
- layers suitable for the outdoor weather;
- a waterproof coat;
- waterproof trousers; and
- wellington boots or another agreed waterproof outdoor boot.

Forest School in winter

Pupils should also bring:

- warm layers;
- a warm hat;
- a scarf; and
- gloves.

Forest School in summer

Pupils should also bring:

- lightweight clothing that provides suitable protection from the sun;
- a sun hat; and
- sun cream in accordance with the school's arrangements.

Families should check Forest School information carefully, as additional clothing may be requested depending on the weather, site conditions or planned activities.

6. Jewellery, Hair and Personal Items

Jewellery and personal items must not present a safety risk or prevent a pupil from taking part in learning or physical activity.

Staff may ask for jewellery or loose items to be removed, covered or secured during PE, Forest School or another practical activity including in class learning.

Hair accessories should be safe, practical and suitable for school. Hair, headwear and clothing requirements connected to religion, culture, disability or medical need will be treated respectfully.

7. Affordability and Second-Hand Uniform

Longwill School recognises the importance of keeping the overall cost of uniform manageable for families.

Only items specifically identified as Longwill-branded items must display the school logo. Generic items, including black trousers, skirts, shorts, shoes, PE bottoms, trainers, coats and Forest School clothing, may be purchased from any suitable retailer.

The school will:

- consider cost, quality, availability and durability when reviewing uniform arrangements;
- provide information about second-hand uniform;
- encourage families to donate clean, usable items that are no longer needed;
- avoid unnecessary changes that would make existing serviceable uniform unusable; and
- respond sensitively when a family is experiencing financial difficulty.

Families who need support with uniform should contact the school office or Headteacher. Requests will be handled privately and without stigma.

8. Equality, Inclusion and Reasonable Adjustments

This policy will be applied consistently but not rigidly. Longwill School will make reasonable adjustments and consider individual circumstances where appropriate.

Adjustments may be agreed because of:

- disability or special educational needs;
- sensory-processing differences;
- mobility needs, orthotics or specialist footwear;
- a medical condition, allergy or skin condition;
- temperature-regulation needs;
- religion, belief or cultural requirements;
- temporary injury or recovery from treatment;
- financial hardship or an emergency outside the family's control; or
- another relevant individual circumstance.

The pupil's views will be sought and understood in an accessible way. Clothing expectations must not interfere with hearing technology, communication equipment, safe visual communication or a pupil's access to learning.

Parents and carers should contact the Headteacher or another nominated member of staff to discuss an adjustment.

9. Expectations and Support

Pupils are encouraged to:

- wear the agreed uniform;
- look after their uniform and equipment;
- bring the correct PE and Forest School clothing;
- keep belongings clearly named; and
- tell an adult when clothing is uncomfortable, damaged, lost or unavailable.

Parents and carers are asked to:

- provide suitable uniform and activity clothing where they are able;
- label pupils' clothing and footwear;
- check information about PE, Forest School and seasonal requirements;
- inform the school of any medical, sensory, religious or individual needs; and
- contact the school promptly if they need practical or financial support.

Staff will:

- communicate expectations clearly and accessibly;
- apply the policy fairly, consistently and discreetly;
- listen to the pupil and establish the reason for incorrect or missing uniform;

- consider affordability, equality, medical, sensory, safeguarding and family circumstances;
- support pupils to remain included in learning and school activities; and
- report recurring concerns to the Headteacher.

10. Responding to Incorrect or Missing Uniform

Where a pupil is not wearing the expected uniform, staff will first speak with the pupil privately and respectfully to understand the reason.

The school may:

- provide spare or loan clothing where available;
- contact the pupil's parent or carer;
- agree a temporary variation;
- provide information about second-hand uniform; or
- help the family to access appropriate support.

Pupils will not be publicly criticised, embarrassed or treated less favourably because of the cost or condition of their clothing.

Persistent and deliberate refusal to follow the policy may be addressed through discussion with the pupil and family and, where appropriate, the school's Positive Behaviour Policy. Any response will be proportionate and will take account of circumstances outside the pupil's control.

11. Roles and Responsibilities

Governing Body

The Governing Body approves the policy and monitors its affordability, equality, safety and overall effectiveness.

Headteacher

The Headteacher is responsible for implementing the policy, communicating expectations, agreeing reasonable adjustments and ensuring appropriate support and second-hand arrangements are available.

Staff

Staff are responsible for applying the policy fairly and sensitively, supporting pupils' participation and reporting recurring concerns.

Pupils

Pupils should wear and care for the agreed clothing as far as they are able and tell an adult when they need help.

Parents and carers

Parents and carers should support the policy, provide and label suitable clothing where possible and raise any difficulties or adjustment needs promptly.

12. Monitoring and Review

The Headteacher will monitor:

- uniform concerns and requests for adjustments;
- the affordability and availability of required items;
- access to spare and second-hand uniform;
- any effect on attendance or participation;
- pupil and family feedback; and
- complaints or equality concerns.

The policy will be reviewed annually, or earlier following a significant change in legislation, guidance, safety requirements or the school's uniform arrangements.

Questions should initially be raised with the pupil's class team or the school office. Requests for reasonable adjustments should be referred to the Headteacher. Unresolved concerns may be addressed through the school's Complaints Policy.

Appendix A – Uniform Checklist

Everyday school uniform

- Yellow Longwill polo shirt.
- Navy Longwill jumper.
- Smart black trousers or smart black skirt.
- Plain black school shoes.
- No trainers for everyday school uniform, except where an adjustment has been agreed.

Summer uniform

- Smart black trousers, skirt or shorts.
- Yellow and blue summer dress.
- Sun hat.
- Sun cream.

Winter clothing

- Suitable coat.
- Warm hat.
- Scarf.
- Gloves.

PE kit

- Yellow Longwill logo PE T-shirt.
- Plain black shorts or black sports trousers.
- Trainers.

Forest School

- Old clothes that can become dirty or damaged.
- Clothing suitable for the outdoor weather.
- Waterproof coat and waterproof trousers.
- Wellington boots or agreed waterproof boots.
- Warm hat, scarf and gloves in winter.
- Sun hat and sun cream in summer.

Approval and Sign-Off

Approved by: Jessica Rosser

Approval date: July 2026

Headteacher signature:



Chair of Governors signature: 

Next review date: July 2027